



US 20040227864A1

(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**
Kim(10) **Pub. No.: US 2004/0227864 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Nov. 18, 2004**(54) **THIN FILM TRANSISTOR FOR LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME**(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

May 14, 2001 (KR) 2001-26147

(76) **Inventor: Dong-Gyu Kim, Suwon-si (KR)****Publication Classification**

Correspondence Address:

McGuire Woods**Suite 1800****1750 Tysons Boulevard****McLean, VA 22102-4215 (US)**(51) **Int. Cl.⁷ G02F 1/1343; H01L 21/00**(52) **U.S. Cl. 349/43; 438/22**(57) **ABSTRACT**

Disclosed is a thin film transistor (TFT) for a liquid crystal display (LCD) and a method for manufacturing the same that allows the number of photomasks used in a photolithography process to be decreased as compared to conventional methods. A passivation film is formed as a single layered organic insulating film, and the number of needed exposure steps is reduced, so as to decrease the number of needed photomask sheets and thereby improve the efficiency of the TFT production process. Applications of the disclosed method include reflection and transmission composite type LCDs as well as a reflection type LCD.

(21) **Appl. No.: 10/876,007**(22) **Filed: Jun. 25, 2004****Related U.S. Application Data**

(60) Continuation of application No. 10/358,266, filed on Feb. 5, 2003, which is a division of application No. 10/142,977, filed on May 13, 2002, now Pat. No. 6,624,446.

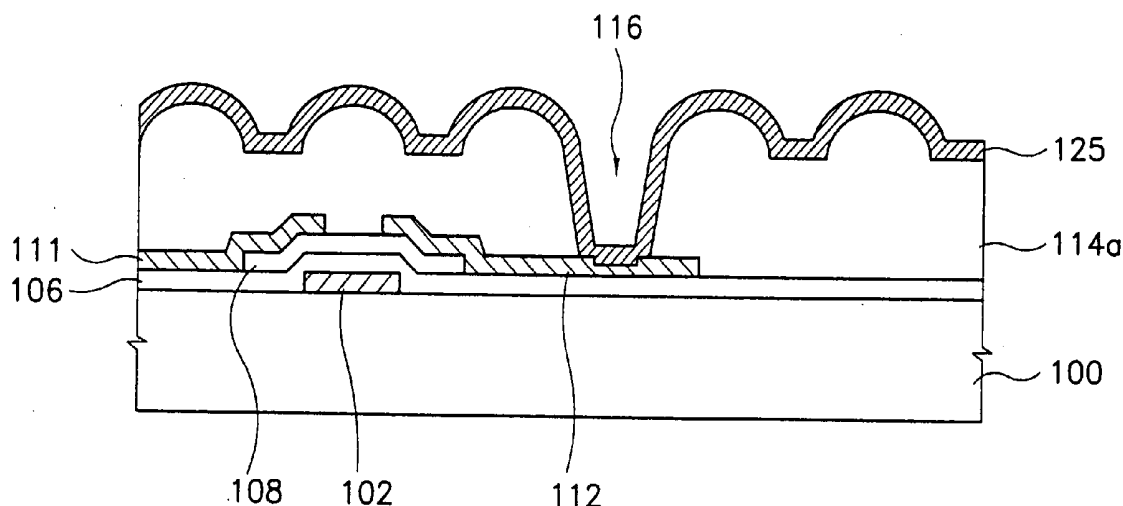


FIG. 1
(PRIOR ART)

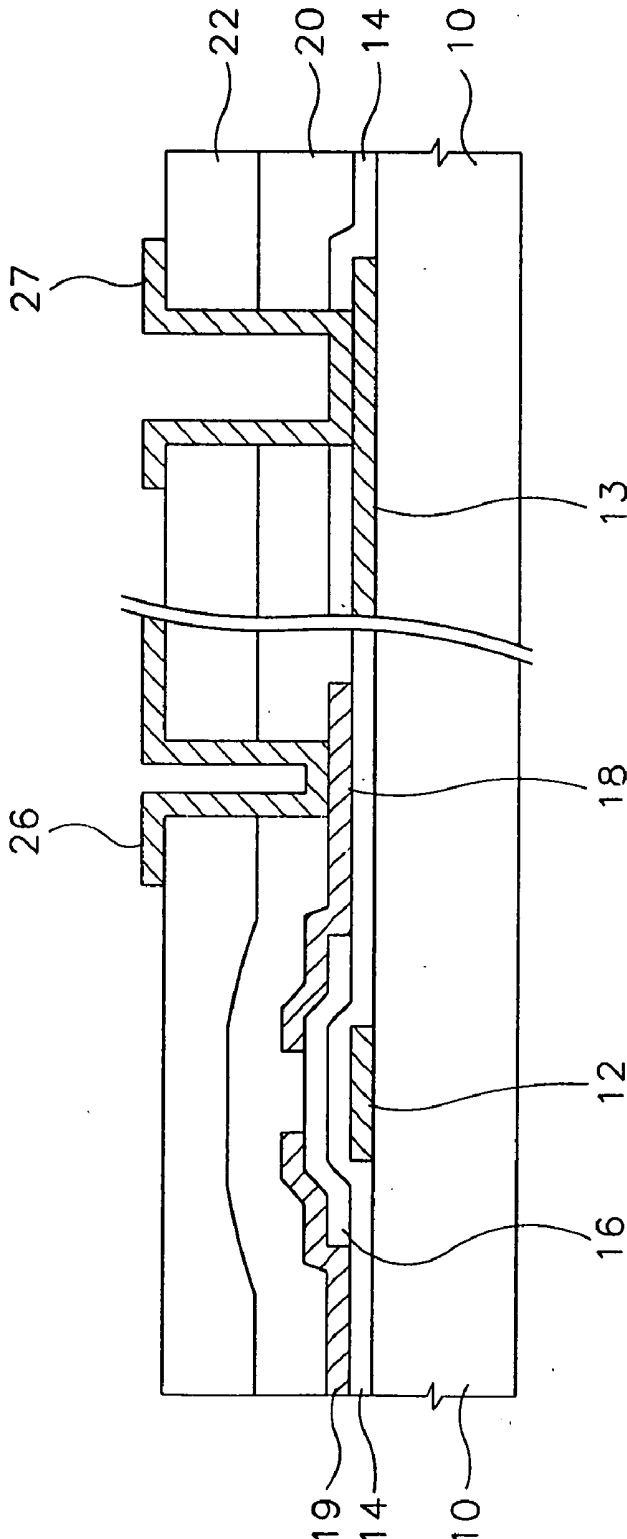


FIG. 2A
(PRIOR ART)

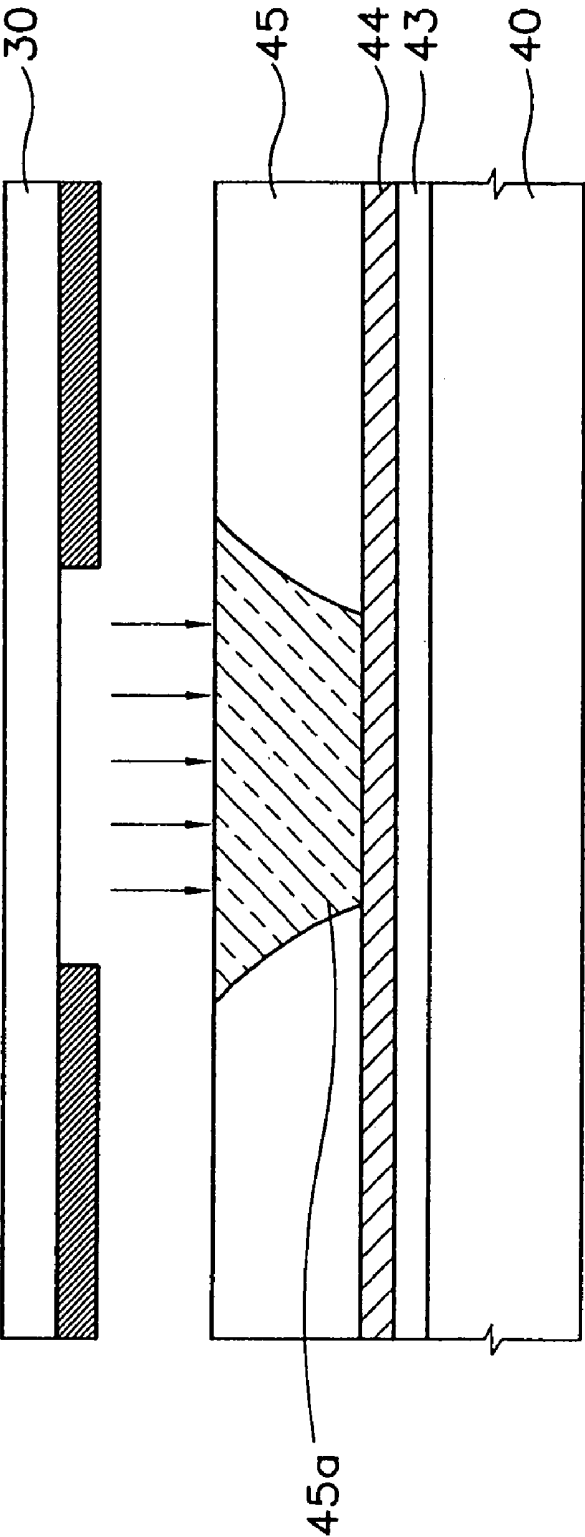


FIG. 2B
(PRIOR ART)

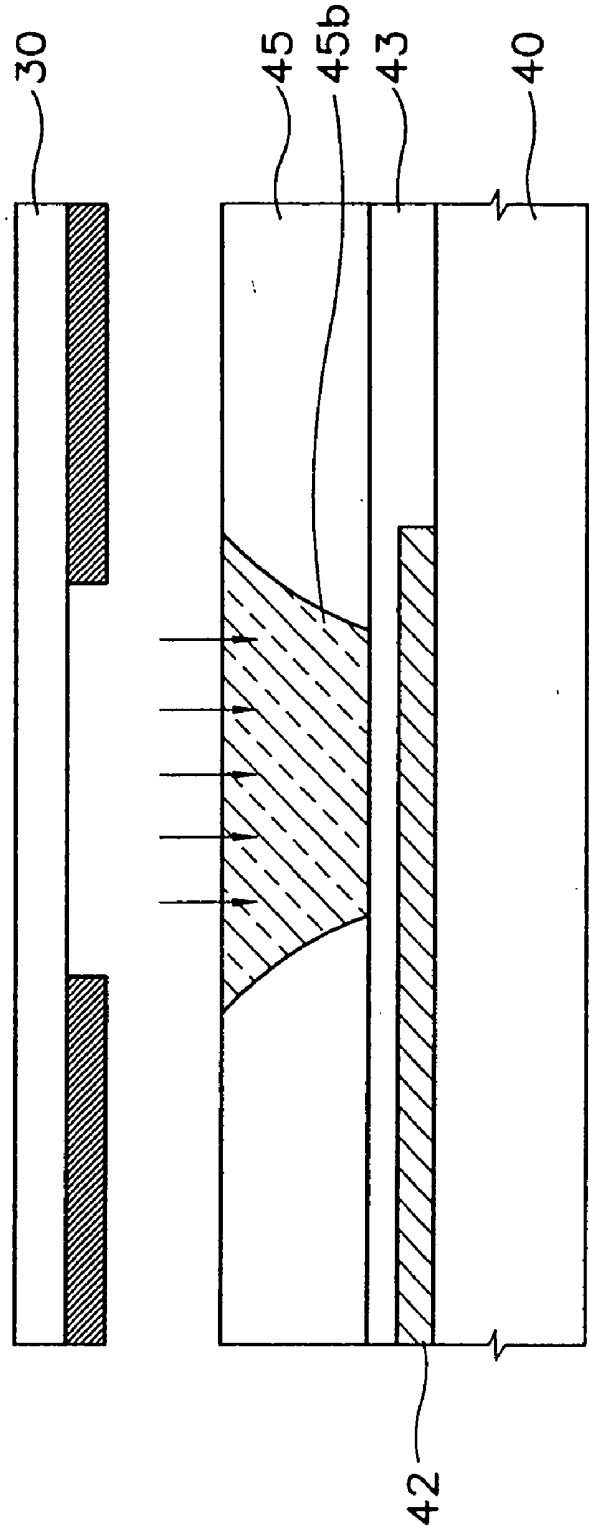


FIG. 3A
(PRIOR ART)

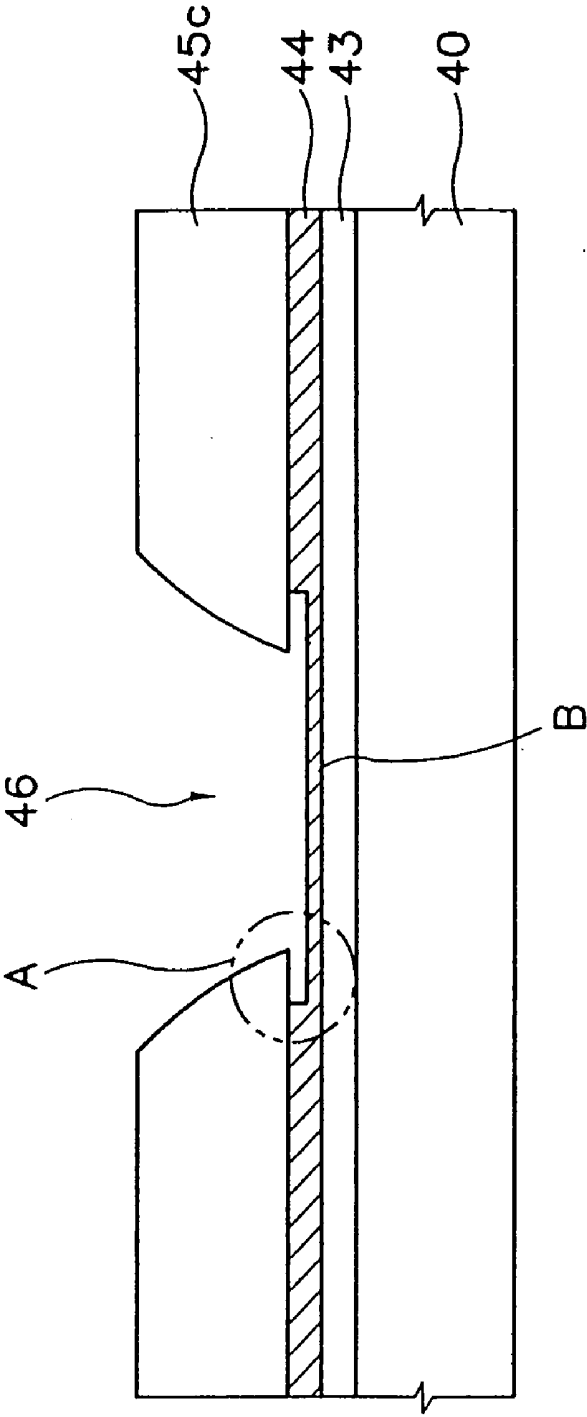


FIG. 3B
(PRIOR ART)

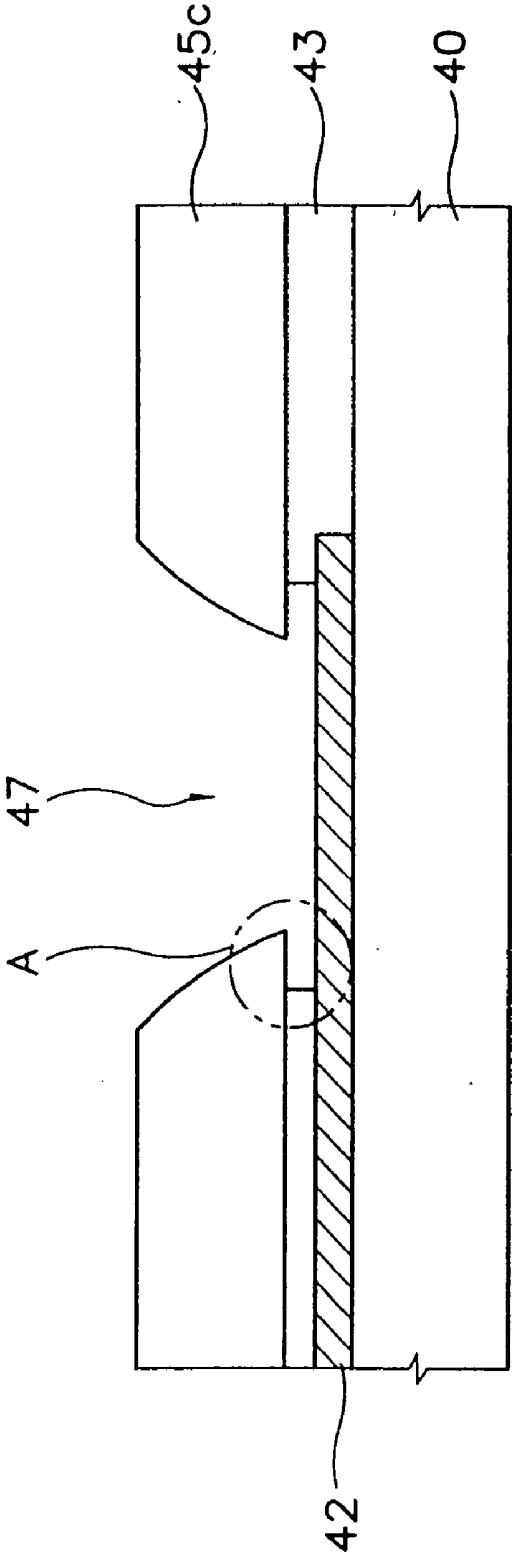


FIG. 4A
(PRIOR ART)

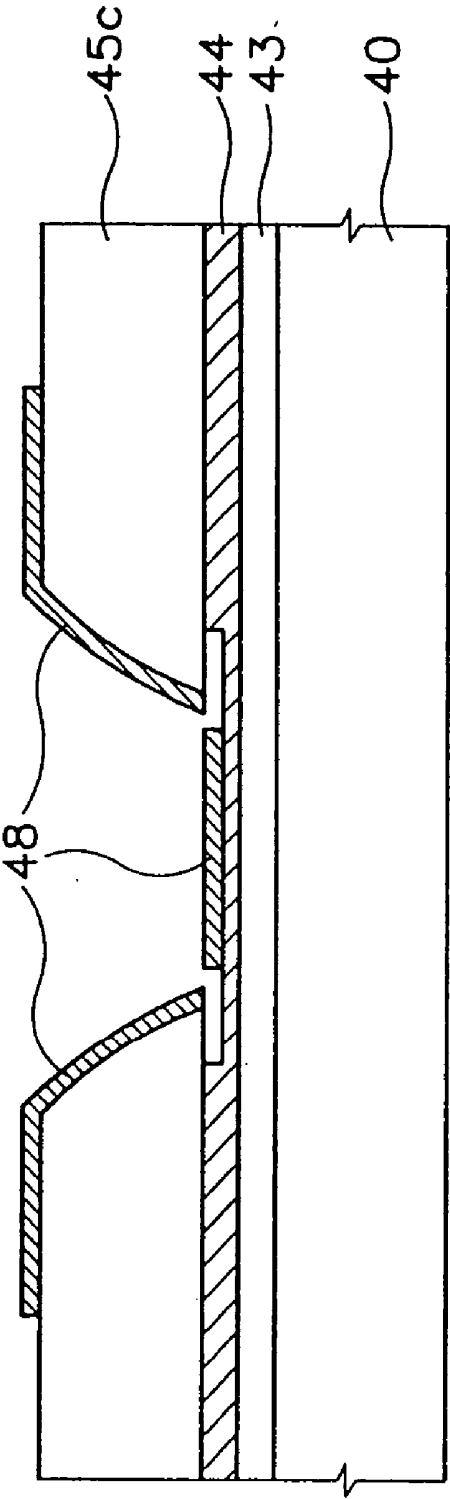


FIG. 4B
(PRIOR ART)

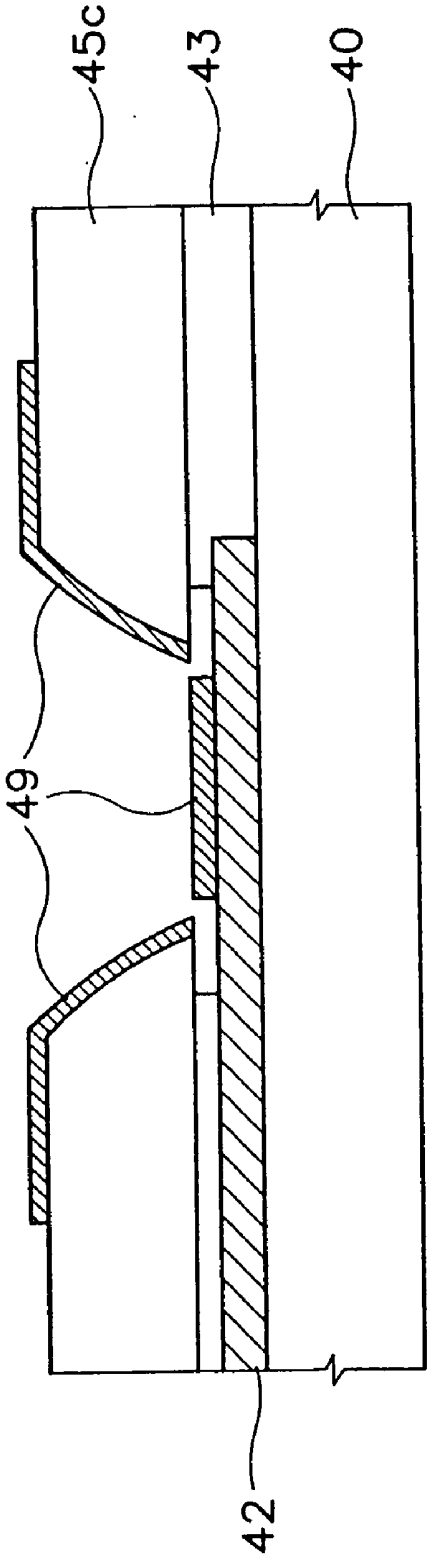


FIG. 5B

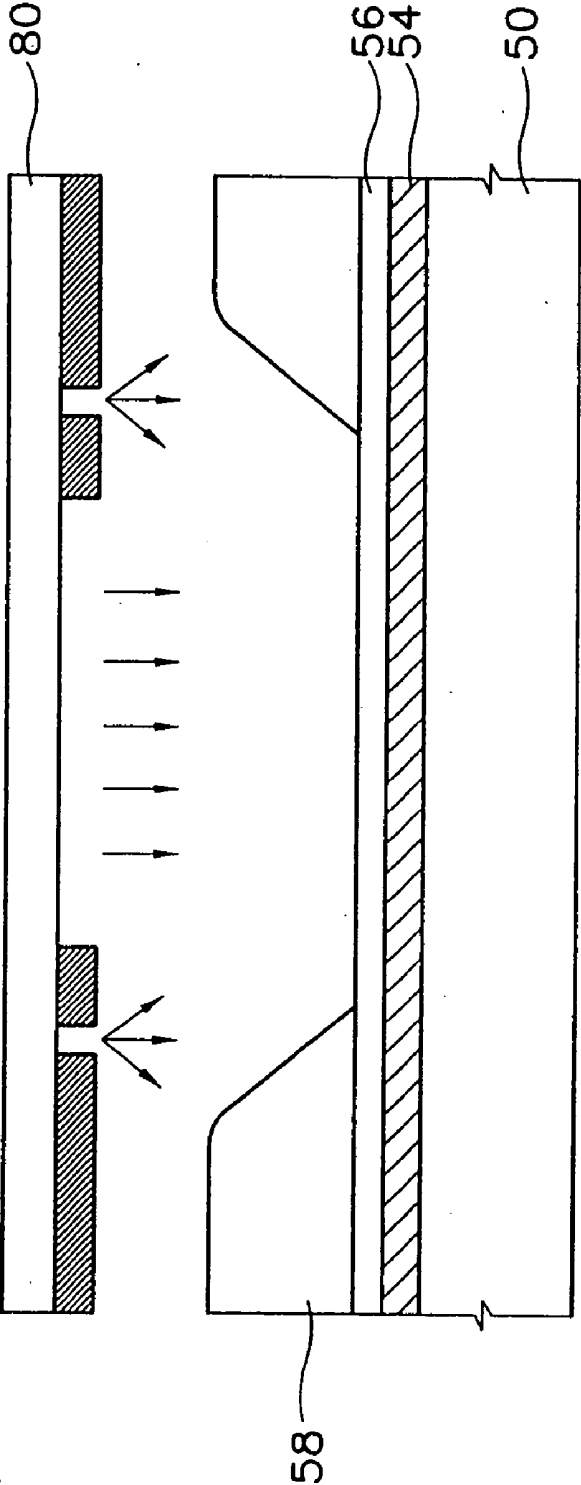


FIG. 6A

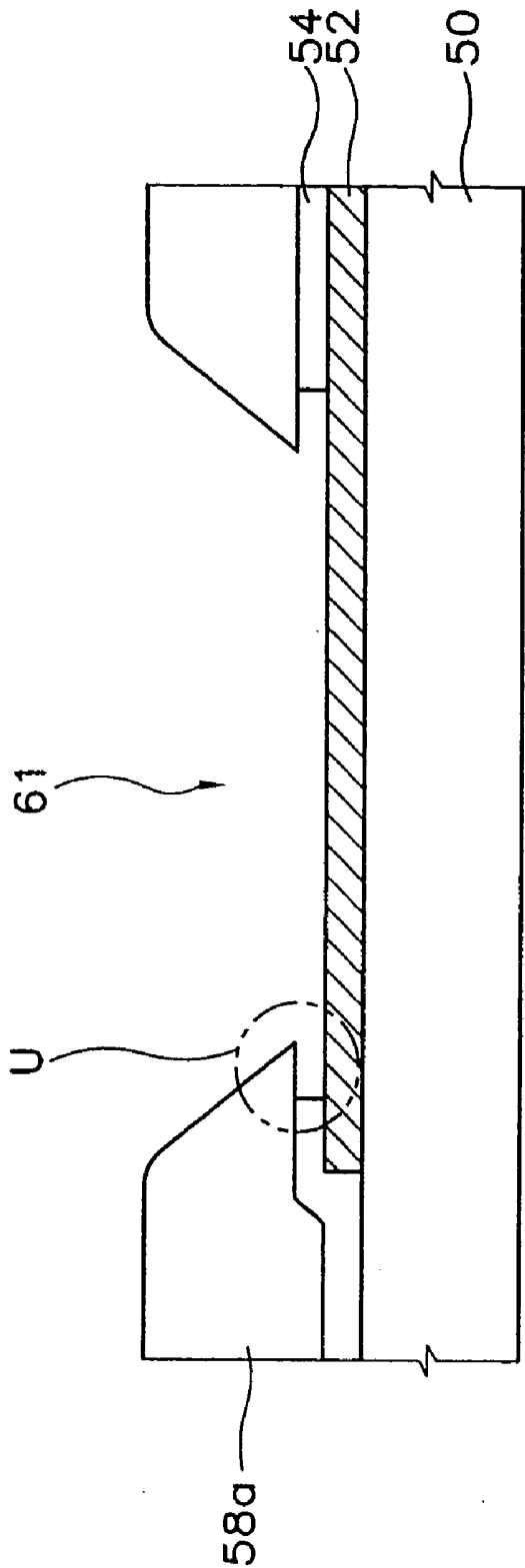


FIG. 6B

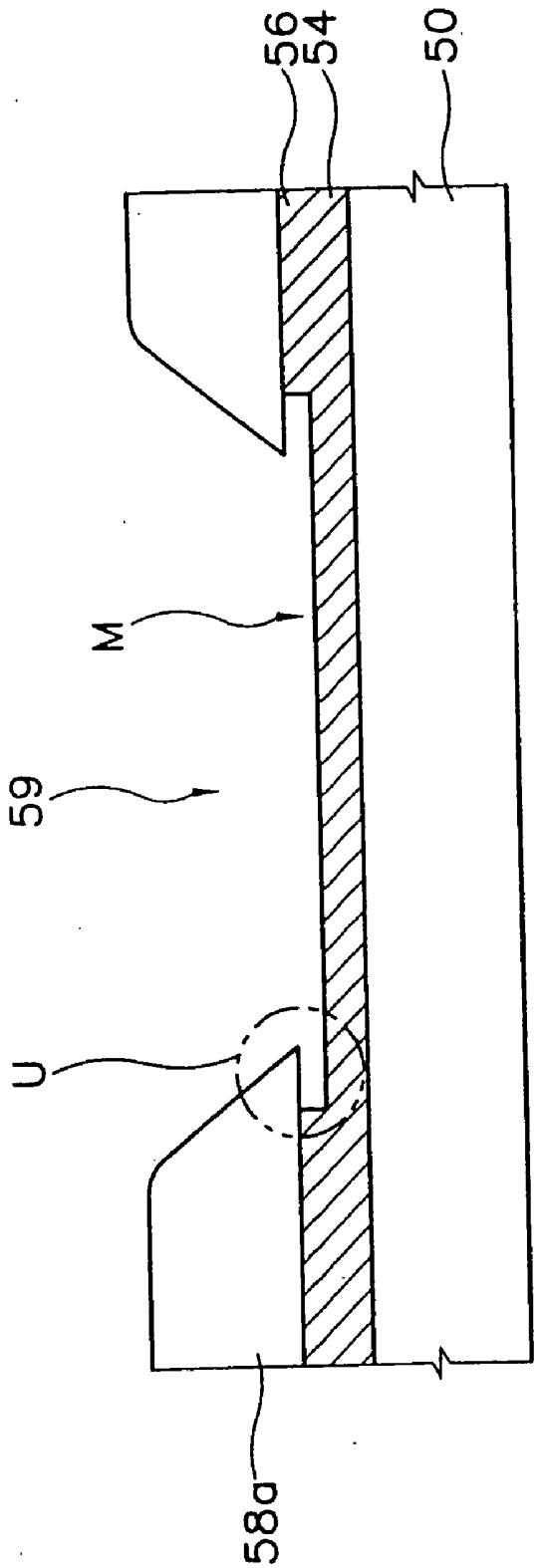


FIG. 7A

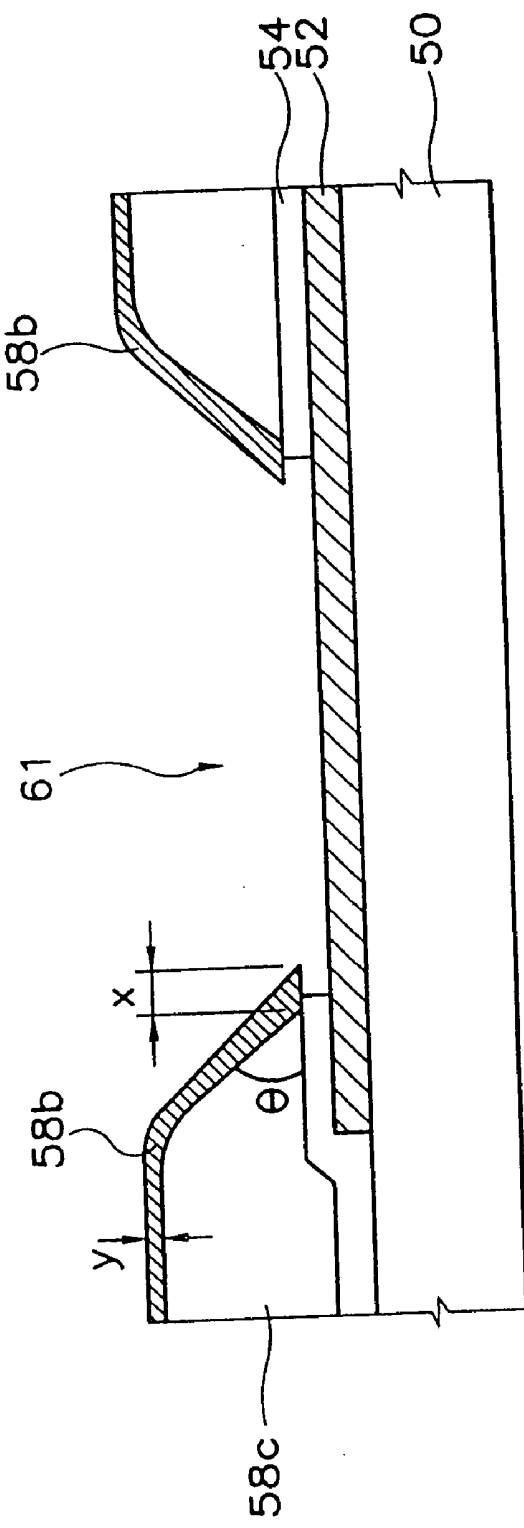


FIG. 7B

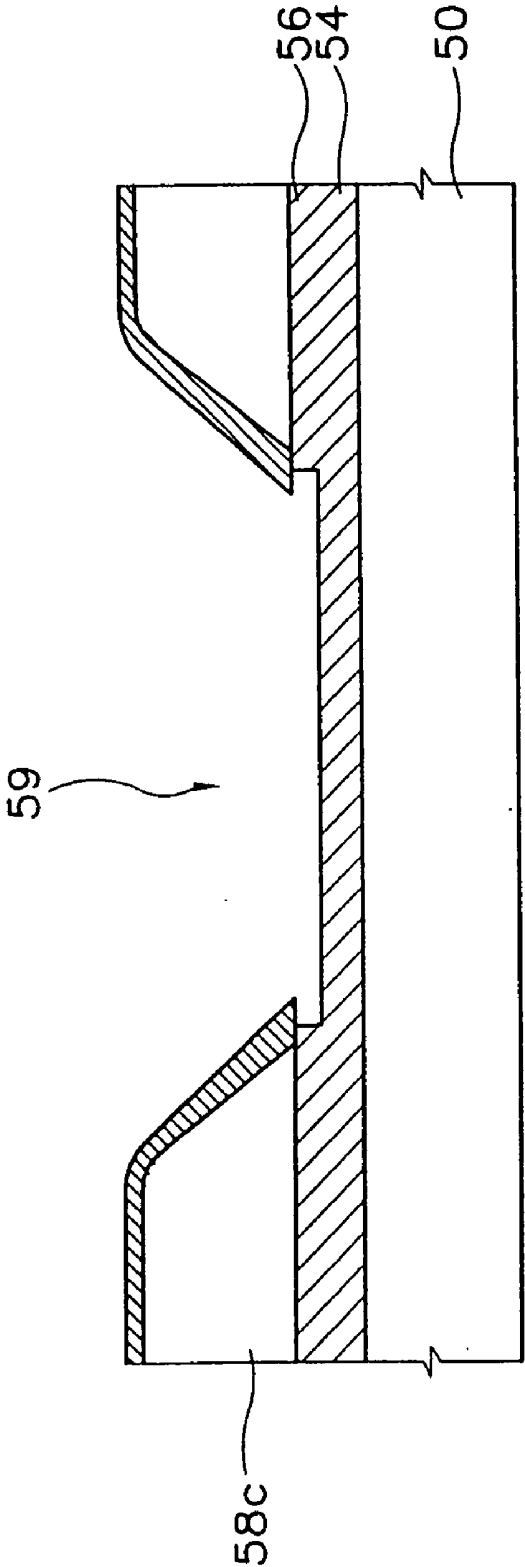


FIG. 8B

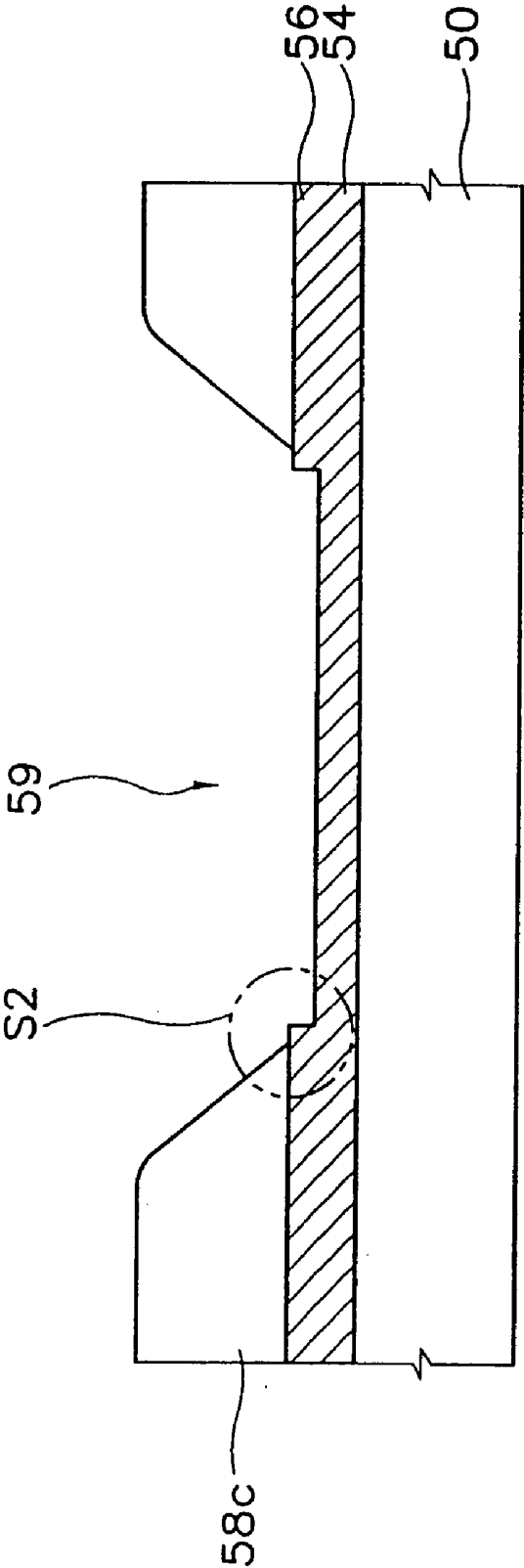


FIG. 9A

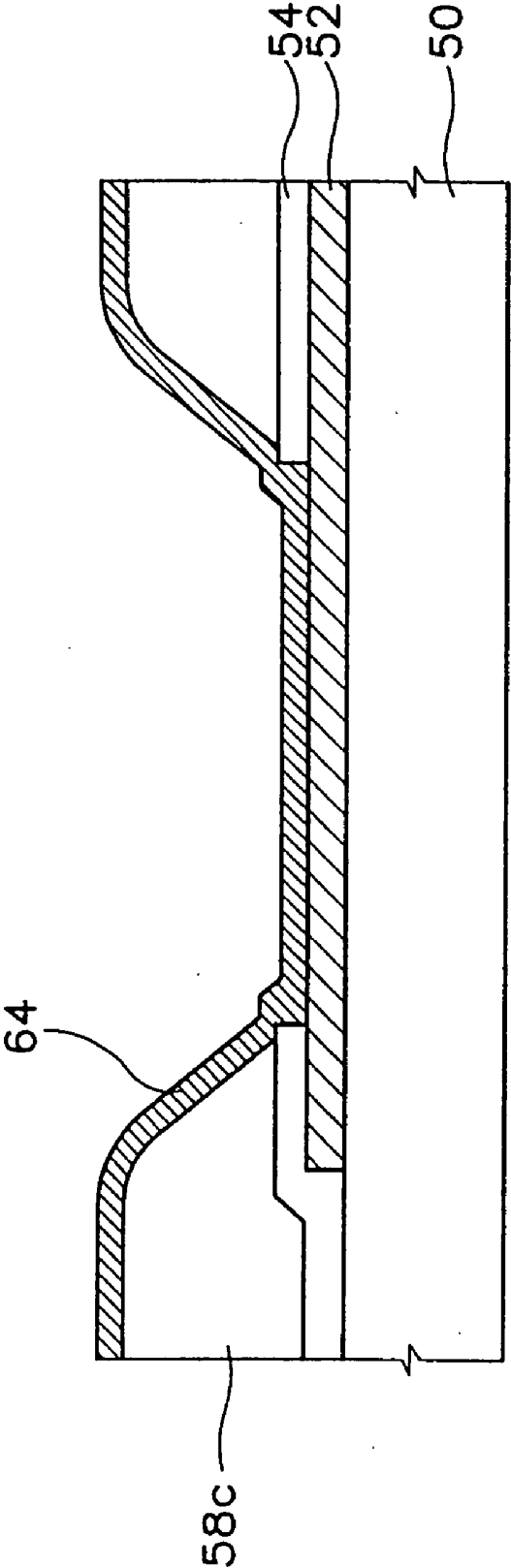


FIG. 9B

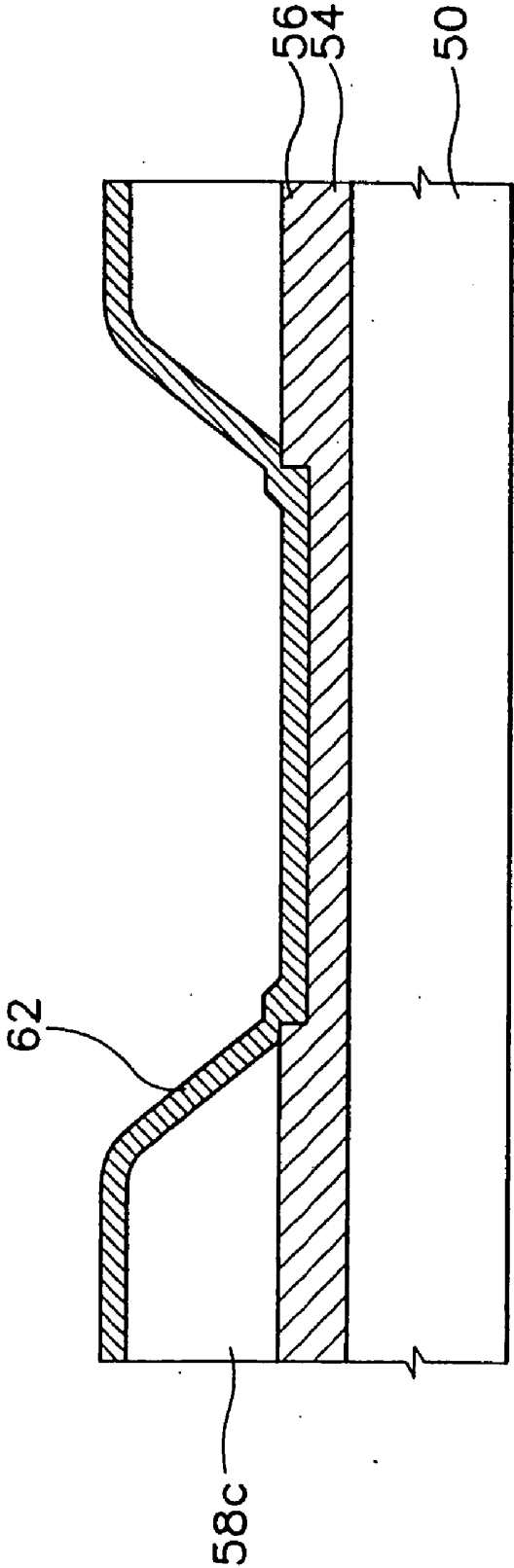


FIG. 10

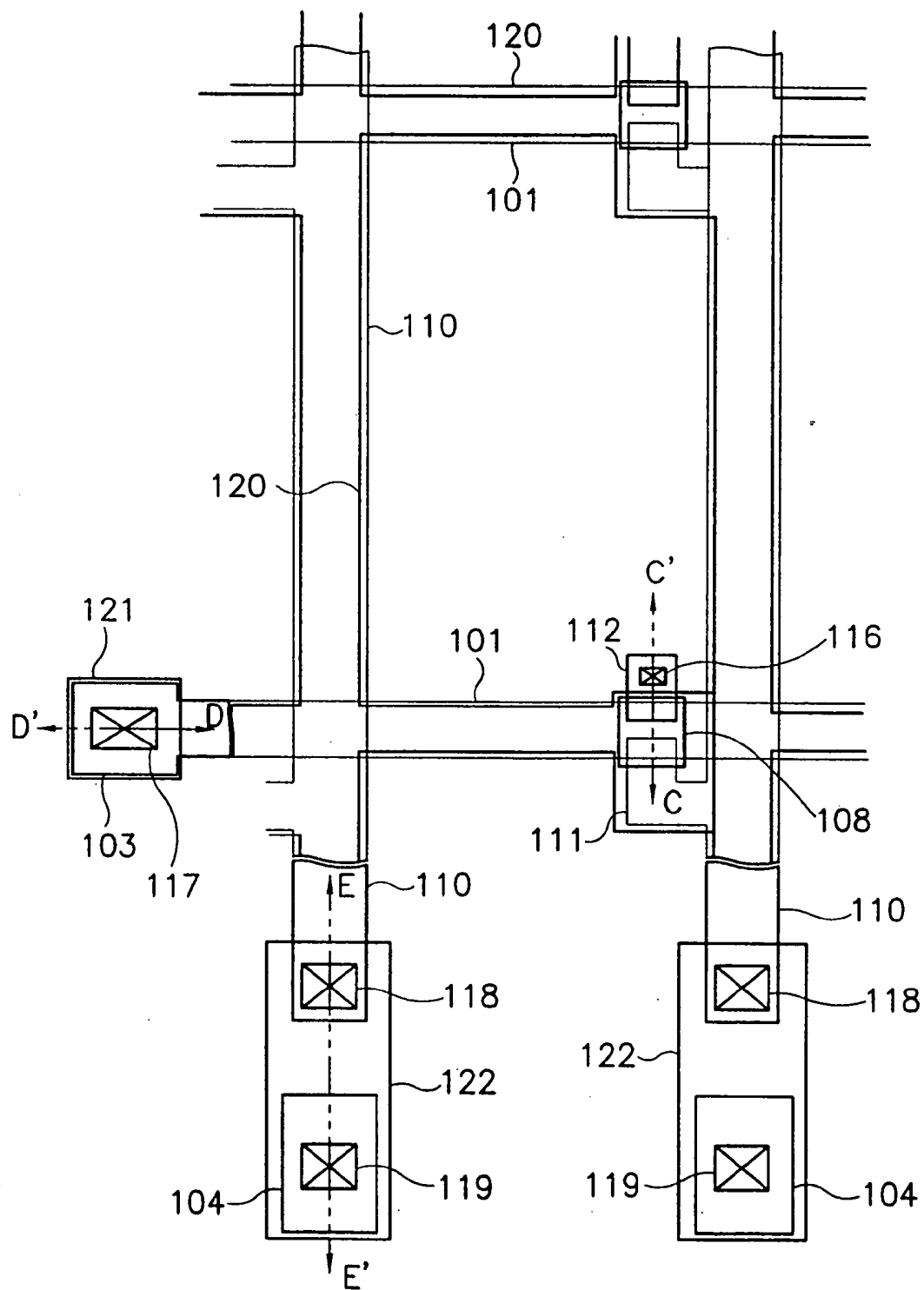


FIG. 11A

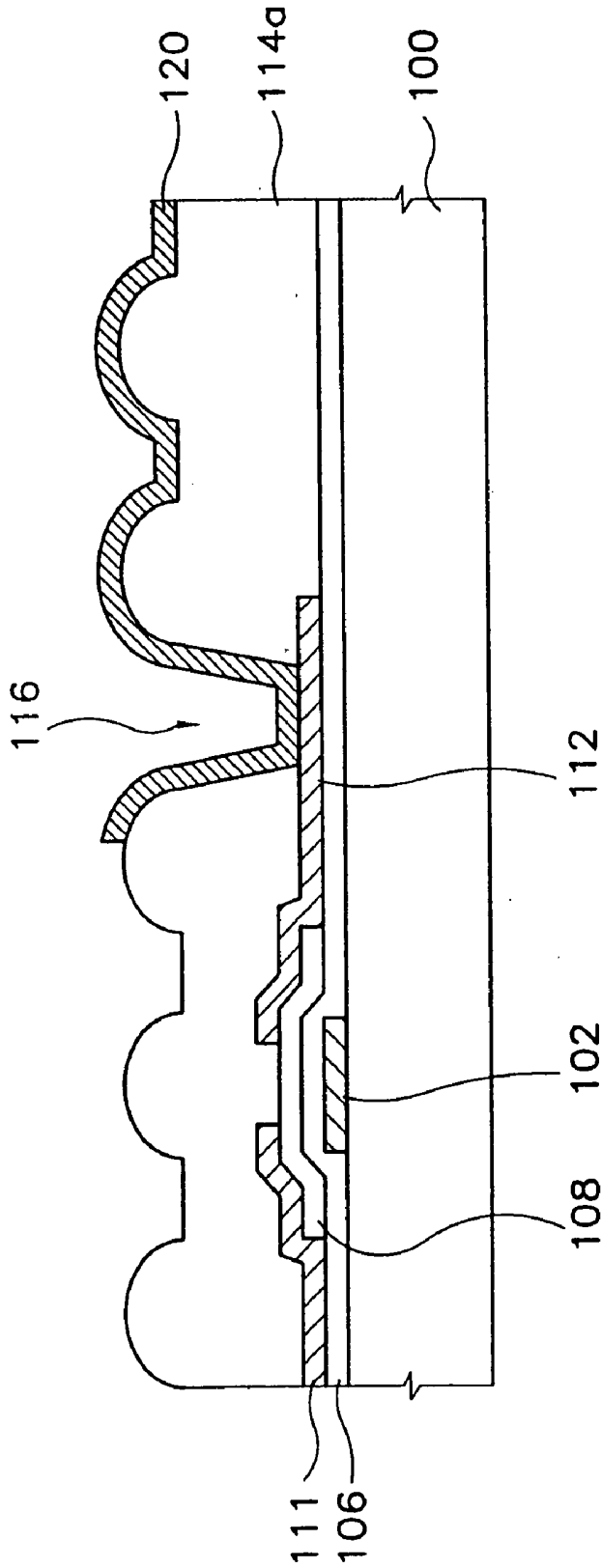


FIG. 11B

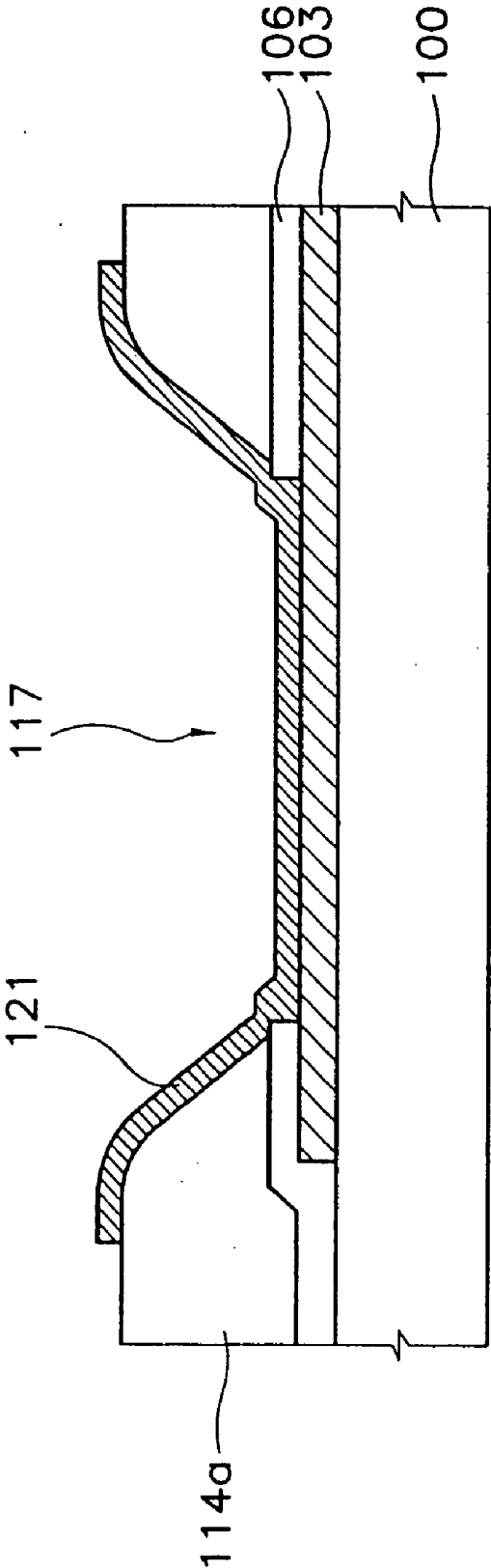


FIG. 11C

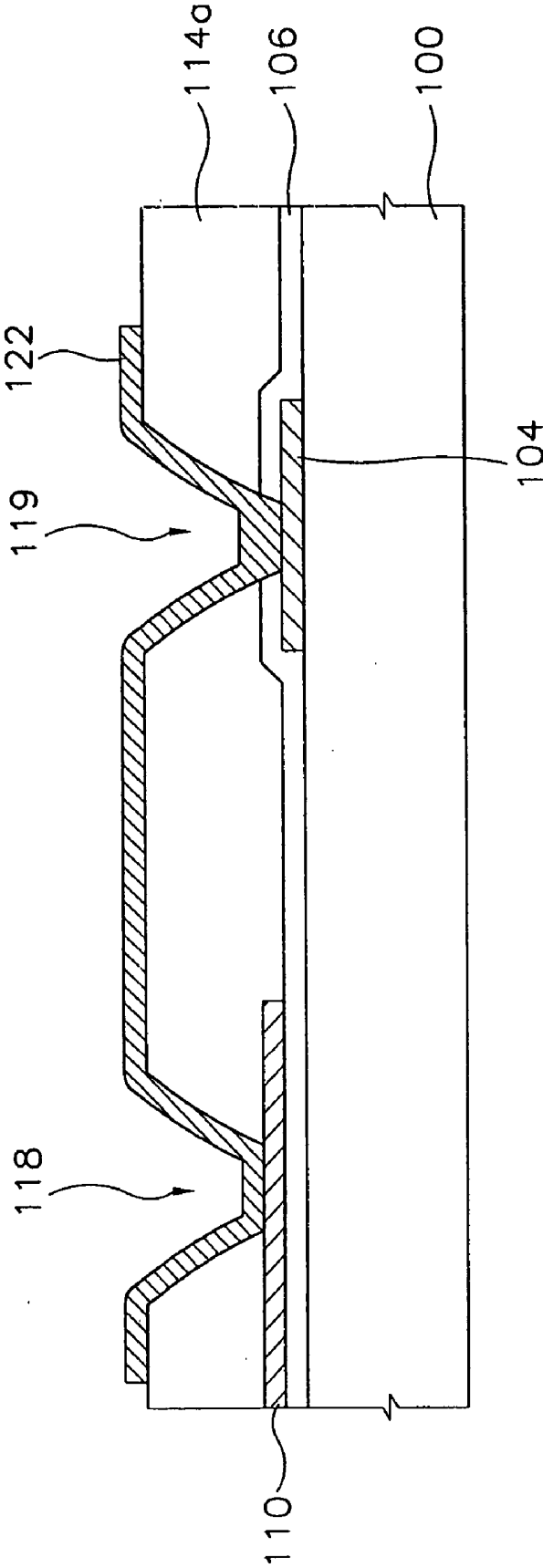


FIG. 12A

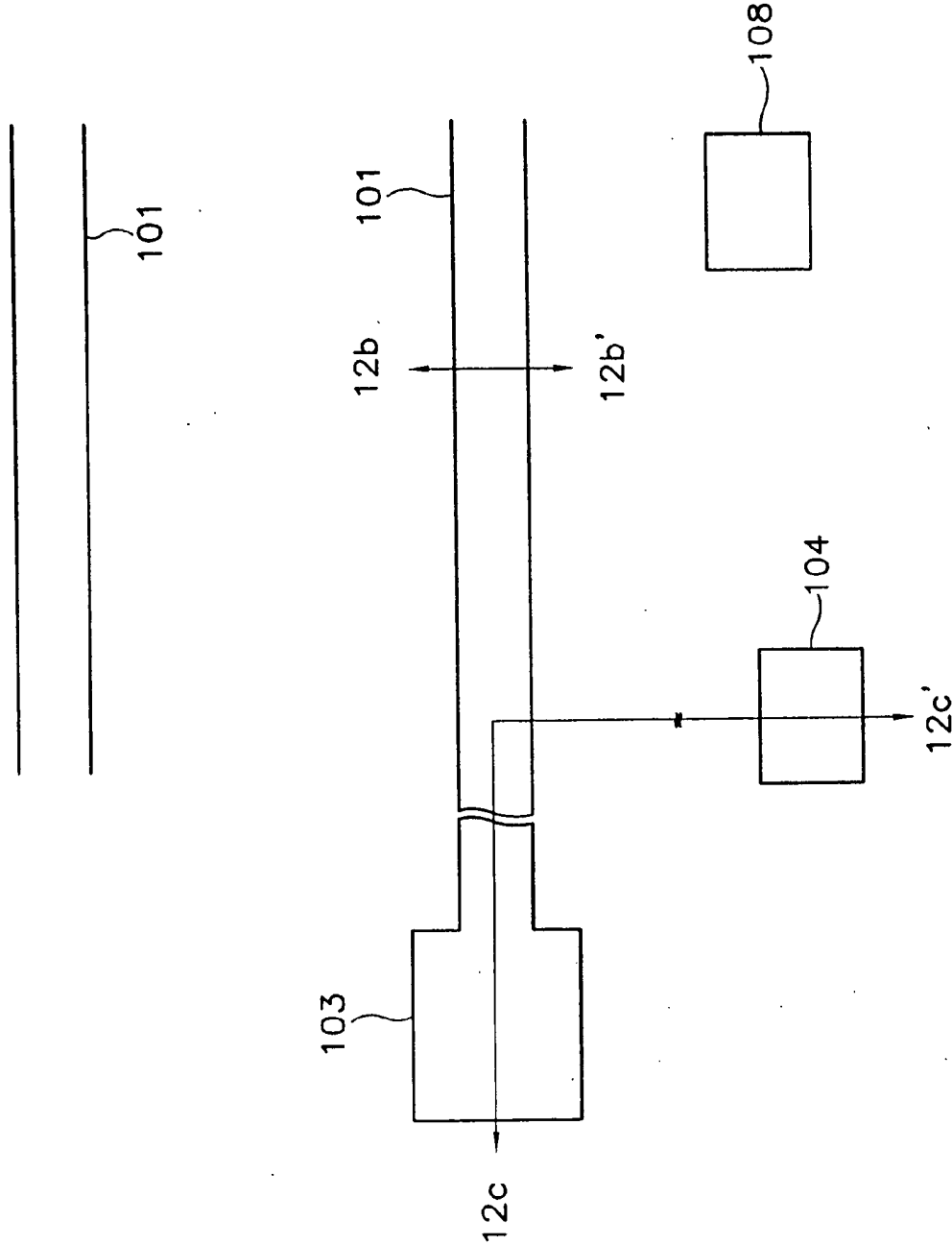


FIG. 12B

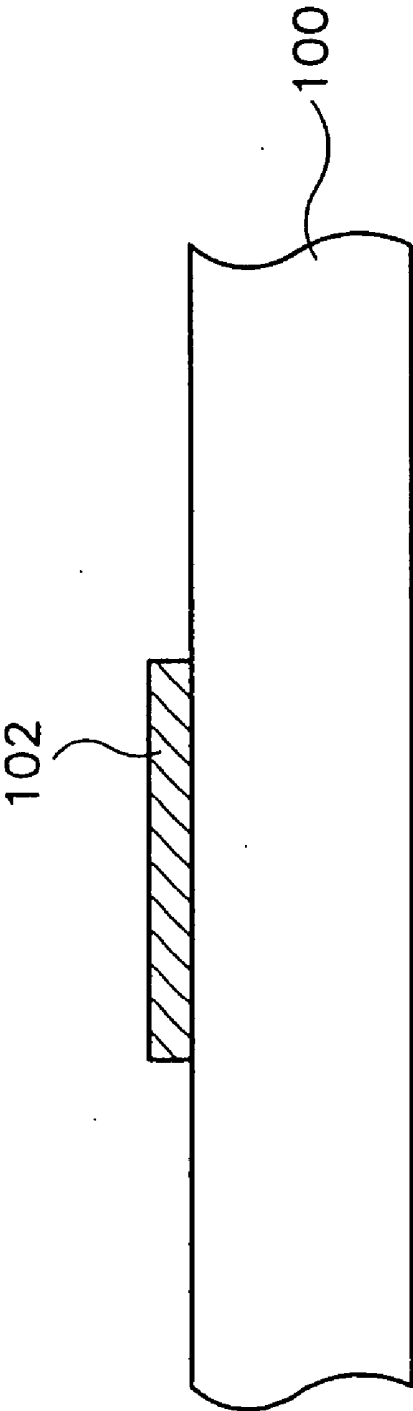


FIG. 12C

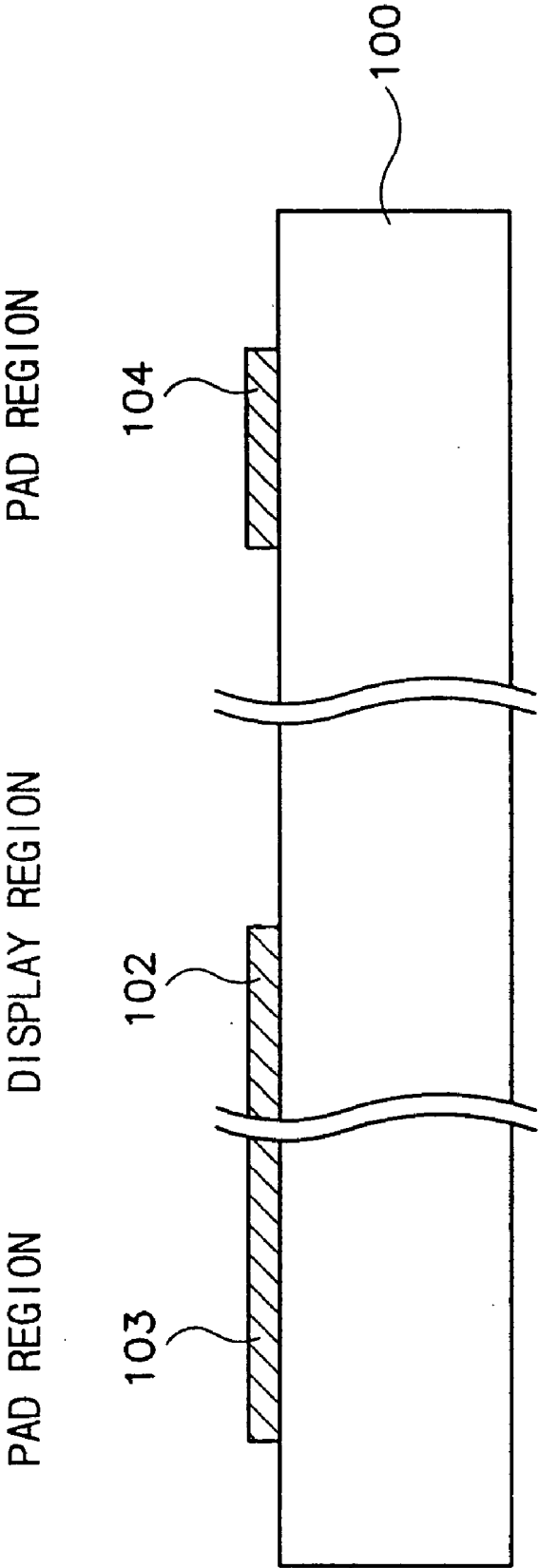


FIG. 13A

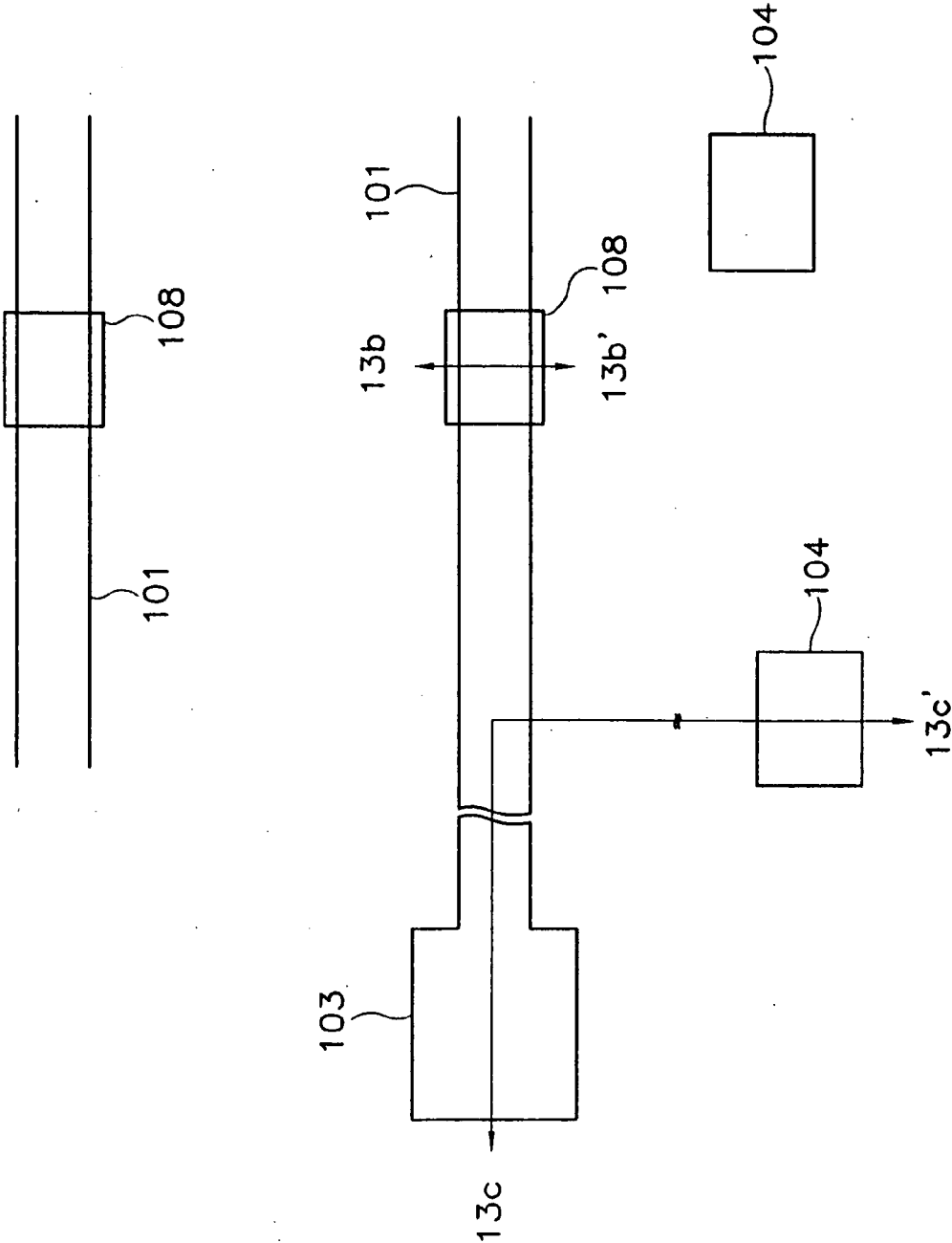


FIG. 13B

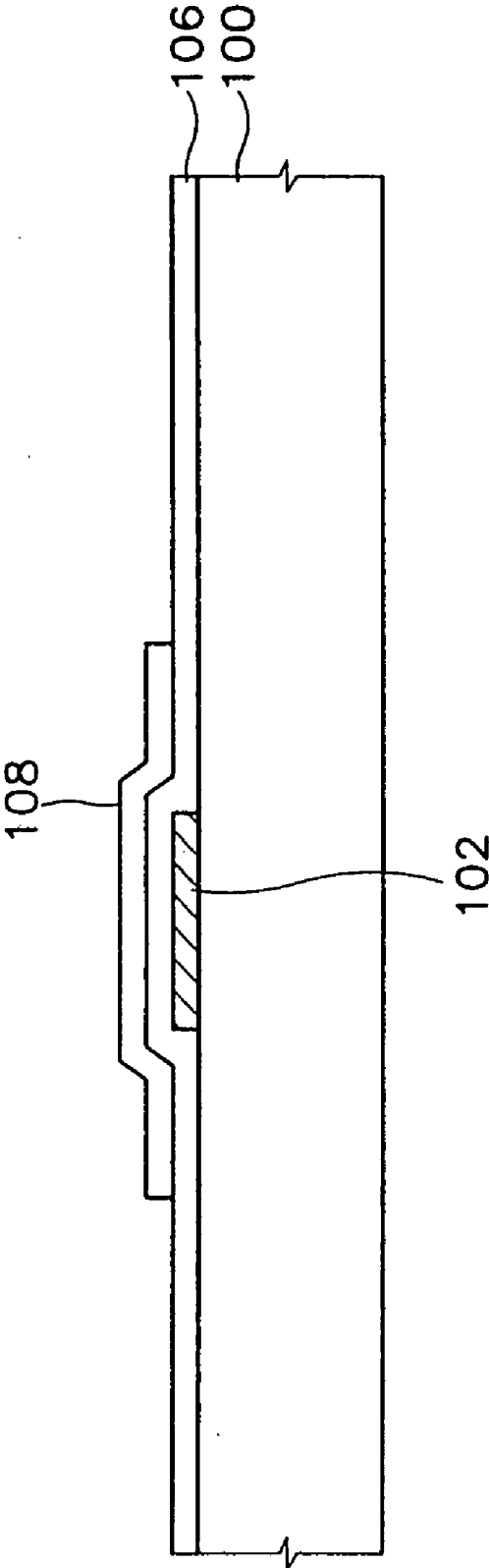


FIG. 13C

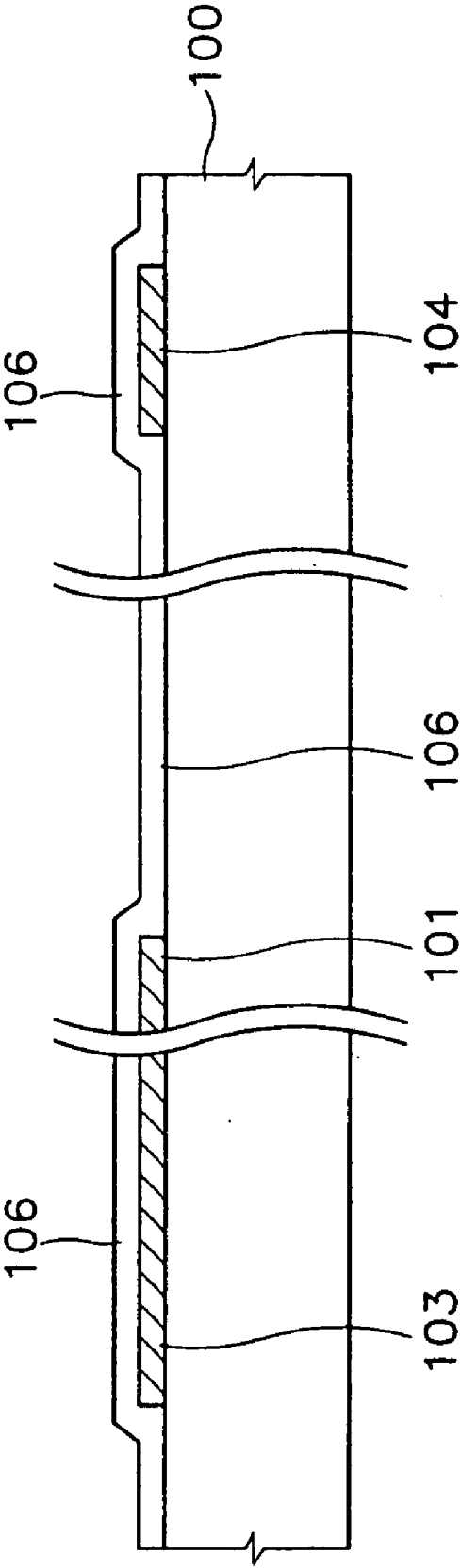


FIG. 14A

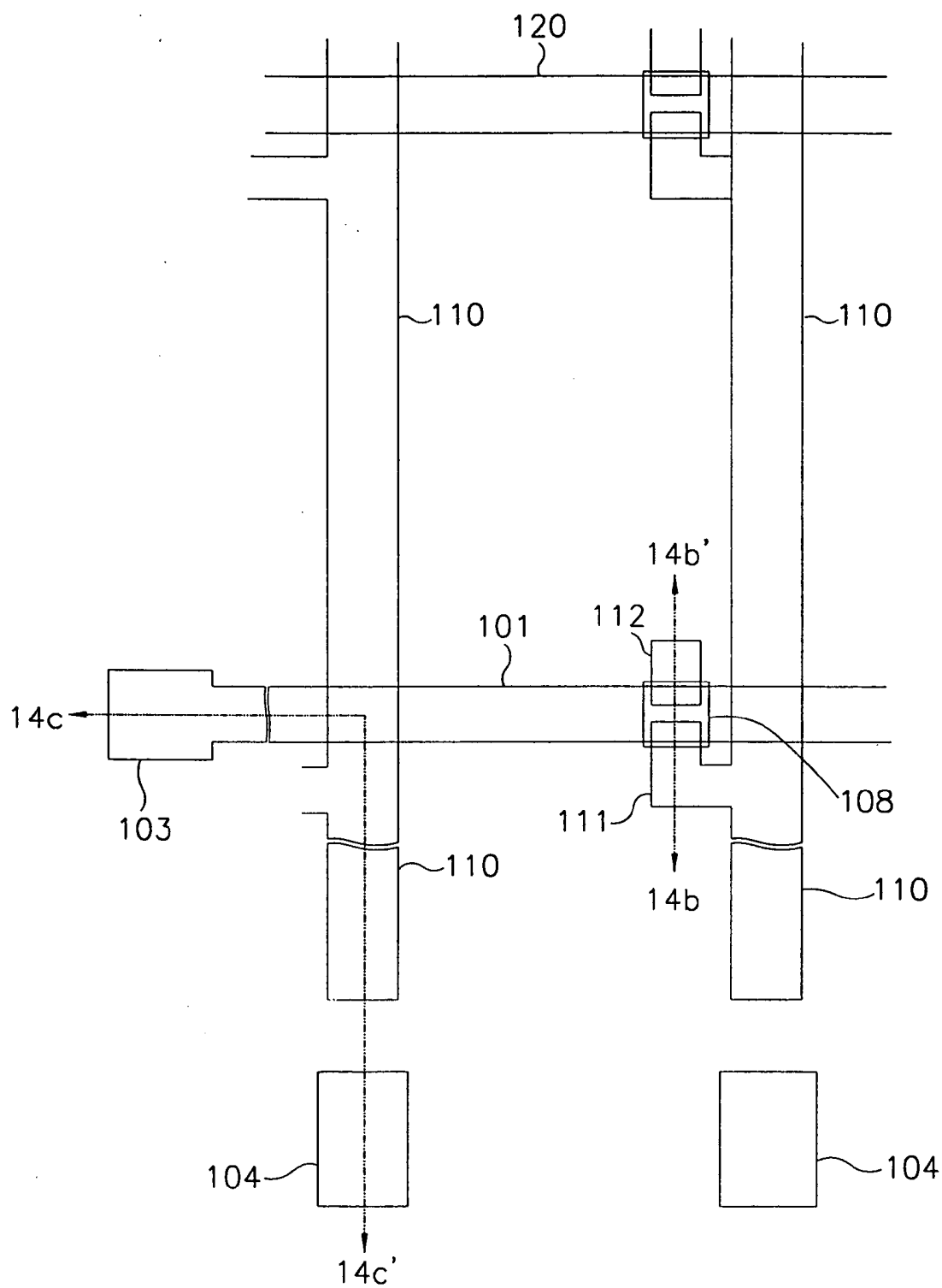


FIG. 14B

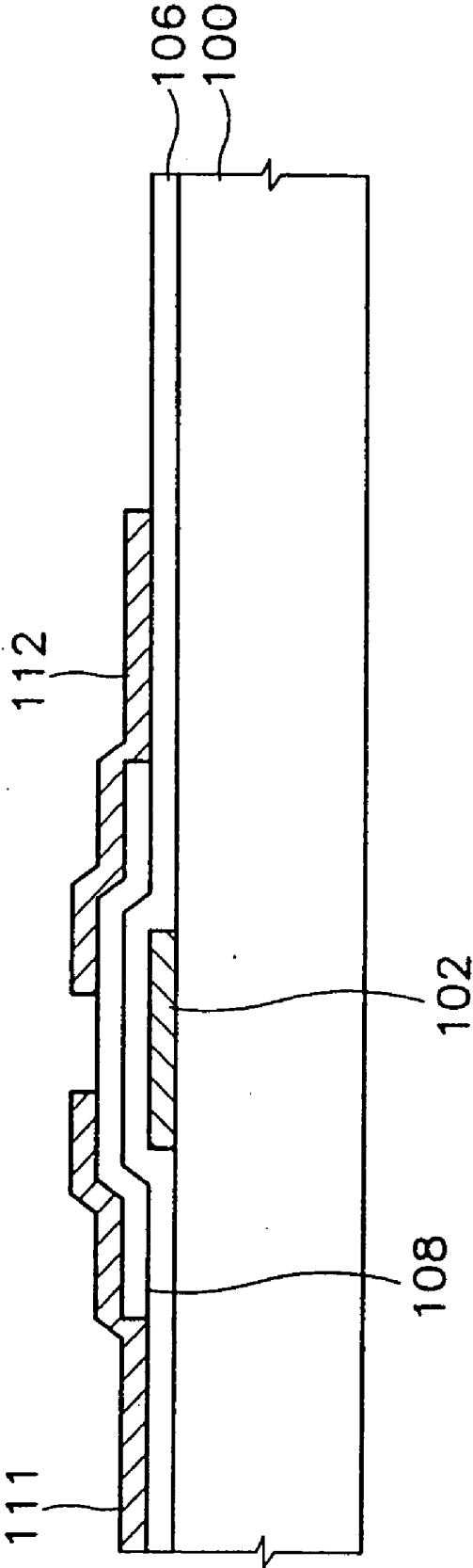


FIG. 14C

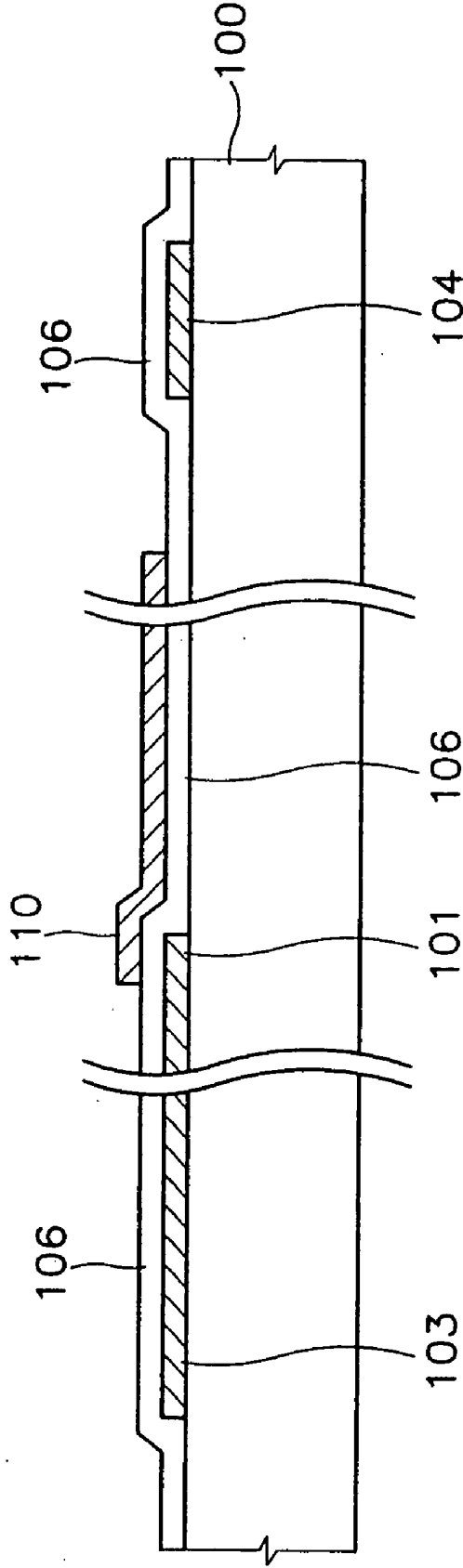


FIG. 15A

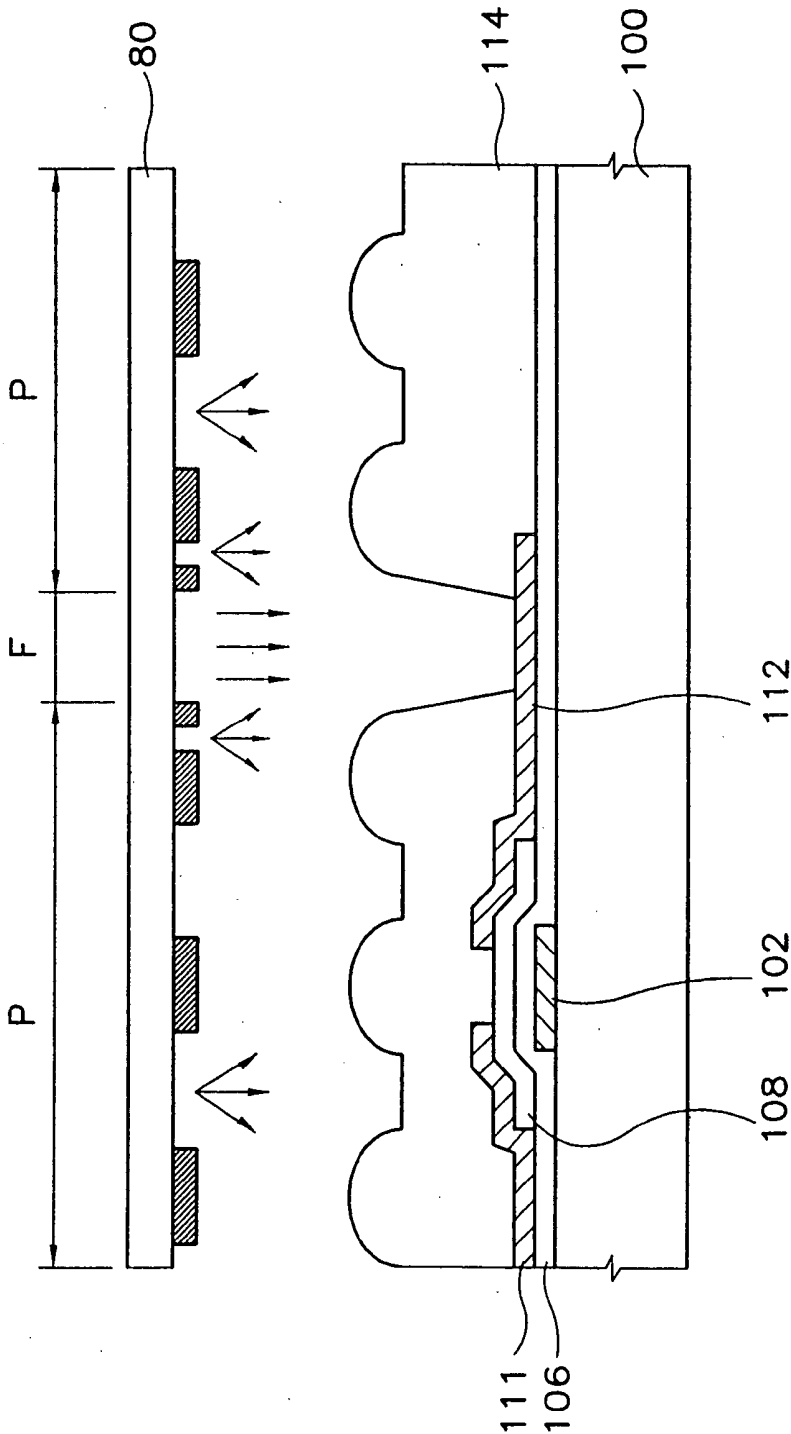


FIG. 15B

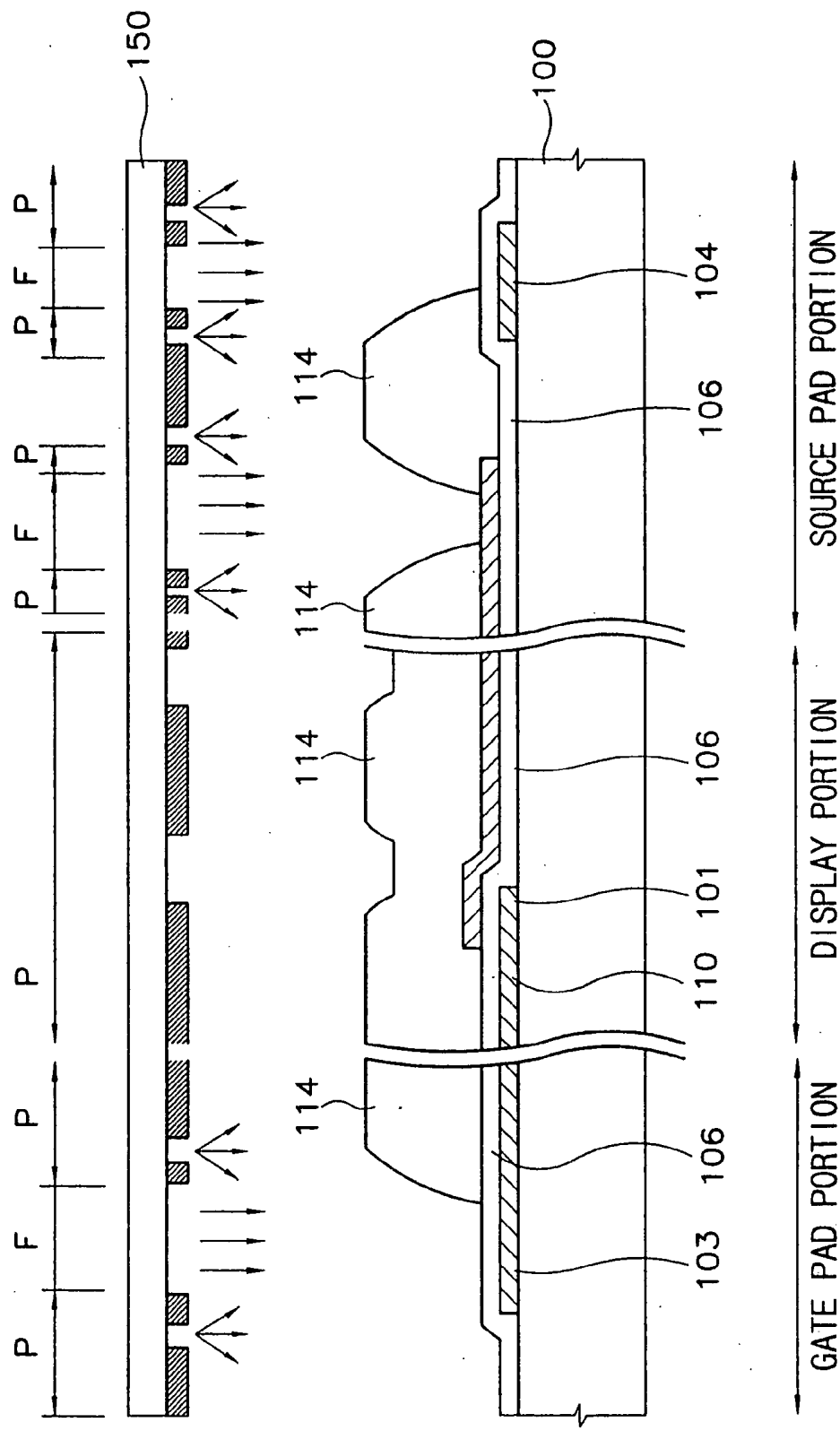


FIG. 16A

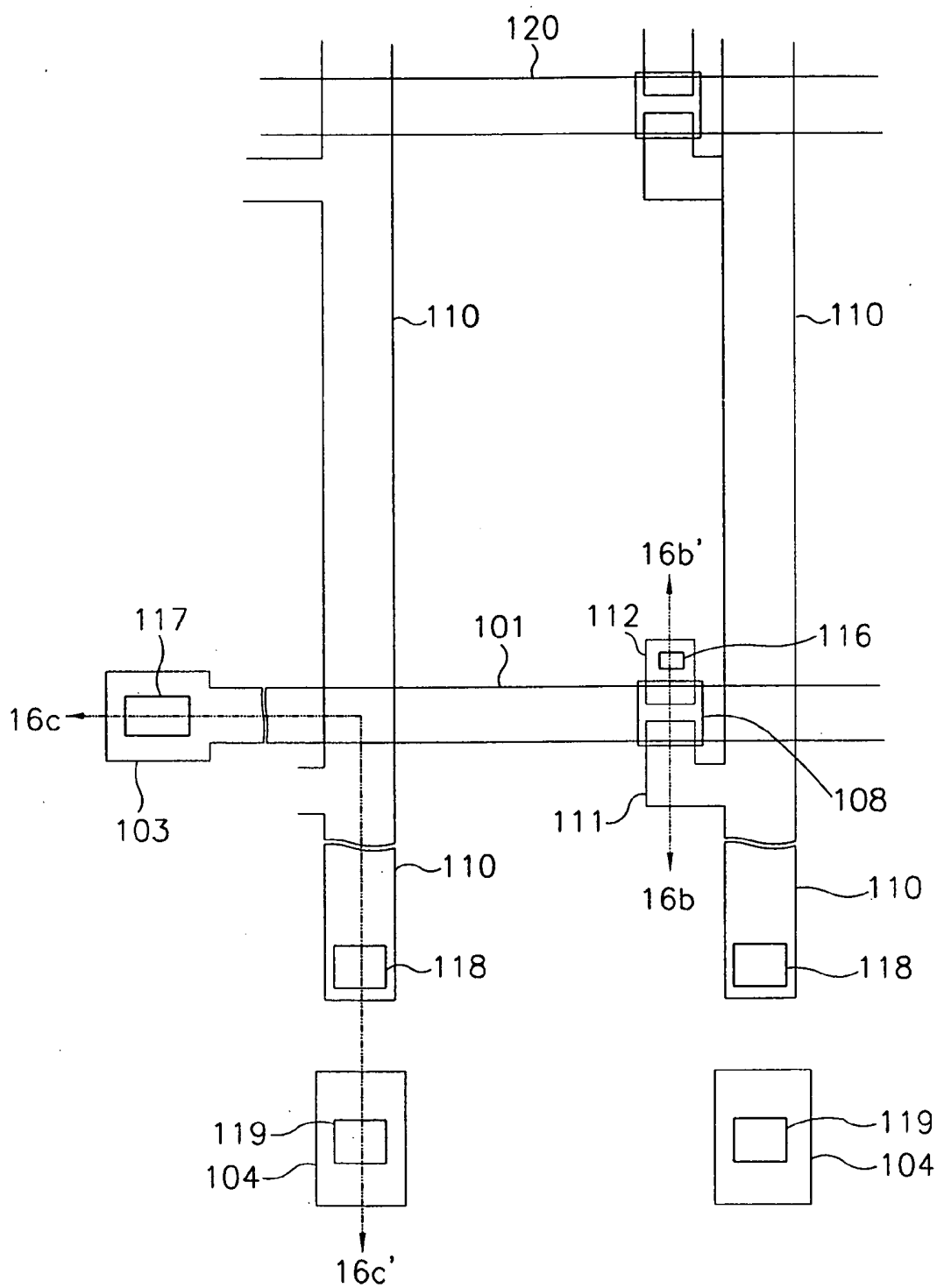


FIG. 16C

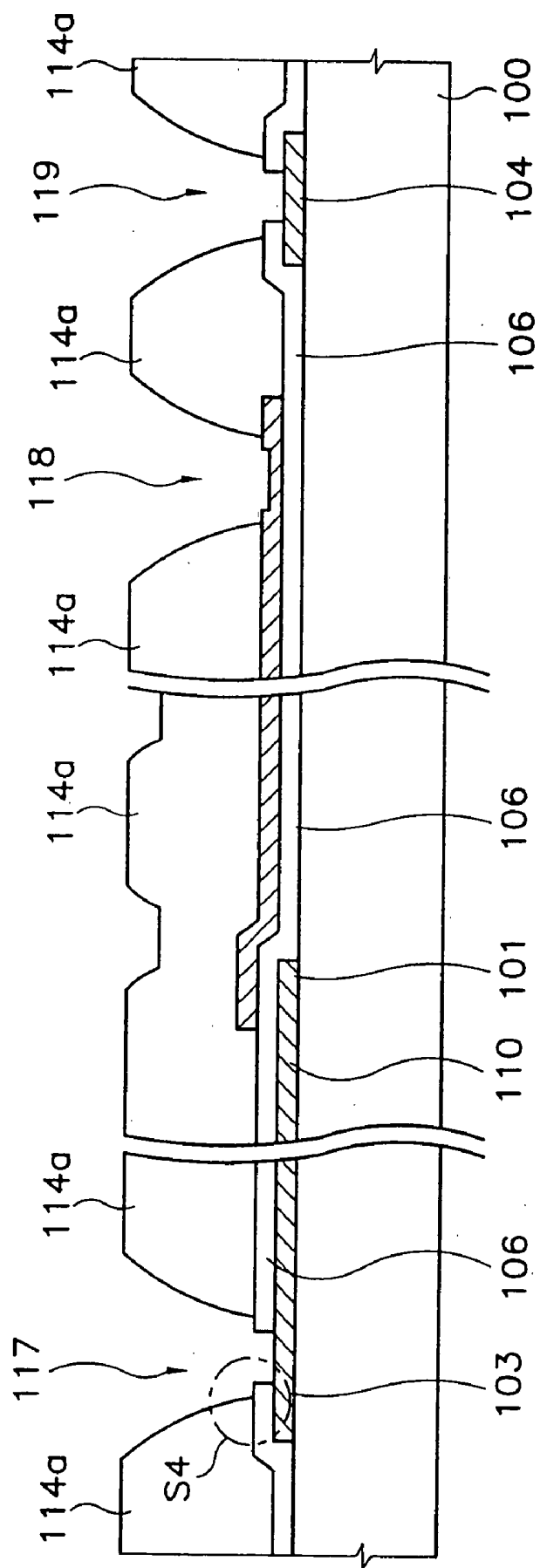


FIG. 17A

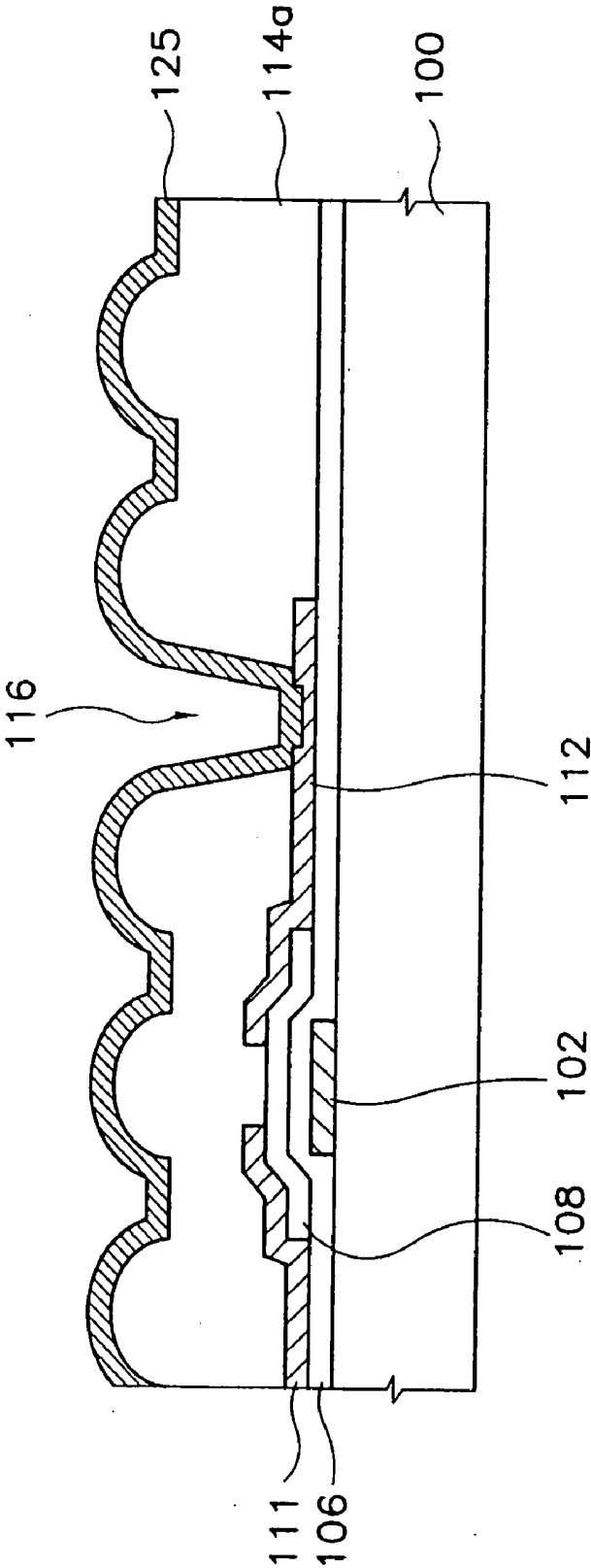


FIG. 17B

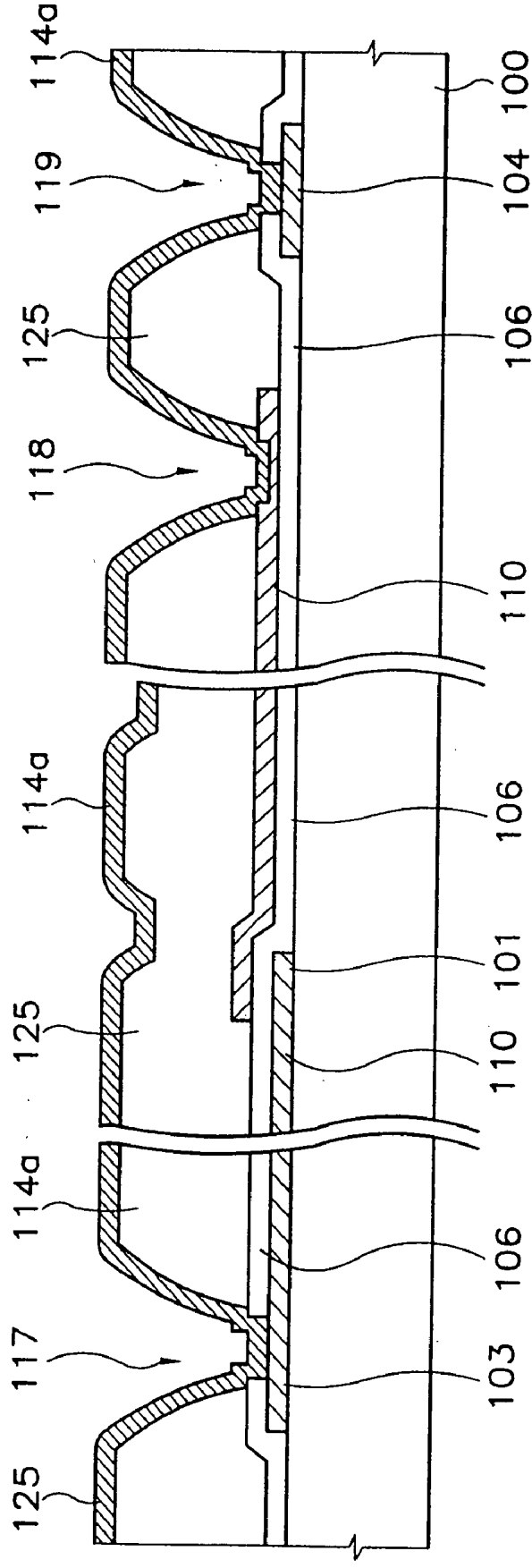


FIG. 18A

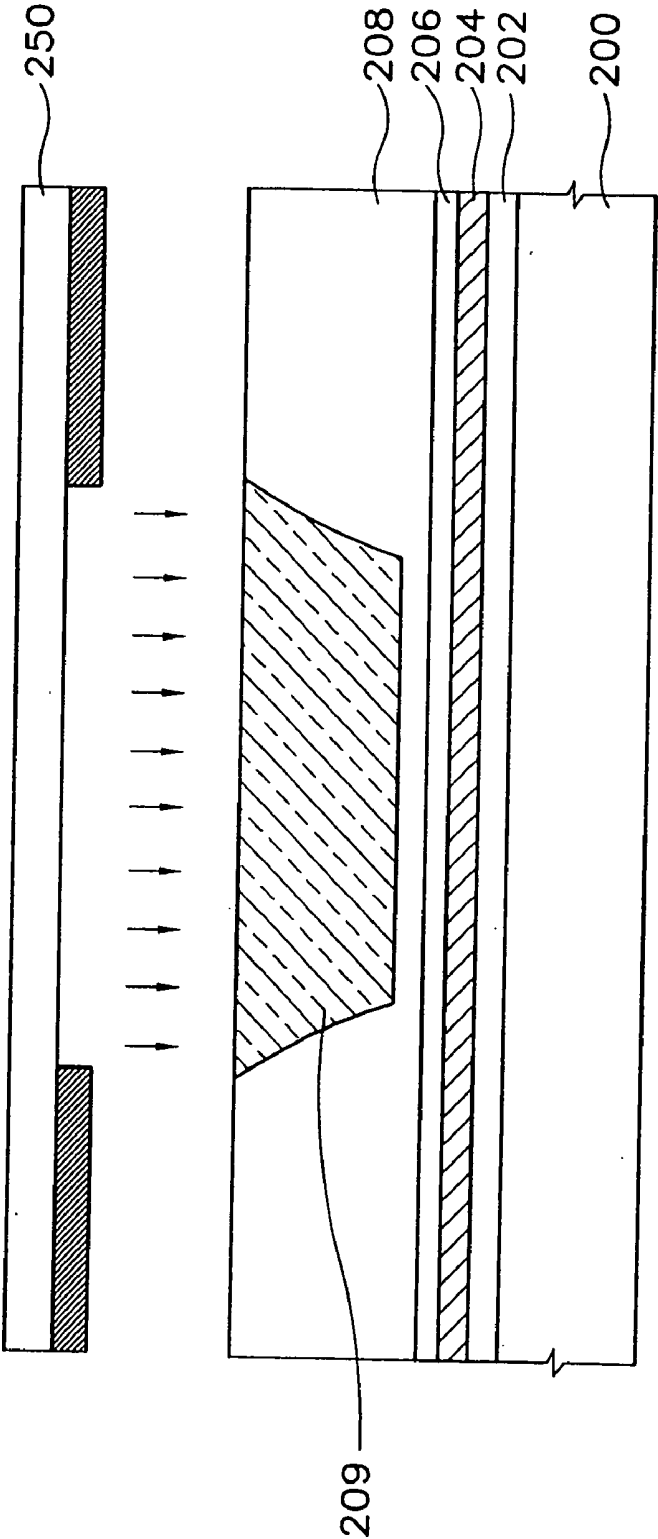


FIG. 18B

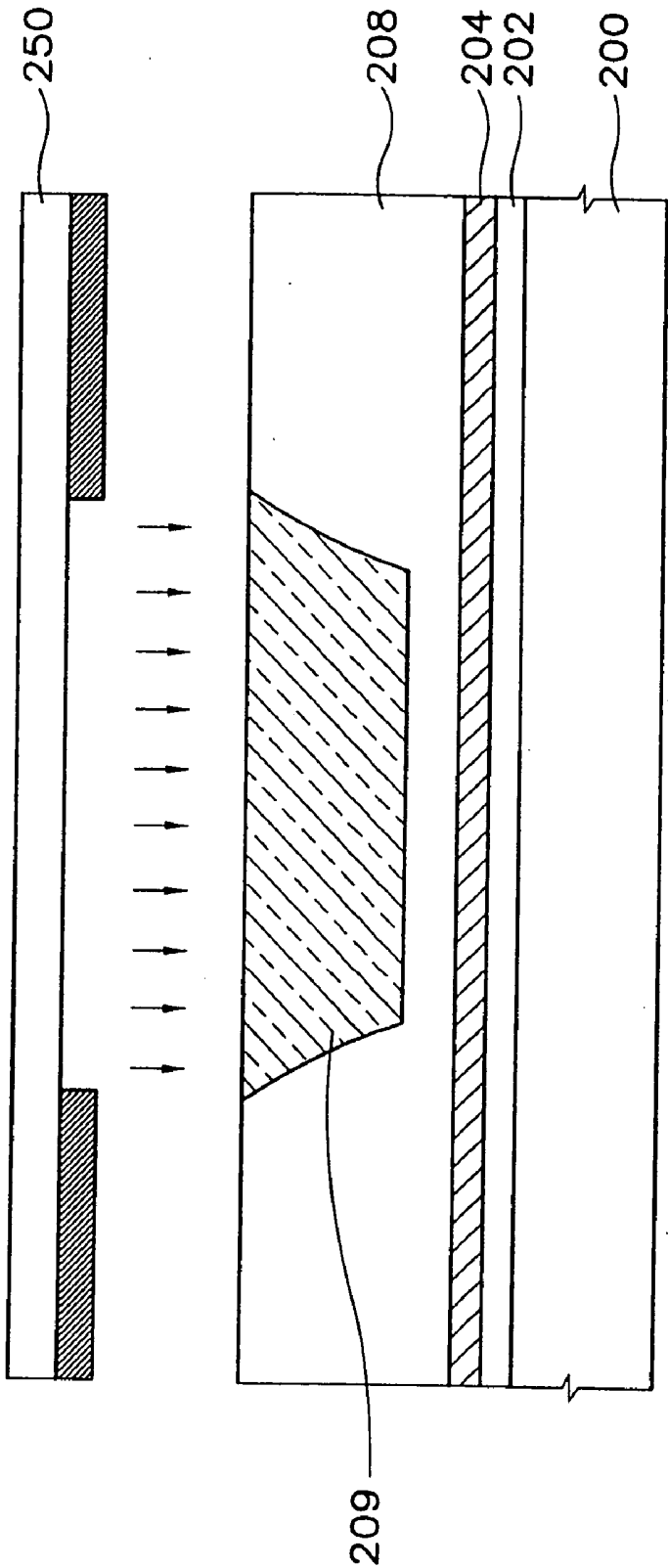


FIG. 19A

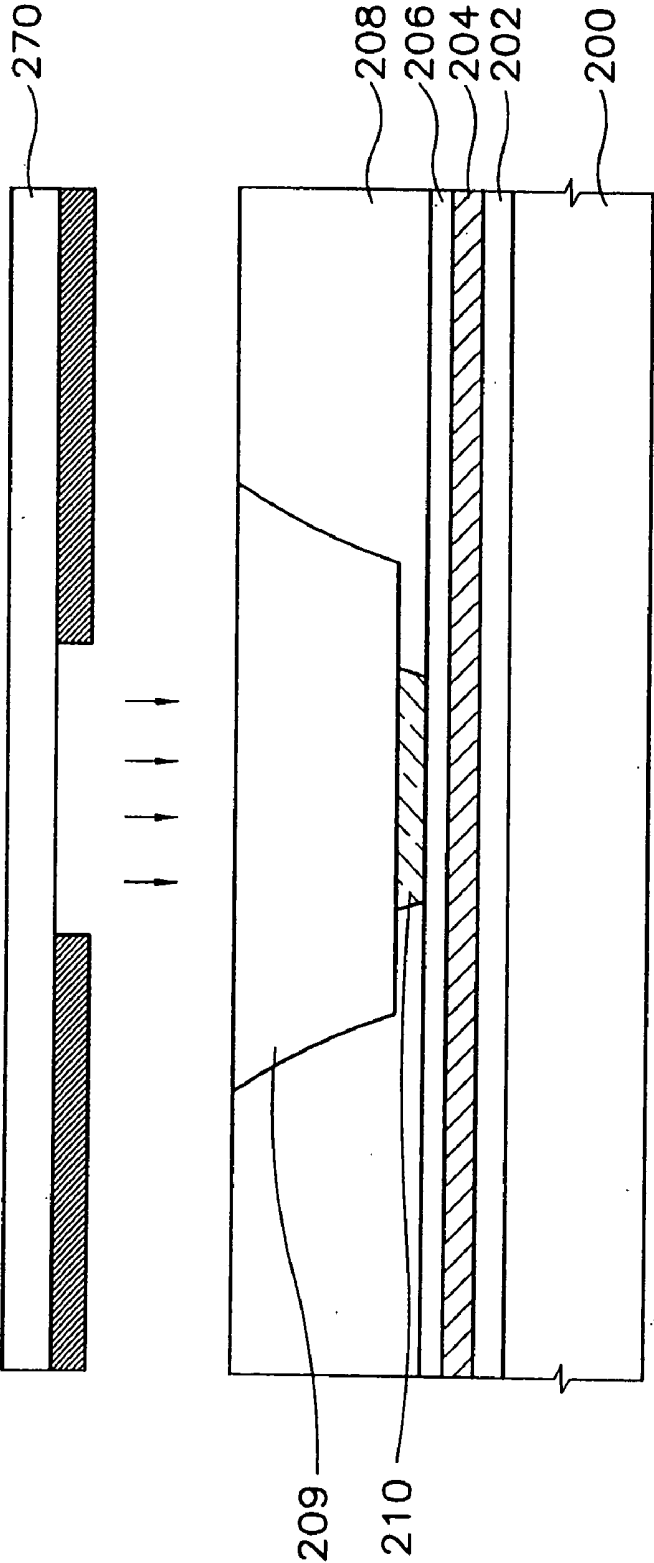


FIG. 19B

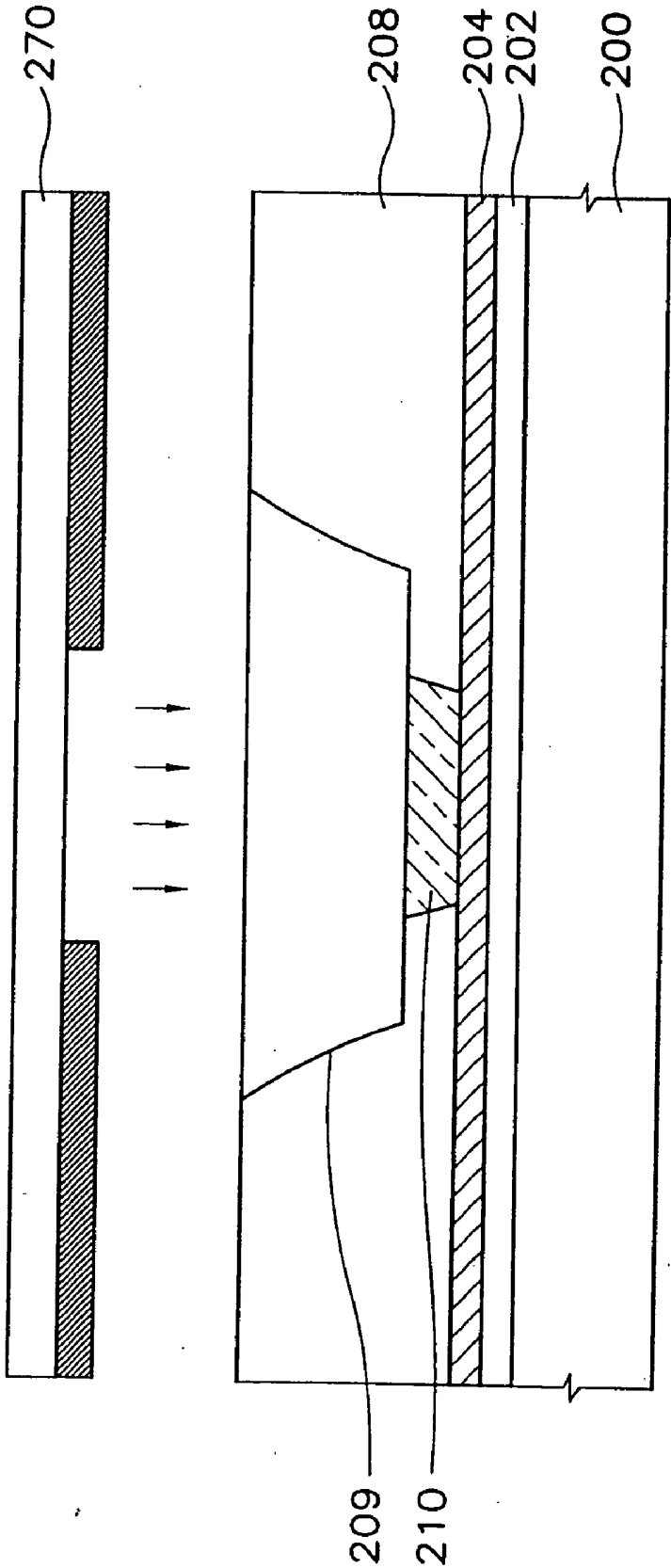


FIG. 20A

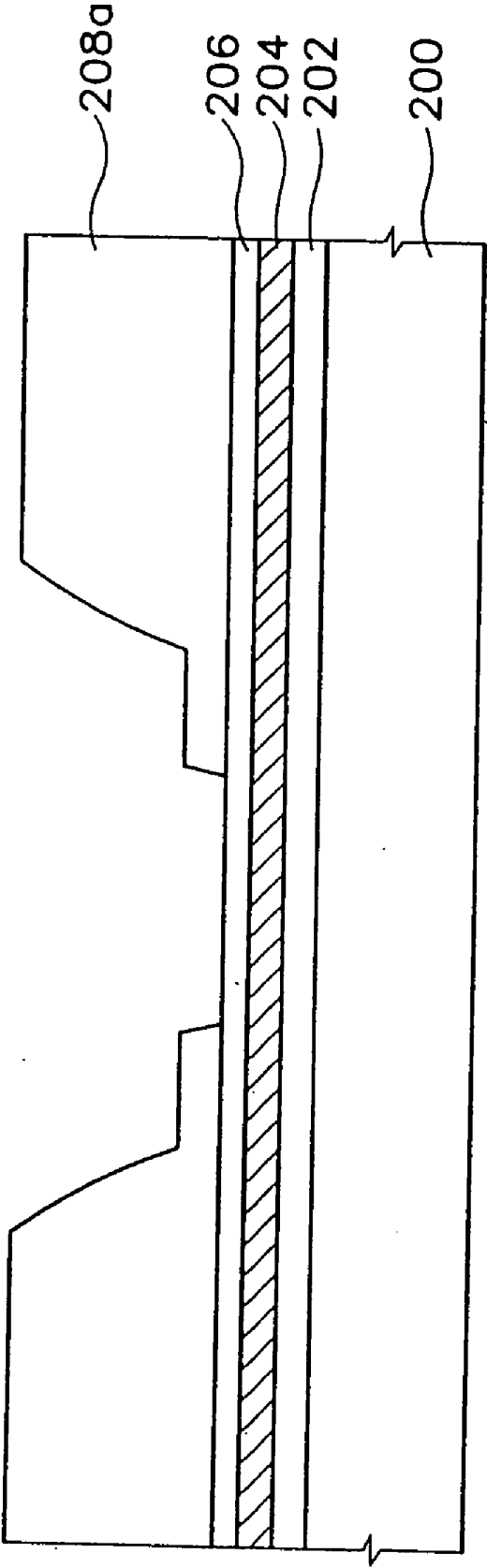


FIG. 20B

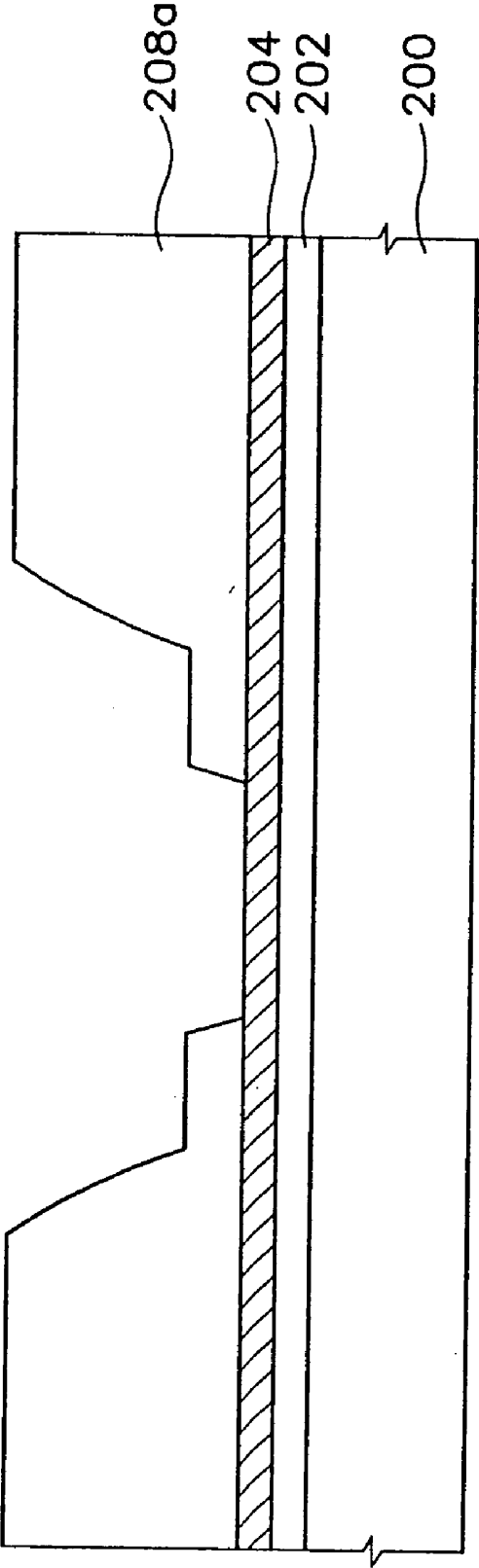


FIG. 21A

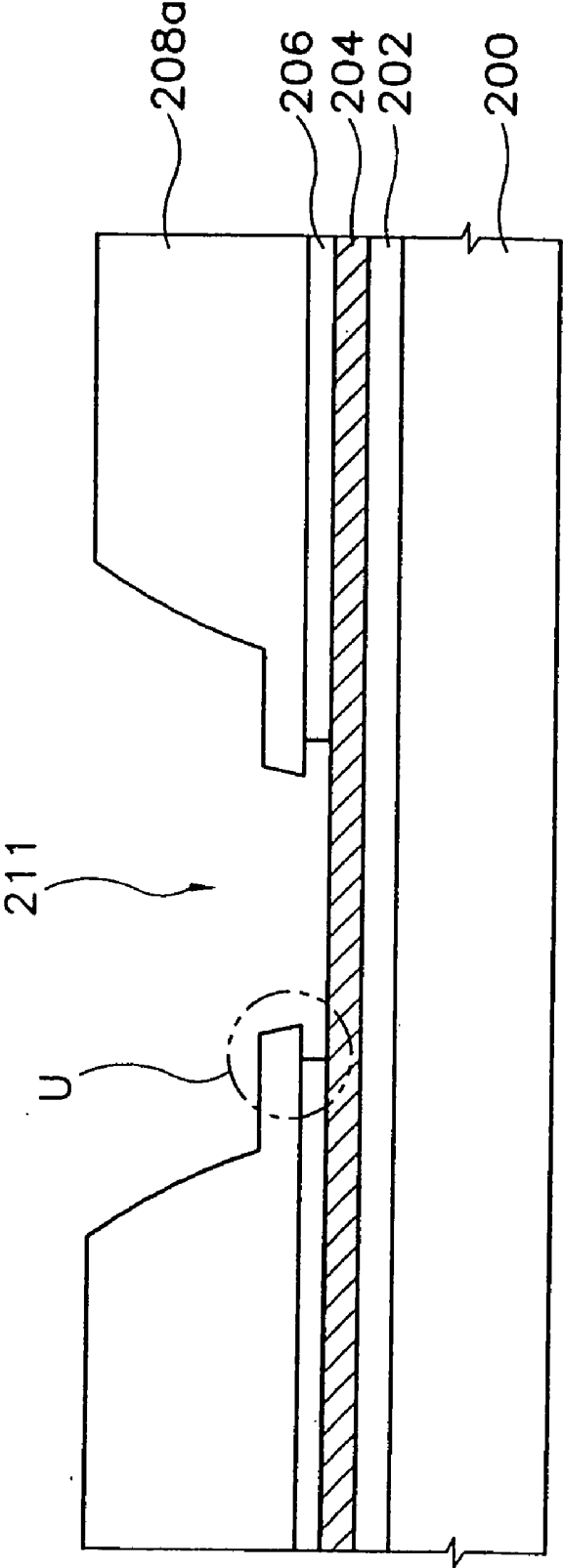


FIG. 21B

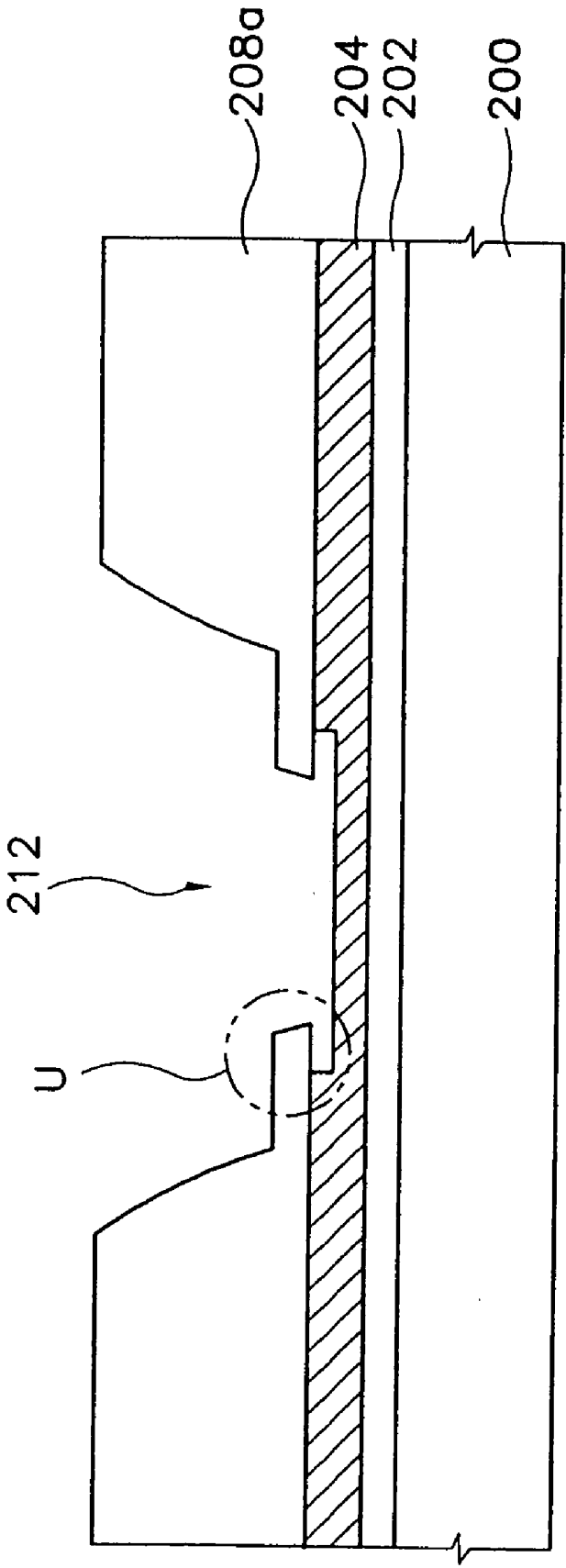


FIG. 22A

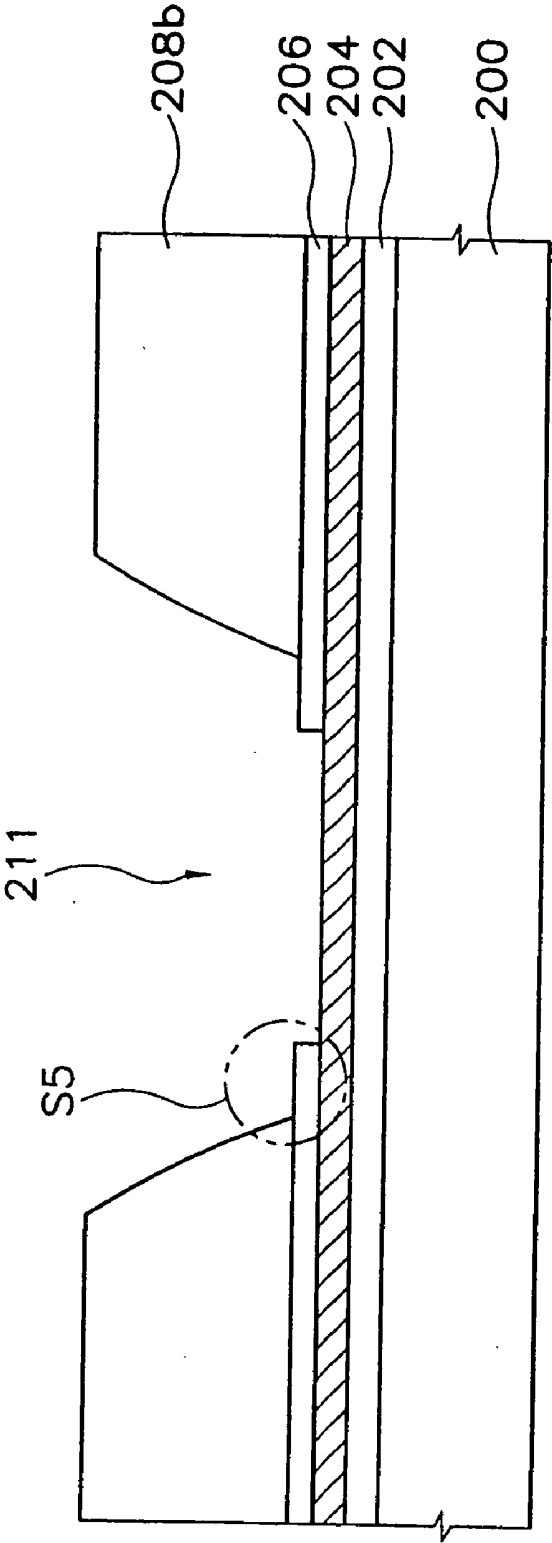


FIG. 22B

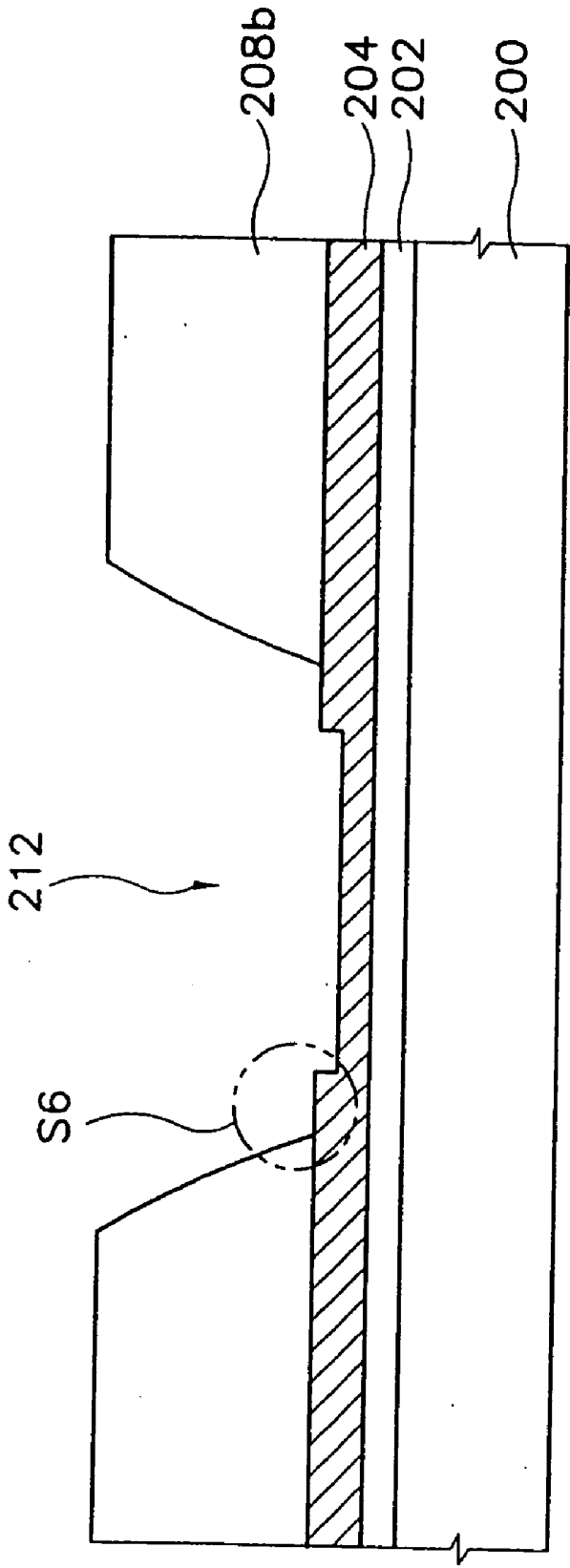


FIG. 23

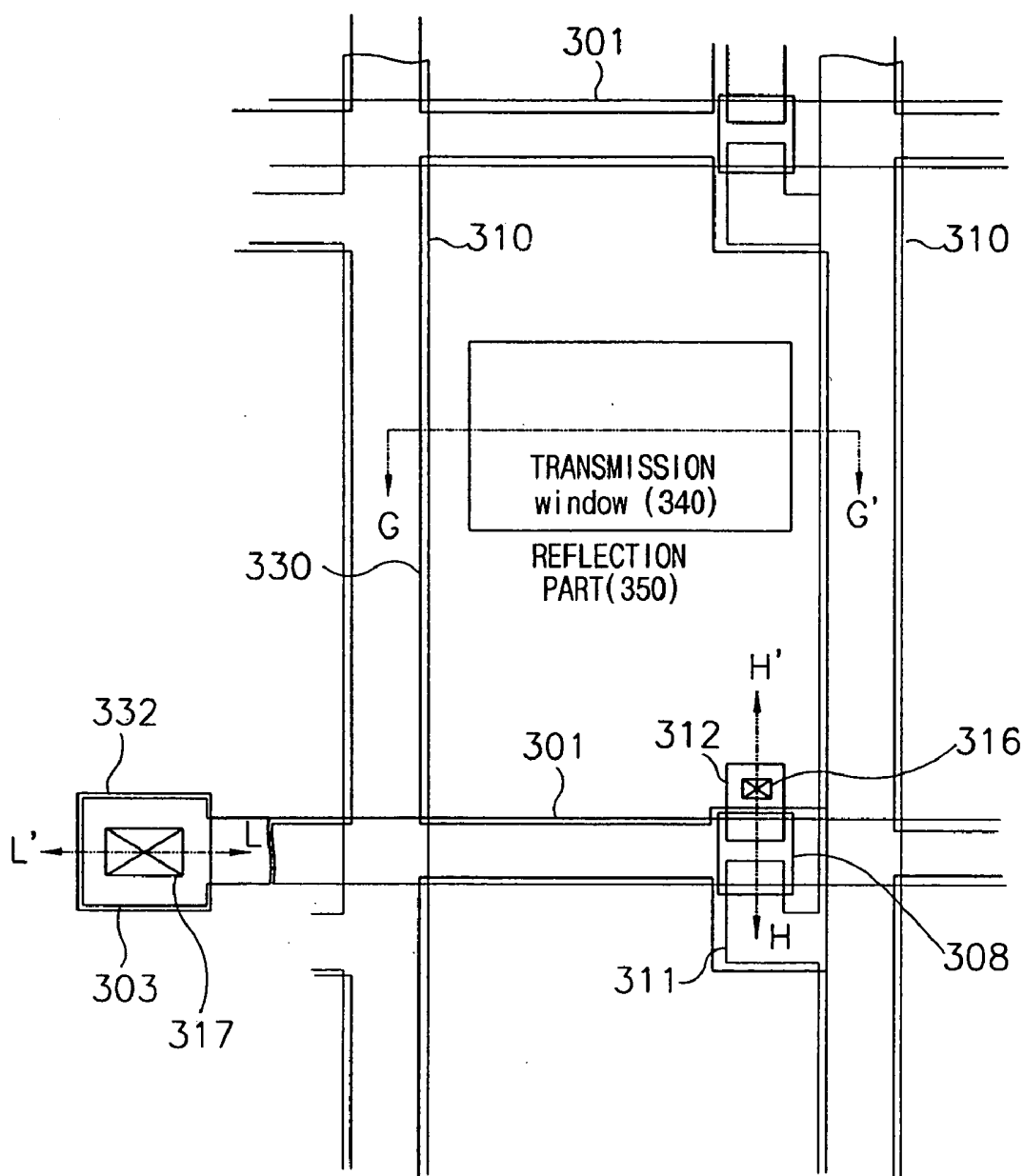


FIG. 24A

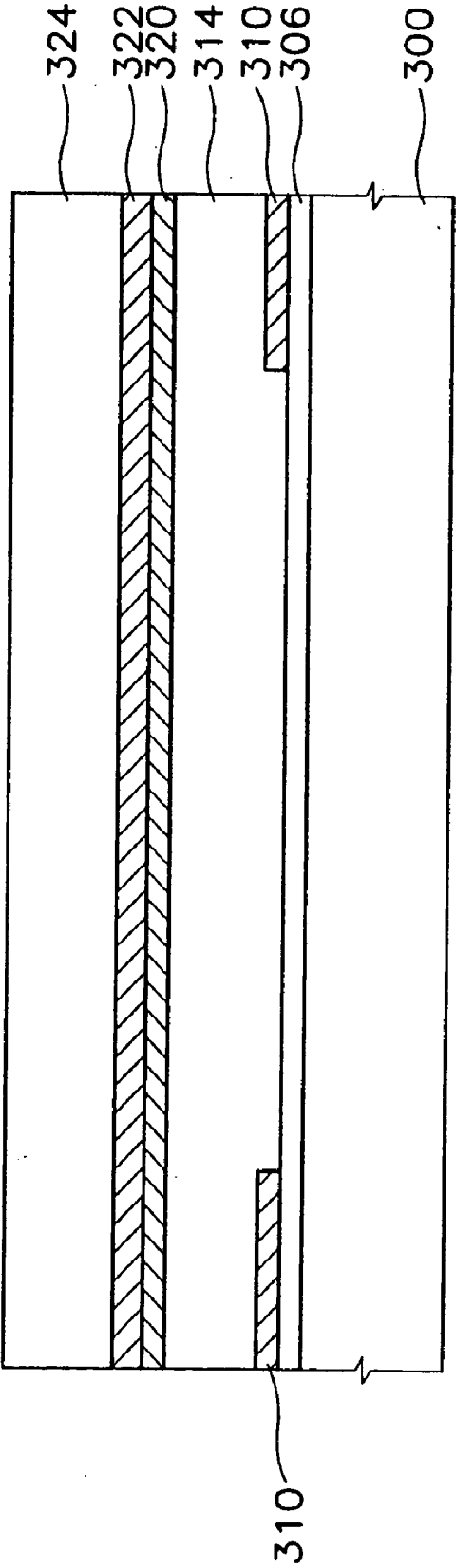


FIG. 24B

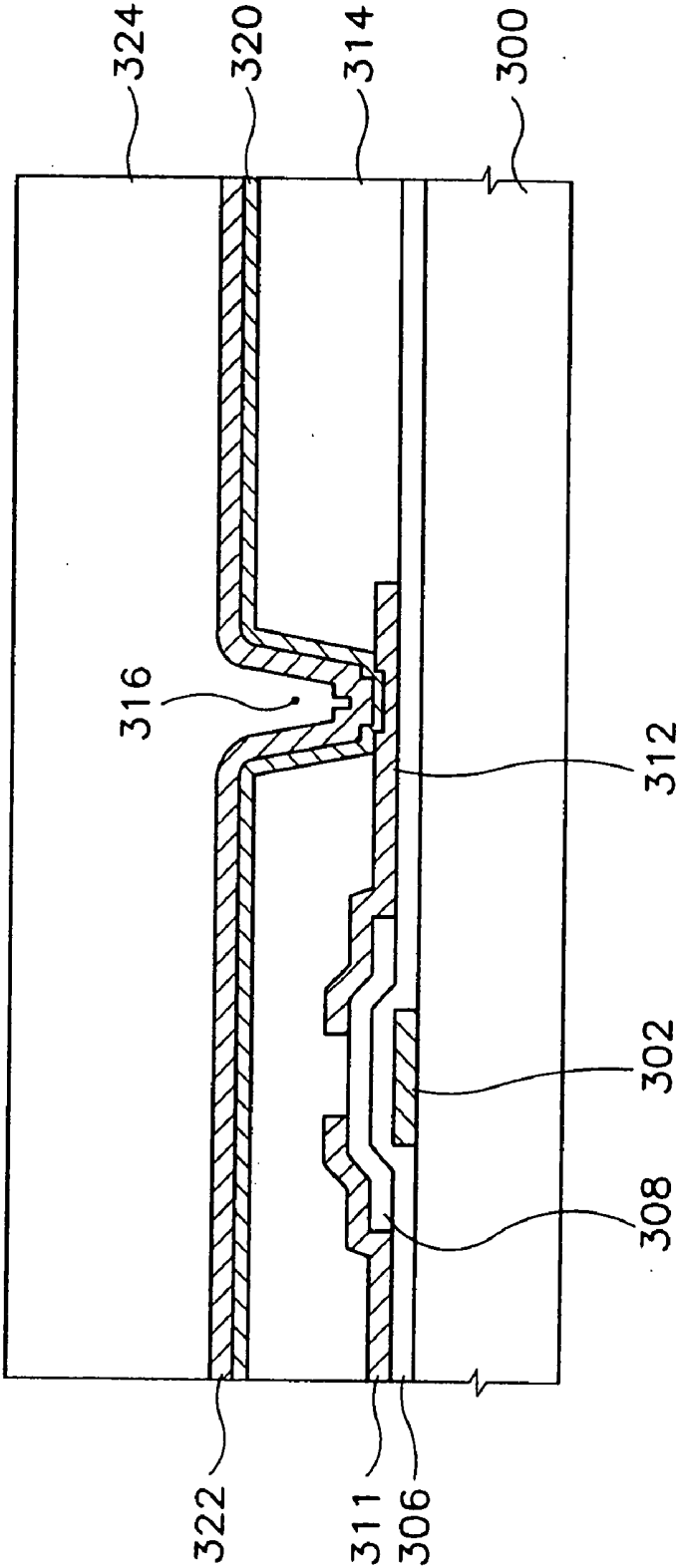


FIG. 24C

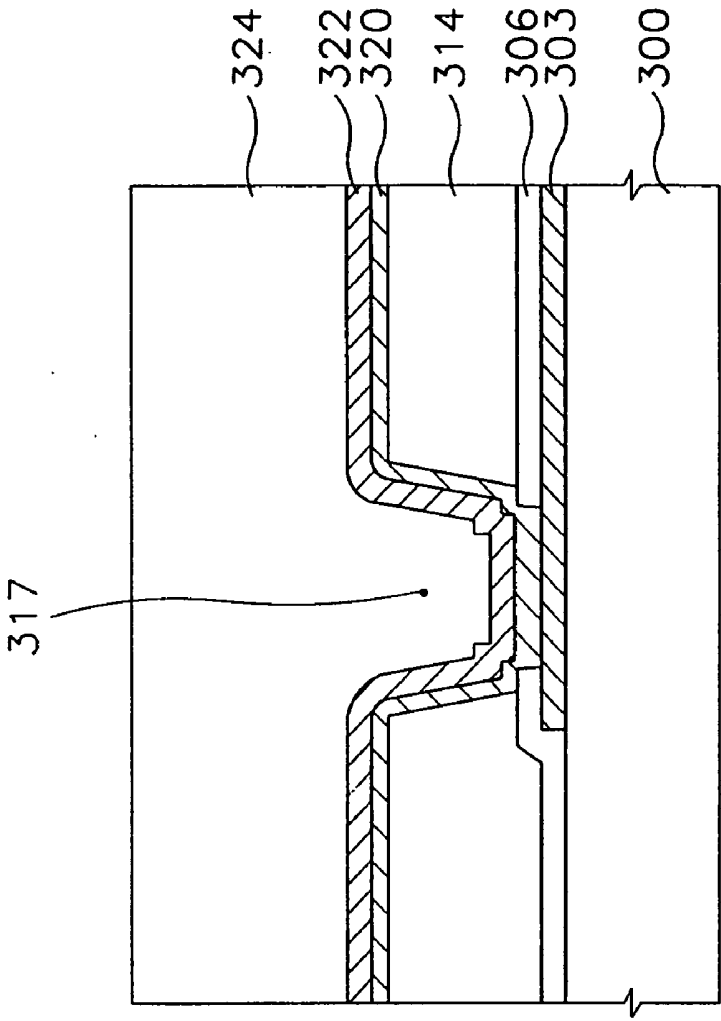


FIG. 25A

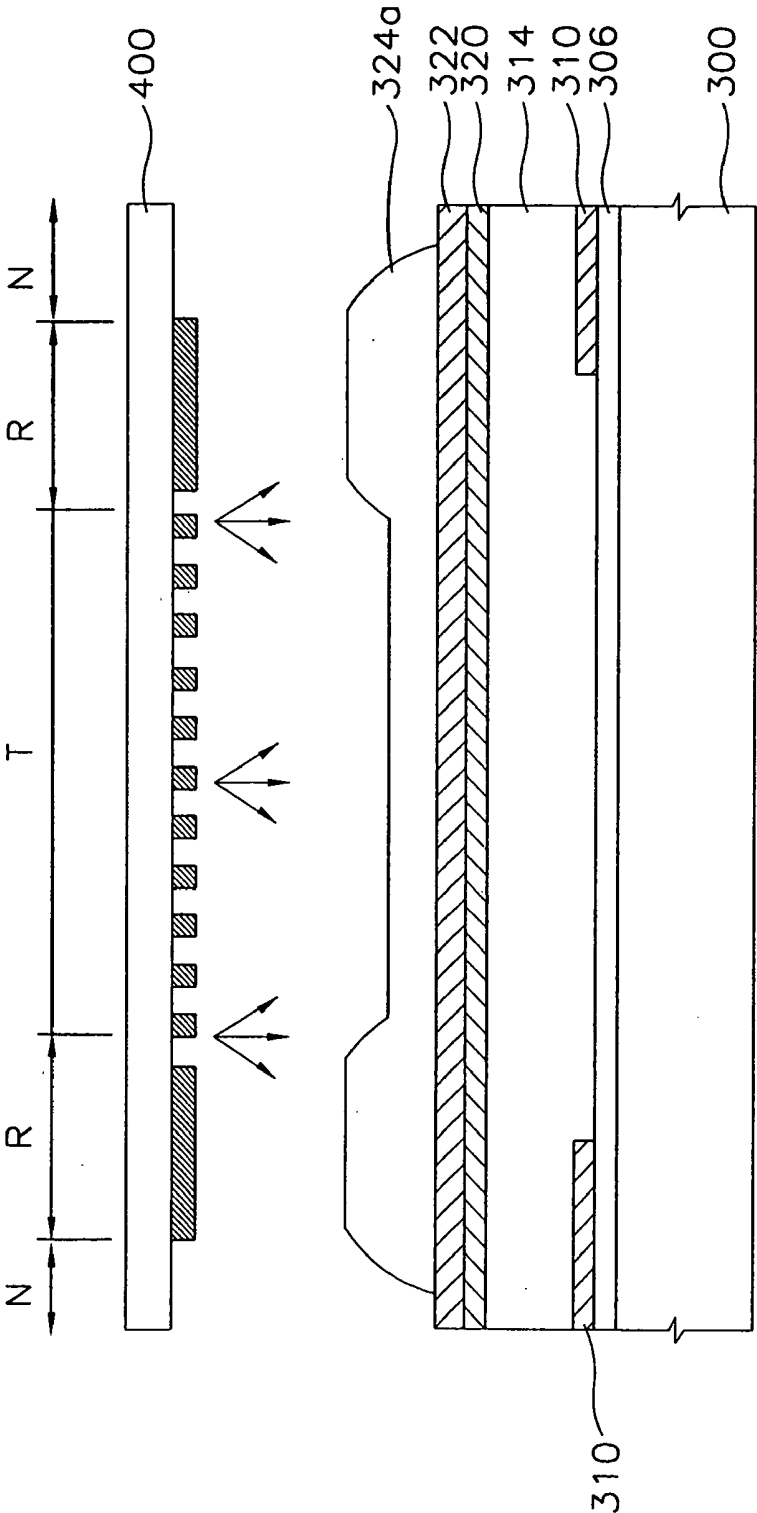


FIG. 25B

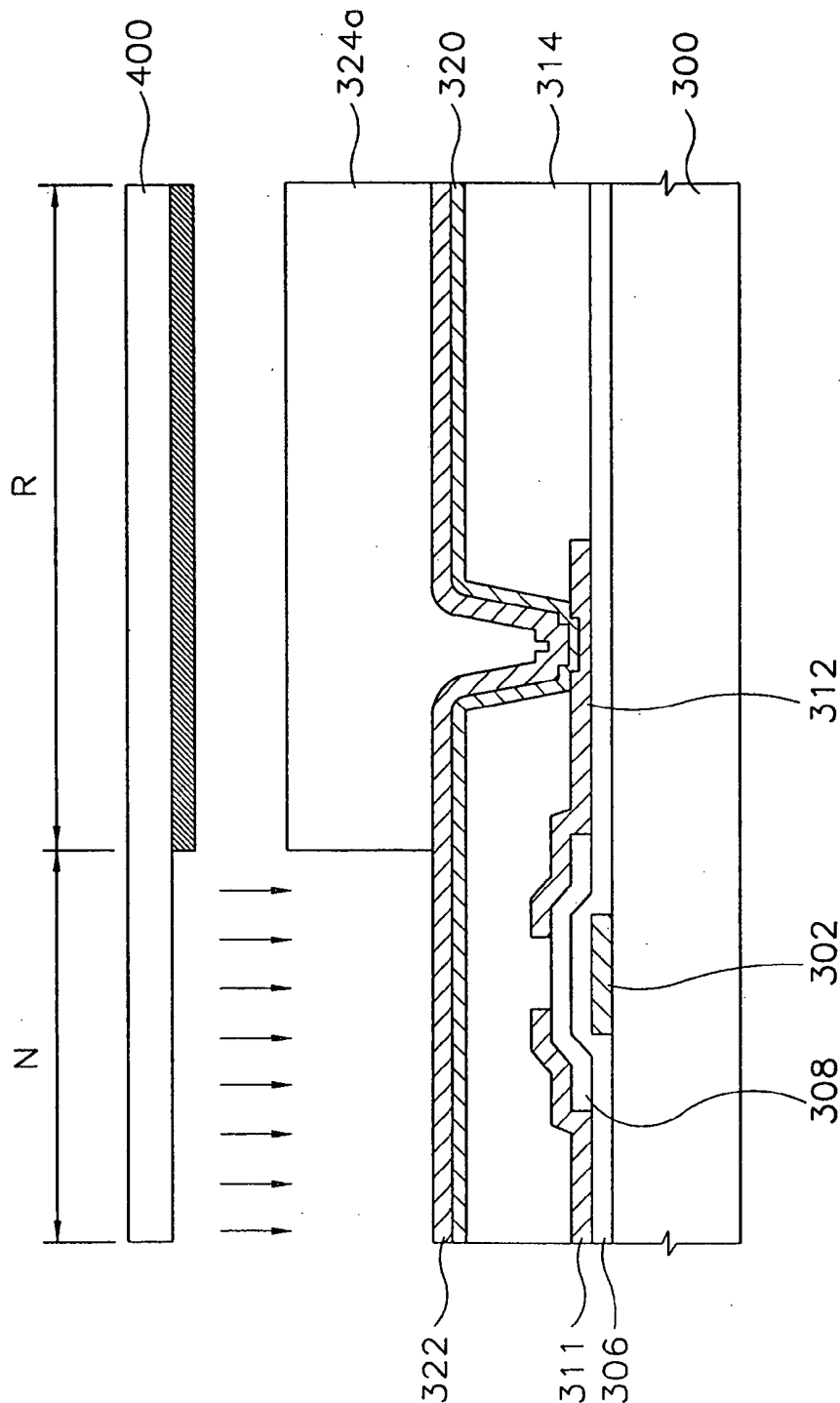


FIG. 25C

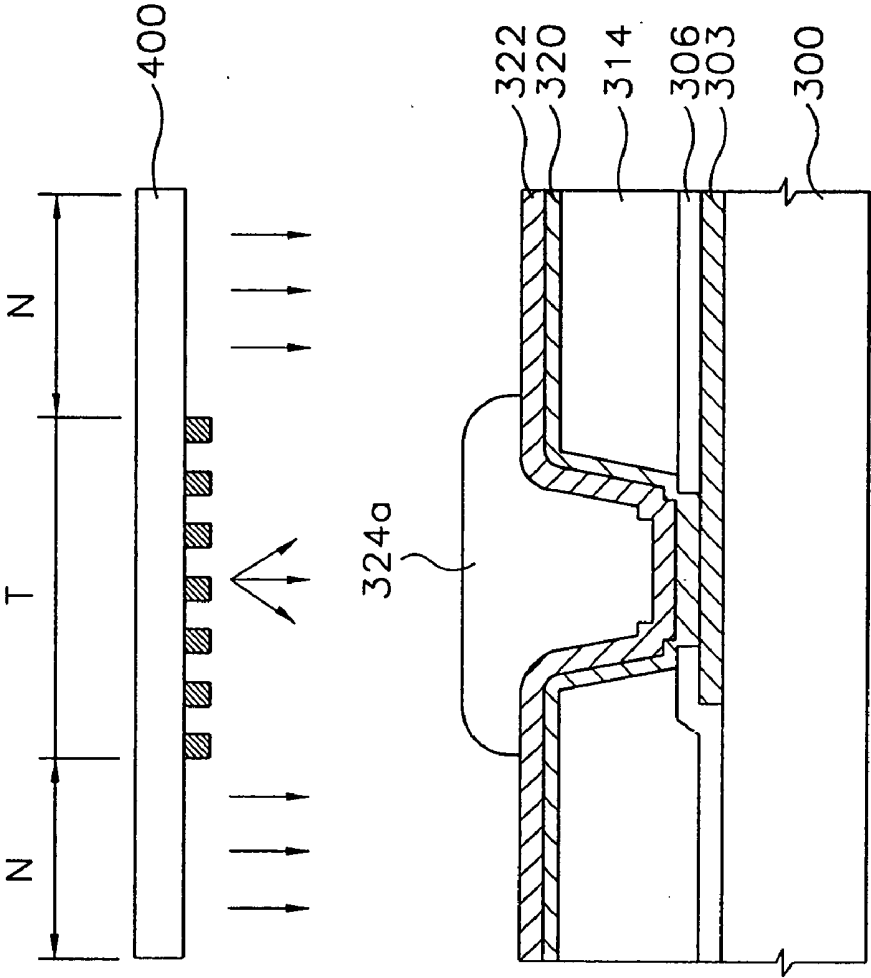


FIG. 26A

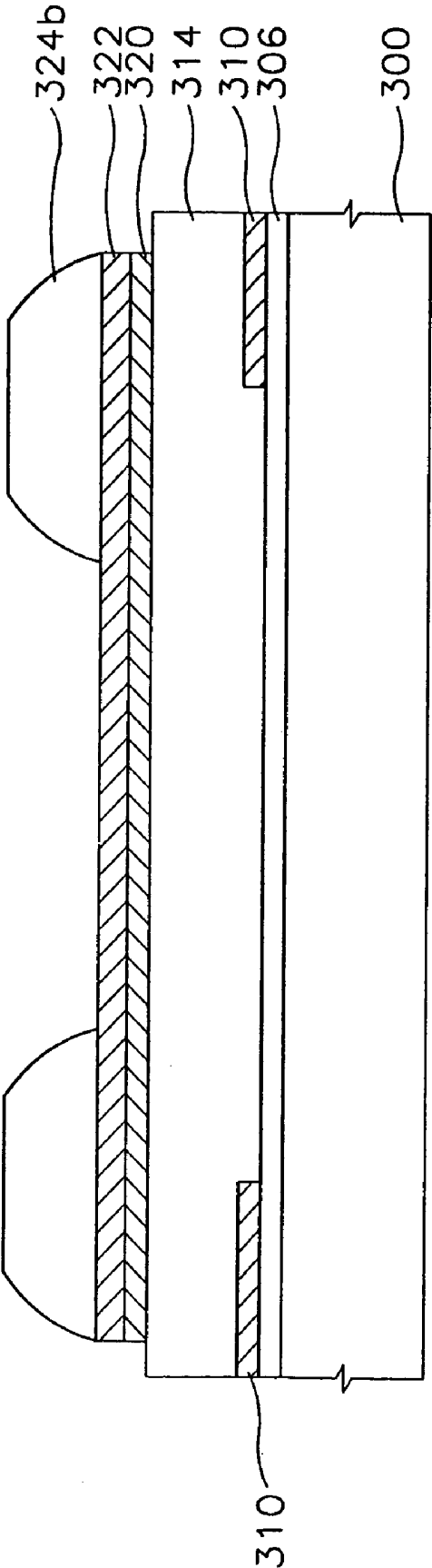


FIG. 26B

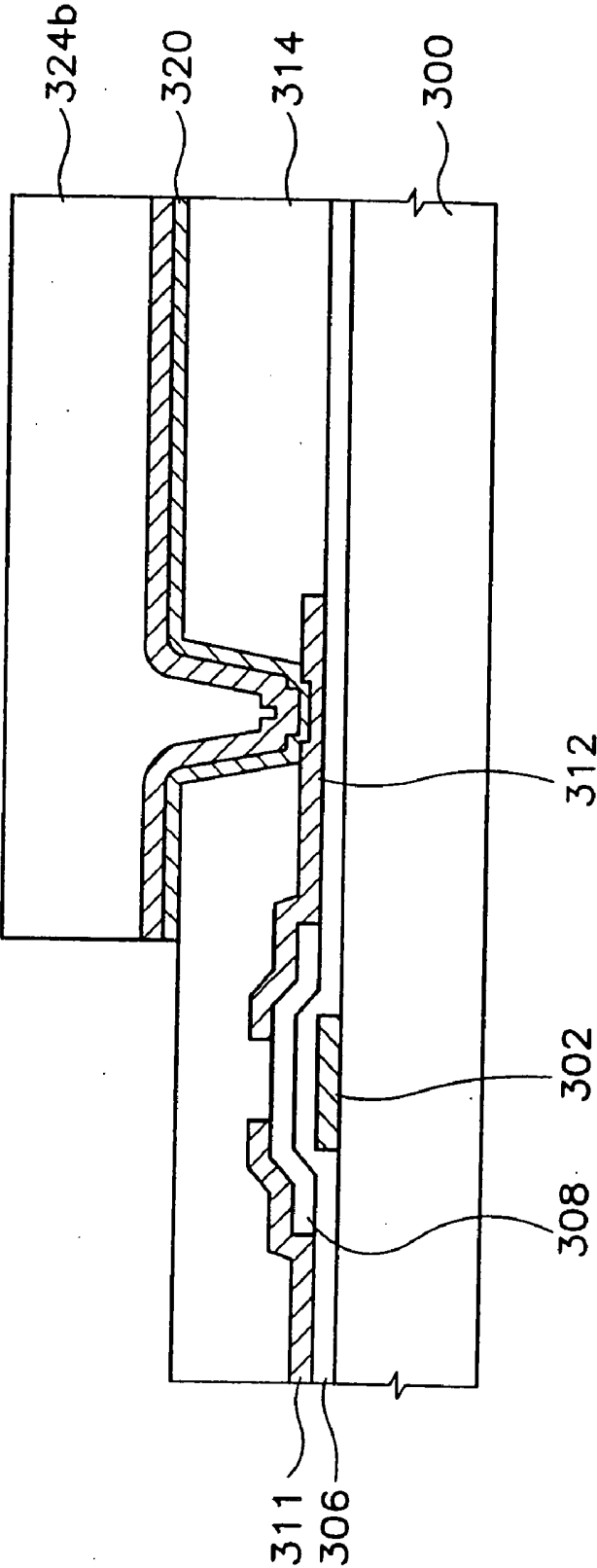


FIG. 26C

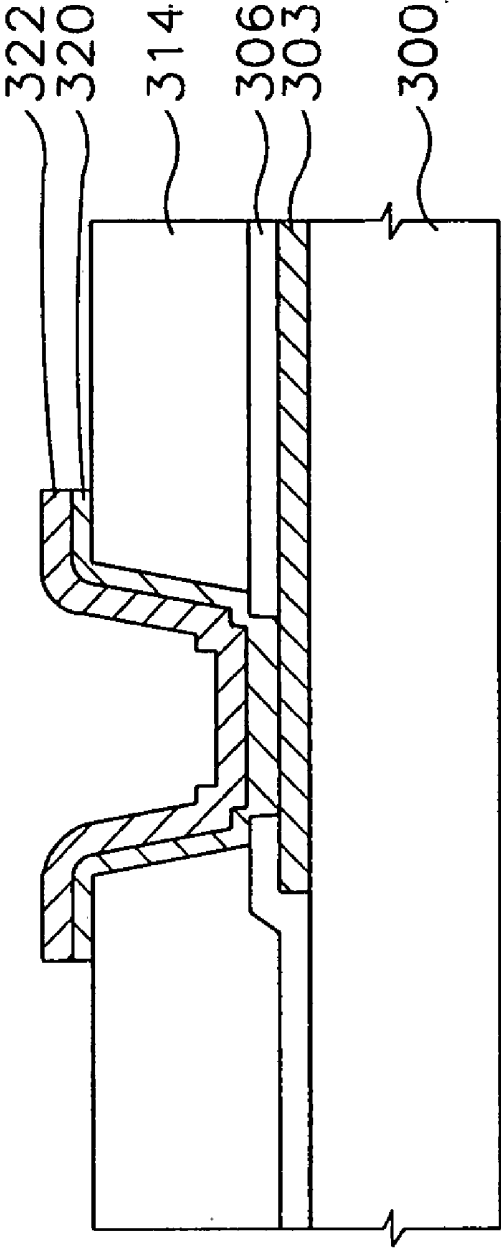


FIG. 27A

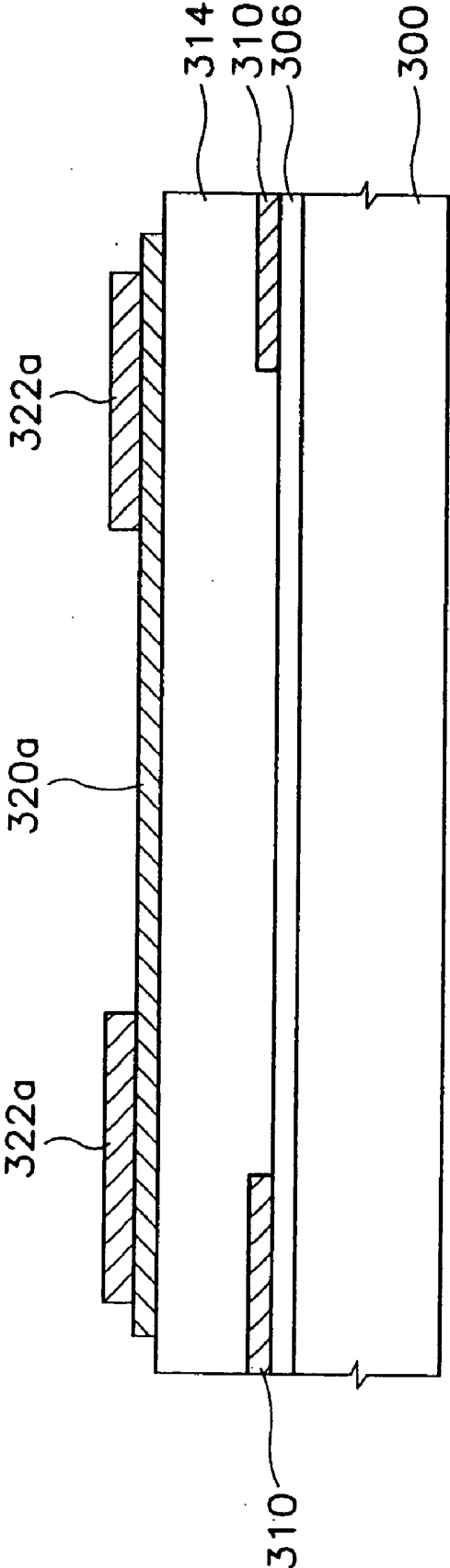


FIG. 27B

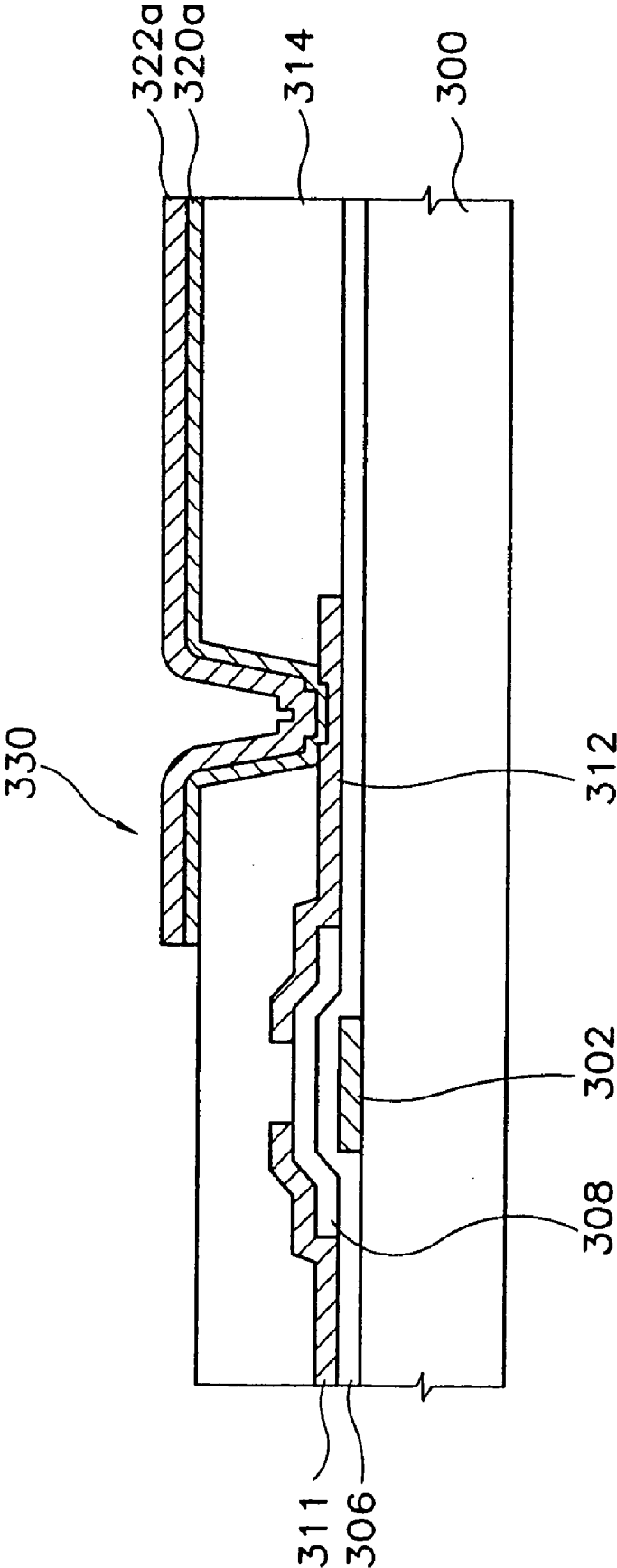
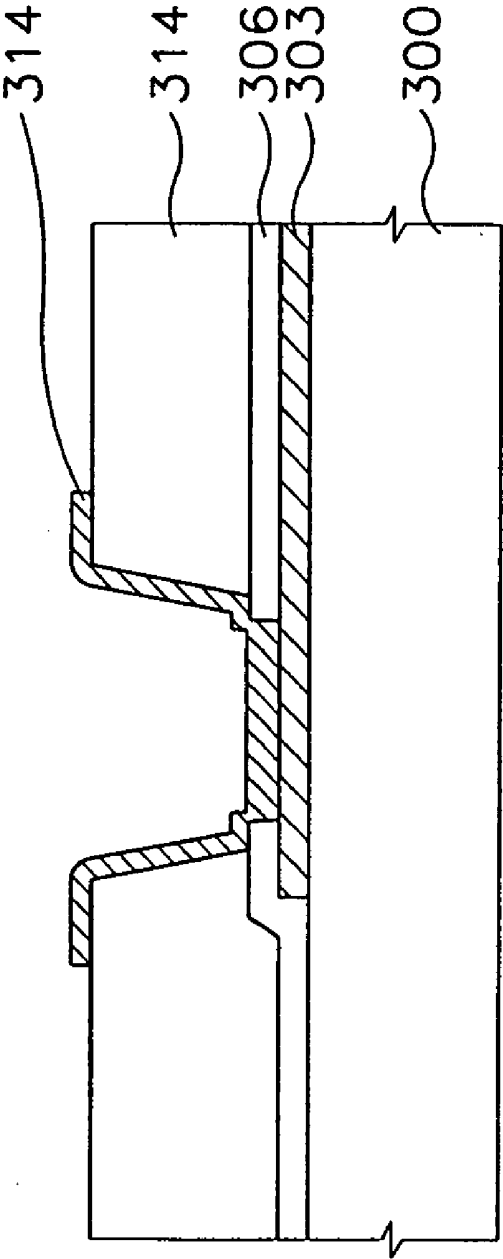


FIG. 27C



THIN FILM TRANSISTOR FOR LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] 1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to a thin film transistor for a liquid crystal display and a method for manufacturing the same, and more particularly, to a thin film transistor for a liquid crystal display and a method for manufacturing the same capable of decreasing the number of required photomasks.

[0003] 2. Description of the Related Art

[0004] In an information-oriented society these days, the role of electronic displays is becoming increasingly important. The electronic displays of all kinds are widely used in various industrial fields.

[0005] Generally, the electronic display is an apparatus for visually transmitting a variety of information to a person. That is, an electrical information signal output from various electronic devices is converted into a visually recognizable optical information signal presented on electronic displays. Therefore, the electronic display serves as a bridge for connecting the person and the electronic devices.

[0006] The electronic display is classified into an emissive display, in which the optical information signal is displayed by a light-emitting method, and a non-emissive display, in which the optical information signal is displayed by an optical modulation method, including light-reflecting, dispersing and interfering phenomena. Examples of the emissive display, referred to as an active display, include a CRT (Cathode Ray Tube), a PDP (Plasma Display Panel), an LED (Light Emitting Diode) and an ELD (Electroluminescent Display). Examples of the non-emissive display referred to as a passive display, include an LCD (Liquid Crystal Display), an ECD (Electrochemical Display) and an EPID (Electrophoretic Image Display).

[0007] The CRT used in an image display such as a television receiver or a monitor, has the highest market share to date with respect to display quality and economical efficiency, but the CRT also has many disadvantages such as heavy weight, large volume and high power consumption.

[0008] Meanwhile, due to rapid development of a semiconductor technology, various kinds of electronic devices are now driven by lower voltage and lower power, which produces electronic equipment that is considerably slimmer and lighter. Therefore, a flat panel type display having these slimmer and lighter characteristics, as well as lower driving voltage and lower power consumption characteristics, is very desirable according to the new environment.

[0009] The LCD among the various developed flat panel type displays is much slimmer and lighter than any other displays; LCDs also have low driving voltage and low power consumption, as well as displaying quality similar to that of the CRT. Therefore, the LCD is widely used in various electronic equipment.

[0010] The LCD comprises two substrates respectively having an electrode, and a liquid crystal layer interposed between the two substrates. In the LCD, a voltage is applied

to the electrode to re-align liquid crystal molecules and to control an amount of light transmitted through the molecules. These LCDs are classified into a transmission type LCD, for displaying an image using an external light source, and a reflection type LCD, for displaying an image using natural light.

[0011] One of the LCDs, which is mainly used nowadays, is provided with the electrode formed at each of the two substrates and having a thin film transistor for switching power supplied to each electrode. Generally, the thin film transistor (referred to as TFT, hereinafter) is formed at one side of the two substrates.

[0012] Generally, a substrate on which TFTs are formed is referred to as a "TFT substrate." And, such a TFT substrate is generally manufactured by a photolithography process using a photomask; currently, for example, seven sheets of photomasks are required at the present.

[0013] FIG. 1 is a sectional view of a conventional reflection type TFT LCD.

[0014] Referring to FIG. 1, after depositing a single layered metallic film or a double layered metallic film such as chromium (Cr), aluminum (Al), molybdenum (Mo) or an alloy of Mo and tungsten (W) as a gate film on a transparent substrate 10 made of glass, quartz, or sapphire, the gate film is patterned using a photolithography process to form a gate wiring (using a first mask). The gate wiring includes a gate electrode 12, a gate line connected to the gate electrode 12 and a gate pad 13 that receives a signal from the outside and transmits the received signal to the gate line.

[0015] A gate insulating film 14 made of silicon nitride is formed to a thickness of about 4,500 Å on the substrate on which the gate wiring is formed. A semiconductor film made of amorphous silicon is deposited on the gate insulating film 14 and then patterned to form an active pattern 16 of a TFT (using a second mask).

[0016] A metal film is deposited on the active pattern 16 and the gate insulating film 14 and then is patterned using the photolithography process to form a data wiring (using a third mask). The data wiring includes a source electrode 18, a drain electrode 19 and a data pad (not shown) for transmitting an image signal.

[0017] After depositing an inorganic passivation film 20 made of silicon nitride on the data wiring and the gate insulating film 14 to a thickness of about 4,000 Å, the inorganic passivation film 20 and the gate insulating film 14 on the source electrode, gate wiring and data pad are dry-etched by the photolithography process (using a fourth mask).

[0018] A photosensitive organic passivation film 22 is deposited to a thickness range of about 2-4 μm on the inorganic passivation film 20 and is then exposed using a photomask (using a fifth mask). At this time, the organic passivation film 22 placed on the source electrode 18, gate wiring and data pad is fully exposed.

[0019] In addition, to make the reflection plate of the pixel region in a light scattering structure, the organic passivation film 22 is again exposed (using a sixth mask). At this time, the organic passivation film 22 of the display region is incompletely exposed in an irregular pattern having a line width corresponding to the resolution of an exposing machine.

[0020] Subsequently, the exposed organic passivation film 22 is developed to form an irregular surface having a plurality of concave portions and convex portions in the organic passivation film 22 and a first via hole for exposing the source electrode 18 and a second via hole for exposing the gate pad 13. In addition, although not shown in the drawings, there is formed a third via hole for exposing the data pad together.

[0021] On the organic passivation film 22, in which the aforementioned via holes are formed, a reflection metal film such as aluminum (Al) is deposited and then patterned to form a pixel electrode 26, which is connected to the source electrode 18 through the first via hole, and a gate pad electrode 27, which is connected to the gate pad 13 through the second via hole (using a seventh mask). In addition, there is formed a data pad electrode (not shown), which is connected to the data pad through the third via hole, together. The pixel electrode 26 is formed within the pixel region enclosed by the gate wiring and the data wiring and is provided as a reflection plate.

[0022] To manufacture a TFT according to the aforementioned conventional method, the photolithography process is used in the seven layers of the gate wiring, active pattern, data wiring, inorganic passivation film, organic passivation film and pixel electrode and thus at least seven sheets of photomask are needed.

[0023] As the number of photomasks used in the photolithography process increases, the more the manufacturing cost and the probability of process error increase. Since this causes an increase in the manufacturing costs, there has been proposed a method for forming the inorganic passivation film as a single layer by deleting the inorganic passivation film in order to simplify the process.

[0024] FIG. 2A to 4B are sectional views for describing a method for forming a via hole in a TFT in accordance with another conventional method in which the inorganic passivation film is deleted. Here, FIGS. 2A, 3A and 4A show a part of the display region and FIGS. 2B, 3B and 4B show a part of the pad region.

[0025] Referring to FIGS. 2A and 2B, after depositing an organic passivation film 45, made of a photosensitive material, on a substrate 40 on which a gate wiring 42, made of a first metal film, a gate insulating film 43, made of an inorganic insulating film and a data wiring, made of a second metal film, are formed in the order named, via hole portions 45a and 45b of the organic passivation film 45 are exposed using a photomask 30.

[0026] Referring to FIGS. 3A and 3B, the exposed via hole portions 45a and 45b of the organic passivation film 45 are developed and removed to form an organic passivation film pattern 45c. Afterwards, the gate insulating film 42 placed below the removed via hole portions 45a and 45b is dry-etched using the organic passivation film pattern 45c as an etch mask to form the first via hole 46 for exposing the data wiring 44 and the second via hole 47 for exposing the gate wiring 42. At this time, the inorganic insulating film is side-etched and thereby an undercut "A" is generated beneath the organic passivation film pattern 45c.

[0027] Likewise, in the case that the data wiring 44 is formed of a material having a high consumptive rate, such as molybdenum (Mo) or MoW, the data wiring 44 is

side-etched at an edge of the first via hole 46 and thus the undercut "A" is generated beneath the organic passivation film pattern 45c. At the same time, the data wiring 44 is consumed by a predetermined thickness at the bottom "B" of the first via hole 46.

[0028] Referring to FIGS. 4A and 4B, after depositing a reflection metal film such as aluminum (Al) on the organic passivation film pattern 45c in which the first and second via holes 46 and 47 are formed, the deposited reflection metal film is patterned by a photolithography process to form the pixel electrode 48, which is connected to the data wiring 44 through the first via hole 46, and the pad electrode 49, which is connected to the gate wiring 42 through the second via hole 47.

[0029] At this time, due to the undercut that is formed beneath the organic passivation film pattern 45c, a failure in the coverage of the reflection metal film is generated and thereby an opening failure of the reflection metal film occurs at the bottom of the first and second via holes 46 and 47.

[0030] Accordingly, it is inevitably required to resolve this undercut problem. If the undercut problem is not resolved, it is difficult to use the passivation film as a single layer of organic insulating film and thus it becomes impossible to decrease the number of photomask layers that are needed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0031] Accordingly, to address the foregoing difficulties, it is a first object of the invention to provide a TFT for an LCD capable of decreasing the number of photomasks needed by forming the passivation film as a single layer.

[0032] It is a second object of the invention to provide a method of manufacturing a TFT for a LCD capable of decreasing the number of photomasks needed by forming the passivation film as a single layer.

[0033] It is a third object of the invention to provide a method of manufacturing a TFT for a reflection and transmission type LCD capable of enhancing a boundary characteristic between the reflection electrode and the transparent electrode by forming the passivation film as a single layer and using IZO (indium-zinc-oxide) as the transparent electrode.

[0034] To accomplish the first object of the invention, there is provided a TFT for a LCD. The TFT includes a gate wiring formed on a substrate including a display region and a pad region positioned outside the display region and extending in a first direction. A gate insulating film is formed on the gate wiring and the substrate to partially expose the gate wiring. An active pattern is formed on the gate insulating film. A data wiring is partially overlapped with the active pattern, and is formed on the gate insulating film and extends in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction. An organic passivation film pattern is formed on the data wiring and the gate insulating film. The organic passivation film pattern includes a first via hole for partially exposing the data wiring and a second via hole for exposing the partially exposed gate wiring. A pixel electrode is formed on the organic passivation film pattern and is connected to the data wiring through the first via hole on the data wiring. A pad electrode is formed on the organic passivation film pattern and is connected to the gate wiring through the second via hole. The gate insulating film is protruded

inwardly relative to the organic passivation film pattern at a bottom edge of the second via hole.

[0035] To accomplish the second object of the invention, there is provided a method for manufacturing a TFT for a LCD. In the above method, gate wiring is formed to extend in a first direction on a substrate including a display region and a pad region positioned at an outer portion of the display region. A data wiring is formed to extend in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction on the gate wiring with a gate insulating film interposed between the gate wiring and the data wiring. An organic passivation film is formed on the data wiring and the gate insulating film. The organic passivation film is patterned such that the slope of the organic passivation film decreases as it travels to an edge where a via hole is being formed, to form an organic passivation film pattern. The gate insulating film is etched by using the organic passivation film pattern as a mask to form a first via hole for exposing the data wiring and a second via hole for exposing the gate wiring. An undercut placed beneath the organic passivation film pattern is removed. A pixel electrode is formed to be connected to the data wiring through the first via hole and a pad electrode is formed connected to the gate wiring through the second via hole on the organic passivation film pattern.

[0036] To accomplish the third object of the invention, there is provided a method for manufacturing a TFT for a LCD. In the above method, gate wiring is formed to extend in a first direction on a substrate including a display region and a pad region placed at an outer portion of the display region. The gate wiring includes a gate line having a gate electrode formed within the display region and a gate pad formed at the pad region and connected to an end of the gate line. A gate insulating film is formed on the gate wiring and the substrate. An active pattern is formed on the gate insulating film. A data wiring is formed to extend in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction on the gate insulating film. The data wiring includes a first electrode overlapped with a first region of the active pattern and a second electrode overlapped with a second region facing the first region. An organic passivation film is formed on the data wiring and the gate insulating film. The organic passivation film is patterned such that the slope of the organic passivation film decreases as it travels to an edge of a portion where a via hole is being formed, to form an organic passivation film pattern. The gate insulating film is etched by using the organic passivation film pattern as a mask, to form a first via hole for exposing the first electrode and a second via hole for exposing the gate pad. An undercut beneath the organic passivation film pattern is removed. A pixel electrode is formed to be connected to the first electrode through the first via hole and a pad electrode is formed to be connected to the gate pad through the second via hole on the organic passivation film pattern.

[0037] To accomplish the third object of the invention, there is provided a method for manufacturing a TFT for a reflection and transmission type LCD. In the above method, a gate wiring is formed to extend in a first direction on a substrate including a display region and a pad region placed outside the display region. A data wiring is formed to extend in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction on the gate insulating film with a gate insulating film interposed between the gate wiring and the data wiring. A passivation film is formed on the data wiring and the gate insulating film.

The passivation film has a first via hole for exposing the data wiring and a second via hole for exposing the gate wiring. A transparent electrode layer made of IZO and a reflection electrode layer are deposited in the order named on the first and second via holes and the passivation film. A photoresist pattern is formed on the reflection electrode layer such that the photoresist pattern remains thicker in the reflection region than in the transmission region. The reflection electrode layer and the transparent electrode layer are wet-etched at the same time using the photoresist pattern as a mask. The photoresist pattern is removed by a predetermined thickness such that the reflection electrode layer of the transmission region is exposed. The reflection electrode layer of the transmission region is removed by a dry-etch. The photoresist pattern is removed to form a transparent electrode and a reflection electrode enclosing the transparent electrode.

[0038] According to the first embodiment of the present invention, a passivation film made of an organic insulating film is once exposed using a photomask having a partial exposure pattern formed in a slit structure, or made of semi-transparent material at an edge portion of a via hole, to form an organic passivation film pattern such that the slope of the organic passivation film decreases as it travels to an edge where the via hole is being formed. Afterwards, a dry-etch process is performed by using the organic passivation film pattern as an etch mask to form the via hole. Then, in order to remove the organic passivation film pattern, an ashing or plasma dry-etch is performed to remove the undercut beneath the organic passivation film pattern. Thus, as the undercut is removed, a lower film of the organic passivation film pattern is protruded from a bottom edge of the via hole. Therefore, there does not occur a deposition failure in which a metal film deposited during a subsequent process is opened at a stepped portion.

[0039] Preferably, if the partial exposure pattern is further formed at a position corresponding to the reflection plate of the pixel region in the photomask, the via hole can be formed by an exposure process using a single photomask and at the same time an irregular surface having a plurality of concave portions and convex portions can be formed. Therefore, in a reflection and transmission composite type LCD or a reflection type LCD, it is possible to reduce the number of photomasks needed from seven sheets to five sheets.

[0040] According to the second embodiment of the present invention, an organic passivation film pattern is left at an edge of a via hole region by performing the exposure process twice in succession using two photomasks. Afterwards, the via hole is formed using the organic passivation film pattern and an ashing or plasma dry-etch process is performed to remove the undercut formed beneath the organic passivation film pattern. Therefore, a failure in which a metal film for a pixel electrode is opened at a stepped portion due to a height difference is prevented.

[0041] Here, since either one of the two photomasks can be used as an exposure mask for forming an irregular surface in the organic passivation film, in a reflection and transmission composite type LCD or a reflection type LCD, it is possible to reduce the number of photomasks needed from seven sheets to six sheets.

[0042] According to the third embodiment of the present invention, since a transparent electrode in a reflection and

transmission composite type LCD is formed of IZO instead of ITO, a boundary characteristic between the transparent electrode and the reflection electrode is enhanced and the manufacturing process is simplified. Also, since a passivation film is made of a single layer of an organic insulating film and one end of the transparent electrode is overlapped with a gate wiring and a data wiring such that a reflection electrode is left around the overlapped region, a high aperture ratio for a sufficient light transmission is obtained.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0043] The above objects and other advantages of the present invention will become more apparent by describing in detail preferred embodiments thereof with reference to the attached drawings in which:

[0044] **FIG. 1** is a sectional view of a TFT for a conventional reflection type LCD;

[0045] **FIGS. 2A to 4B** are sectional views describing a method for forming a via hole in a TFT for a reflection type LCD in accordance with conventional art;

[0046] **FIGS. 5A to 9B** are sectional views describing a method for forming a via hole in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention;

[0047] **FIG. 10** is a plan view of a TFT for a reflection type LCD capable of applying to the first embodiment of the present invention;

[0048] **FIGS. 11A to 11C** are sectional views of TFTs for an -LCD taken respectively along the lines C-C', D-D' and E-E' in **FIG. 10**;

[0049] **FIGS. 12A to 17B** are plan views and sectional views for describing a method for manufacturing a TFT for a reflection type LCD capable of applying to the first embodiment of the present invention;

[0050] **FIGS. 18A to 22B** are sectional views describing a method for forming a via hole in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention;

[0051] **FIG. 23** is a plan view of a TFT for a reflection and transmission type LCD in accordance with a third embodiment of the present invention; and

[0052] **FIGS. 24A to 27C** are sectional views describing a method for manufacturing a TFT for the LCD in accordance with a third embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0053] Now, preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to the drawings.

Embodiment 1

[0054] **FIGS. 5A to 9B** are sectional views describing a method for forming a via hole in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention, wherein **FIGS. 5A, 6A, 7A, 8A and 9A** show a part of a pad region in a substrate on which a thin film transistor is formed, and **FIGS. 5B, 6B, 7B, 8B and 9B** show a part of a display region in the substrate.

[0055] Referring to **FIGS. 5A and 5B**, on a substrate **50** on which a gate wiring **52** made of a first metal film, a gate insulating film **54** made of an inorganic insulating film and a data wiring **56** made of a second metal film are formed in the order named, a photosensitive organic passivation film **58** is deposited to a thickness of about 2 μm or more.

[0056] The photosensitive organic passivation film **58** is exposed using a photomask **80** having a partial exposure pattern made in a slit structure, or made of semi-transparent film at an open region of the organic passivation film **58**, i.e., at an edge of a via hole region. Then, the organic passivation film **58** is fully exposed at a center portion of the via hole region while it is diffraction-exposed at the edge of the via hole region by a slit. Preferably, the partial exposure pattern is formed in the shape of an open pattern having a line width corresponding to half of the resolution of an exposure machine. In addition, in the case of a reflection and transmission composite type LCD or a reflection type LCD, an exposure process using a separate photomask is not performed and the partial exposure pattern is formed to correspond to the reflection plate of a pixel part, so that it is possible to form an irregular surface having a plurality of concave portions and convex portions for light scattering at the organic passivation film.

[0057] Next, the exposed organic passivation film **58** is developed to form an organic passivation film pattern **58a**. The organic passivation film pattern **58a** comes to have a low slope at an edge of the via hole region. Then, the organic passivation film pattern **58a** has a first via hole **59** (see **FIG. 6B**) for partially exposing the data wiring **56** and a second via hole **61** (see **FIG. 6A**) for partially exposing the gate wiring **52**.

[0058] That is, referring to **FIGS. 6A and 6B**, using the organic passivation film pattern **58a** as an etch mask, the gate insulating film **54** disposed beneath the organic passivation film pattern **58a** is dry-etched to form the first via hole **59** for exposing the data wiring **56** and a second via hole **61** for exposing the gate wiring **52**. At this time, the gate insulating film **54** made of inorganic insulating material is side-etched and thereby an undercut is generated beneath the organic passivation film pattern **58a**. Likewise, in case that the data wiring is made of a material having a high consumptive property such as molybdenum (Mo) or MoW, the data wiring **56** is side-etched and thus an undercut (U) is generated beneath the organic passivation film pattern **58c**. At the same time, the data wiring **56** is consumed by a predetermined thickness at the bottom surface of the first via hole **59** (M).

[0059] Referring to **FIGS. 7A and 7B**, the ashing of the organic passivation film pattern **58a** is performed to remove the organic passivation film pattern **58a** by a selected thickness **58b** from its surface to a selected depth in horizontal and vertical directions. As a result, the undercut (U) (see **FIGS. 6A and 6B**) is removed. Here, a plasma dry-etch method may be used instead of the ashing.

[0060] At this time, since the organic passivation film pattern **58c** formed at the edge of the via hole by the diffraction exposure has a low slope, although an amount of the ashing is small, a horizontal retrocession of the organic passivation film pattern **58a** becomes large. In other words, when it is assumed that the slope angle of the organic passivation film pattern **58c** at the edge of the via hole is θ

and a vertical retrocession distance of the organic passivation film pattern is y , the horizontal retrocession distance of the organic passivation film pattern **58c**, x becomes $(y/\tan \theta)$. Thus, since there is no need of an over-ashing in order to remove the undercut, a problem in that convex portions of the surface of the organic passivation film within the pixel region collapses does not occur.

[0061] If the aforementioned ashing process is completed, the gate insulating film **54** is protruded from a bottom edge **S1** of the second via hole **61** relative to the organic passivation film pattern **58c** as shown in **FIG. 8A**. Likewise, the data wiring **56** is protruded from another bottom edge **S2** of the second via hole **61** relative to the organic passivation film pattern **58c** as shown in **FIG. 8B**.

[0062] Referring to **FIGS. 9A and 9B**, in a state where the underlying film of the organic passivation film pattern **58c** is protruded from the bottom edges of the via hole, a reflection metal film such as aluminum (Al) is deposited on the resultant structure and then patterned by a photolithography process. As a result, there are formed a pixel electrode **62**, which is connected to the data wiring **56** through the first via hole **59**, and a pad electrode **64**, which is connected to the gate wiring **52** through the second via hole **61**. Here, since the reflection metal film is deposited in a state that the undercut placed beneath the organic passivation film pattern **58c**, it has good step coverage at the stepped portion.

[0063] **FIG. 10** is a plan view of a TFT for the reflection type LCD capable of applying to the first embodiment of the present invention. **FIGS. 11A to 11C** are sectional views of TFTs for a LCD taken respectively along the lines C-C', D-D' and E-E' in **FIG. 10**.

[0064] Referring to **FIG. 10** and **FIGS. 11A to 11C**, a gate wiring is formed on a transparent substrate **100**. The gate wiring is formed in the form of a single layered metal film or a double layered metal film selected from a group consisting of chromium (Cr), aluminum (Al), an alloy of molybdenum and tungsten (MoW). The gate wiring includes a gate line **101** extending in a first direction (or horizontal direction), a gate pad **103** connected to one end of the gate line **101**, for receiving scanning signals from the outside and transferring the received scanning signals to the gate line **101**, and a gate electrode **102**, which is a part of the gate line **101**.

[0065] On the gate wiring and the substrate **100**, there is formed a gate insulating film **106** made of an inorganic insulating material. An active pattern **108** made of a semiconductor film such as amorphous silicon is formed on the gate insulating film **106**. On the active pattern **108** and the gate insulating film **106**, there is formed a data wiring **110** extending to a second direction (or vertical direction) which is perpendicular to the first direction. The data wiring **110** includes a first electrode (hereinafter referred to as "source electrode") **112** overlapped with a first region of the active pattern **108**, and a second electrode (hereinafter referred to as "drain electrode") **111** overlapped with a second region facing the first region of the active pattern **108**. In the aforementioned conventional LCD, the data pad for transmitting an image signal is formed from the same layer as the data wiring, but, in the present embodiment, the data pad is formed together with the gate wiring. In other words, the data pad **104** and the gate wiring are formed from the same layer.

[0066] On the data wiring **110**, active pattern **108** and gate insulating film **106**, there is formed an organic passivation film pattern **114a** having a first via hole **116** for exposing the source electrode **112** and a second via hole **117** for exposing the gate pad **103**. In the display region, which consists of a plurality of unit pixels to display an image, the upper surface of the organic passivation film pattern **114a** is formed in an irregular structure having a plurality of concave portions and convex portions for the light scattering.

[0067] On the organic passivation film pattern **114a** are formed a pixel electrode **120**, which is connected to the source electrode **112** through the first via hole **116** and a pad electrode **121**, which is connected to the gate pad through the second via hole **117**. The pixel electrode **120** functions to receive an image signal from the TFT and generate an electric field together with the electrode of the upper substrate (not shown). The pixel electrode **120** is formed within a pixel region defined by the gate line and the data wiring **110**, and its edge portion is overlapped with the gate line **101** and the data wiring **110** so as to secure a high aperture ratio.

[0068] In addition, according to the present embodiment, since the data pad **104** is formed from a different layer from the data wiring **110**, there is required a bridge electrode **122** for connecting the data wiring **110** and the data pad **104** electrically. For this requirement, a third via hole **118** for exposing an end of the data wiring **110** and a fourth via hole **119** for exposing the data pad **104** are formed in the organic passivation film pattern **114a** when forming the first and second via holes **116** and **117**. Then, the bridge electrode **122** is formed from the same layer as in the pixel electrode **120**. The bridge electrode **122** electrically connects one end of the data wiring **110** and the data pad **104** to each other.

[0069] **FIGS. 12A to 17B** are plan views and sectional views for describing a method for manufacturing a TFT for a reflection type LCD capable of applying to the first embodiment of the present invention. Specifically, **FIG. 12A** is a plan view of a substrate on which a gate wiring is formed, and **FIG. 12B** and **FIG. 12C** are sectional views taken along the lines **12b-12b'** and **12c-12c'**, respectively.

[0070] After depositing a single layered metallic film or a double layered metallic film such as chromium (Cr), aluminum (Al), molybdenum (Mo) or an alloy of Mo and tungsten (W) as a gate film on a transparent substrate **100** made of glass, quartz, or sapphire, the gate film is patterned using a photolithography process to form a gate wiring (using a first mask). The gate wiring includes a gate line **101** extending in a first direction (or horizontal direction), a gate electrode **102**, which is a part of the gate line **101**, and a gate pad **103** connected to one end of the gate line **101** and formed at the pad region. In addition, according to the present embodiment, there is formed a data pad **104** for transmitting an image signal to thin film transistors together when forming the gate wiring.

[0071] Preferably, the gate film is made of chromium (Cr) or MoW containing 30 wt % or more of tungsten (W) in order to form a rigid pad.

[0072] **FIG. 13A** is a plan view on which an active pattern **108** is formed, and **FIGS. 13B and 13C** are sectional views taken along the lines **13b-13b'** and **13c-13c'** of **FIG. 13A**.

[0073] A gate insulating film **106** made of an inorganic insulating film such as silicon nitride is formed to a thickness

of about 4,500 Å on the substrate **100** on which the gate wiring is formed. A semiconductor film made of amorphous silicon is deposited on the gate insulating film **106** and then patterned using a photolithography process to form an active pattern **108** of a thin film transistor (using a second mask).

[0074] FIG. 14A is a plan view of a substrate on which the data wiring **110** is formed, and FIGS. 14B and 14C are sectional views taken along the lines 14b-14b' and 14c-14c' of FIG. 14A. After depositing a metal film such as molybdenum (Mo), an Mo-based alloy of MoW, or chromium (Cr) on the active pattern **108** and the gate insulating film **106**, the deposited metal film is patterned using a photolithography process to form the data wiring **110** (using a third mask). The data wiring **110** extends in the second direction (or vertical direction), which is perpendicular to the gate wiring, and it includes the source electrode **112** overlapped with the first region of the active pattern **108** and the drain electrode **111** overlapped with the second region, which is opposite to the first region.

[0075] While the present embodiment shows and describes that the active pattern **108** and the data wiring **110** are formed by a double photolithography process, the active pattern **108** and the data wiring may be formed by one photolithography process. In other words, after subsequently depositing the semiconductor film for the active pattern and the metal film for the data wiring on the gate insulating film, a photoresist film is coated on the metal film. Afterwards, the photoresist film is exposed and developed to form a photoresist pattern having a first portion positioned on the channel region of the TFT and having a first thickness, a second portion positioned on the data wiring and having a thickness thicker than the first thickness, and a third portion where the photoresist film is completely removed. Thereafter, the metal film and semiconductor film beneath the third portion, the metal film beneath the first portion, and the second portion are etched by a predetermined thickness to form the data wiring made of the metal film and the active pattern made of the semiconductor film. Then, the remaining photoresist pattern is removed. Thus, the active pattern **108** and the data wiring **110** can be formed at the same time that needs a photolithography process using only one photomask.

[0076] FIGS. 15A and 15B are sectional views taken along the lines 14b-14b' and 14c-14c' of FIG. 14A, respectively and they show a process for exposing an organic passivation film **114**. After depositing a photosensitive organic passivation film **114** on the data wiring **110** and the active pattern **108** to a thickness range of about 2-4 μm, the photosensitive organic passivation film **114** is exposed using a photomask **150** (using a fourth mask). At this time, the photomask **150** includes a partial exposure pattern (F) formed at a portion corresponding to the via hole region (alternatively, formed on the source electrode, on the gate pad, on the data pad, and on the end of the data wiring), and a partial exposure pattern (P) formed at a portion corresponding to an edge portion of the via hole region. Also, in order to make the reflection plate of the pixel region in the form of a scattering structure, the photomask **150** has a partial exposure pattern even at a portion corresponding to the pixel region. Preferably, the full exposure pattern is an open pattern having a size of the resolution of the exposure machine or more, and the partial exposure pattern is an open pattern having a line width corresponding to half of the

resolution of the exposure machine. The partial exposure pattern has a slit structure or a semi-transparent film pattern.

[0077] When the organic passivation film **114** is exposed using the photomask **150** and then developed, the organic passivation film is completely removed at the center portion of the via hole region while it is diffraction-exposed at edge portions of the via hole regions by the partial exposure pattern (P), so that a slope of the organic passivation film becomes lowered. Also, a plurality of concave portions and convex portions are formed at the surface of the organic passivation film **114** of the pixel region.

[0078] In the present embodiment, when opening the gate pad **103** and the data pad **104** to which chip bumps are bonded, all of the pads are opened not individually but wholly so as to prevent a contact failure from being generated during the bump bonding. At this time, if the data pad is formed from the data wiring, as in the conventional method, when dry-etching the gate insulating film during a subsequent process the gate insulating film placed below the data pad is side-etched to thereby generate the undercut, so that the data pad may be lifted during the bump bonding. Accordingly, in order to open all of the pads wholly, the data pad should be formed from the same layer as the gate wiring.

[0079] FIG. 16A is a plan view of a substrate in which a via hole is formed and FIGS. 16B and 16C are sectional views taken along the lines 16b-16b' and 16c-16c' of FIG. 16A.

[0080] The gate insulating film **106** placed beneath the organic passivation film pattern **114a** is dry-etched by using the organic passivation film pattern **114a** as an etch mask, so that there are formed a first via hole **116** for exposing the source electrode **112** and a second via hole **117** for exposing the gate pad **103**. At the same time, there are also formed a third via hole **118** for exposing one end of the data wiring **110** and a fourth via hole **119** for exposing the data pad **104**.

[0081] During the aforementioned dry-etching process, the gate insulating film **106** made of an inorganic insulating film or the data wiring **110** is side-etched, so that the undercut is generated beneath the organic passivation film pattern **114a**.

[0082] Next, the organic passivation film pattern **114a** is ashed or plasma dry-etched to remove the organic passivation film pattern **114a** by a certain thickness in the horizontal and vertical directions, so that the undercut is removed. When the aforementioned ashing process is completed, the underlying film of the organic passivation film pattern **114a** is protruded from the bottom edge of the via hole (S3, S4).

[0083] FIGS. 17A and 17B are sectional views taken along the lines 16b-16b' and 16c-16c' of FIG. 16A, and they show a process for depositing a metal film **125** having a high reflectivity such as aluminum (Al) or silver (Ag) on the via holes **116**, **117**, **118**, and **119** and the organic passivation film pattern **114a**.

[0084] The metal film **125** is patterned by a photolithography process, so that there are formed a pixel electrode **120**, which is connected to the source electrode **112** through the first via hole **116**, and a pad electrode **121**, which is connected to the gate pad **103** through the second via hole **117** (using a fifth mask). At the same time, there is also formed a bridge electrode **122** that connects one end of the

data wiring **110** with the data pad **104** through the third and fourth via holes **118** and **119**. The pixel electrode **120** is formed within the pixel region defined by the gate wiring and the data wiring **110**, and its edge is formed to be overlapped with the gate wiring and the data wiring **110** in order to secure a high aperture ratio.

[0085] According to the present embodiment, a passivation film is formed of a single layered organic insulating film, and at the same time a step coverage failure of an upper metal film at the stepped portion due to an undercut is resolved, thereby decreasing by one the number of the photolithography processes needed. In addition, an exposure step for forming a via hole in the organic passivation film and an exposure step for forming concave portions and convex portions at the surface of the reflection plate can be performed at the same time, thereby decreasing by one the number of the exposure steps needed. Accordingly, the number of the exposure steps decreases from seven times to five times, so that the manufacturing process is simplified. Further, if the active pattern and the data wiring are formed by one photolithography process, it is possible to decrease the number of the exposure steps from seven times to four times.

[0086] Although the aforementioned first embodiment shows and describes reflection type LCDs as an example, it should be clear to one of ordinary skill in the art that it can be applied to reflection and transmission composite type LCDs.

Embodiment 2

[0087] FIGS. 18A to 22B are sectional views describing a method for forming a via hole in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention, wherein FIGS. 18A, 19A, 20A, 21A and 22A show a case where an inorganic insulating film exists on a metal film while FIGS. 18B, 19B, 20B, 21B and 22B show a case where the inorganic insulating film does not exist on the metal film.

[0088] Referring to FIGS. 18A and 18B, a metal film **204** for a data wiring is deposited on substrates on which a gate wiring (not shown) and a gate insulating film **202** are subsequently stacked. Thereafter, on some portion of the substrates an inorganic insulating film made of silicon nitride is formed as shown in FIG. 18B, or on some other portion the inorganic insulating film is not formed as in FIG. 18A. Afterwards, on the resultant substrate, a photosensitive organic passivation film **208** is coated to a thickness of about 2 μm .

[0089] Thereafter, the organic passivation film **208** is firstly exposed by using a first photomask **250** for exposing a first region of the organic passivation film **208**. At this time, the first region of the organic passivation film **208** is incompletely exposed such that the first region of the organic passivation film **208** is exposed below a certain thickness.

[0090] It is preferable that the incompletely exposed thickness of the organic passivation film is as thin as possible but it is necessary to control the exposure amount by an exposure deviation. Here, the reference numeral **209** denotes a first exposed region.

[0091] Referring to FIGS. 19A and 19B, the organic passivation film **208** is secondly exposed using a second photomask **270** for exposing a first region and a second

region having a size less than the first region and arranged within the first region. At this time, the organic passivation film of an overlapping portion between the first region and the second region is fully exposed. In the transmission type LCD, the second exposure step is performed such that exposed portions of the organic passivation film **208** are sufficiently exposed.

[0092] In the case of a reflection and transmission composite type LCD or a reflection type LCD, an exposure step for forming an irregular surface structure and an exposure step for forming a via hole can be performed at the same time by using the second photomask used in the second exposure step as an exposure mask for forming the irregular surface structure of the organic passivation film **208**, thereby simplifying the manufacturing process.

[0093] Referring to FIGS. 20A and 20B, as mentioned above, the twice-exposed organic passivation film **208** is developed to remove the exposed portions, so that an organic passivation film pattern **208a** is formed. At this time, the slope of the organic passivation film pattern **208a** decreases as it travels to an edge of the via hole region, so that the organic passivation film pattern **208a** comes to have a low height. At this portion, the organic passivation film pattern **208a** has one third or less of total thickness.

[0094] Next, as shown in FIG. 21A, in the case that the inorganic insulating film **206** exists on the metal film, the underlying inorganic insulating film **206** is dry-etched by using the organic passivation film pattern **208a** as an etch mask, to form a via hole **211** for exposing the underlying inorganic insulating metal film **204**. At this time, the inorganic insulating film **206** is side-etched, so that an undercut is generated beneath the organic passivation film pattern **208a**.

[0095] Also, as shown in FIG. 21B, in the case that the inorganic insulating film does not exist on the metal film **204**, after the organic passivation film is developed, there is formed a via hole **212** for exposing the metal film **204**.

[0096] In order to prevent the boundary between the metal film **204** and the overlying another metal film that is being deposited from being contaminated or oxidized, the metal film **204** is wet-etched by a predetermined thickness, thereby rendering the surface state in good condition. At this time, the metal film **204** is side-etched, so that the undercut is generated beneath the organic passivation film pattern **208c**. At the same time, the metal film is consumed at the bottom of the via hole **212** by a predetermined thickness.

[0097] Referring to FIGS. 22A and 22B, the organic passivation film pattern **208a** is ashed to remove the organic passivation film pattern **208a** by a predetermined thickness from its surface in the horizontal and vertical directions, so that the undercut is removed. Here, the ashing process can be replaced by a plasma dry-etching process.

[0098] As shown in FIG. 22A, if the aforementioned ashing process is completed in the case that the inorganic insulating film **206** exists on the metal film **204**, the inorganic insulating film **206** is protruded in comparison with the organic passivation film pattern **208b** from the bottom edge (S5) of the via hole **211**. Likewise, as shown in FIG. 22B, in the case that the inorganic insulating film does not exist on the metal film **204**, the metal film **204** is protruded in comparison with the organic passivation film pattern **208b** from the bottom edge S6 of the via hole **212**.

[0099] At the same time, although not shown in the figures, as described above, a transparent conductive film such as ITO or IZO, or a reflection film such as Al or Ag is deposited on the entire surface of the resultant structure in the state where the organic passivation film pattern **208b** is protruded from the bottom edge of the via hole, and is then patterned by a photolithography process, to form an electrode connected to the metal film **204** through the via hole **211** or **212**. Since the electrode is deposited in a state that the undercut beneath the organic passivation film pattern **208b** has been removed, it has good step coverage at stepped portions.

Embodiment 3

[0100] FIG. 23 is a plan view of a TFT for a reflection and transmission type LCD in accordance with a third embodiment of the present invention. Referring to FIG. 23, a reflection part **350** is formed to enclose a transmission window **340**.

[0101] FIGS. 24A to 27C are sectional views for describing a method for manufacturing a TFT for the LCD in accordance with the third embodiment and they are taken along the lines G-G', H-H' and L-L' of FIG. 23.

[0102] Referring to FIGS. 24A to 24C, after forming a gate wiring **320** made of a first metal film on a substrate **300**, a gate insulating film **306** made of an inorganic insulating film such as silicon nitride is formed thereon. The gate wiring includes a gate line **301** extending in a first direction, a gate electrode, which is a part of the gate line **301**, and a gate pad **303** connected to one end of the gate line **301**, for receiving scanning signals from the outside and transmitting the received scanning signals to the gate line **301**. In the same manner as in Embodiment 1, a data pad (not shown) for transmitting an image signal into a drain of a TFT can be formed from the same layer as the gate wiring.

[0103] Next, after forming an active pattern **308** made of a semiconductor film on the gate insulating film **306**, a data wiring **310** made of a second metal film is formed thereon. The data wiring **310** includes a drain electrode **311** extending in a second direction, which is perpendicular to the first direction. The drain electrode **311** is connected to the source electrode **312** and the data wiring **310**.

[0104] On the data wiring **310**, active pattern **308** and gate insulating film **306**, a passivation film, preferably, a photo-sensitive organic insulating film is thickly formed to a thickness of $2\ \mu\text{m}$. Thus, if the passivation film is formed by depositing the organic insulating film thickly, a parasitic capacitance is not generated between the data wiring **310** and the pixel electrode that is to be formed thereon. To this end, in order to secure a high aperture ratio, the pixel electrode can be formed to be overlapped with the data wiring **310** and the gate wiring.

[0105] Then, in the same manner as in Embodiments 1 and 2, the organic insulating film is patterned by a photolithography process such that the slope of the organic passivation film is lowered at an edge of a region which the via hole is being formed, to thereby form an organic passivation film pattern **314**. In other words, the organic passivation film pattern **314** can be formed by a first exposure method using a photomask having both a partial exposure pattern and a full exposure pattern.

[0106] In addition, the organic passivation film pattern **314** may be formed by a method including a first exposure step using a first photomask of defining a first exposure region and a second exposure step using a second photomask of defining a second exposure region.

[0107] Next, using the organic passivation film pattern **314** as an etch mask, the underlying film is dry-etched to form a via hole **316** for exposing the data wiring, i.e., source electrode **312** and a second via hole **317** for exposing the gate pad **303**. At this time, in the case that the data pad is formed from the same layer as the gate wiring, there are formed a third via hole for exposing one end of the data wiring **310** and a fourth via hole for exposing the data pad together in order to connect the data wiring **310** with the data pad. Preferably, when opening the gate pad **303** and the data pad **104** to which chip bumps are bonded, all of the pads are not opened individually but are opened wholly so as to prevent a contact failure from being generated due to the bump misalignment.

[0108] Next, the organic passivation film pattern **314** is ashed or plasma dry-etched to remove an undercut beneath the organic passivation film pattern **314**. Then, an IZO layer is deposited on a resultant structure to a thickness range of $500\text{--}1200\text{\AA}$ by a sputtering method to form a transparent electrode layer **320**. On the transparent electrode layer **320**, there is deposited an aluminum (Al) layer or an aluminum-containing metal alloy such as AlNd to a thickness range of about $1500\text{--}4000\text{\AA}$ to form a reflection electrode layer **322**.

[0109] After that, a photoresist film **324** is coated on the reflection electrode layer **322** to a thickness of about $2\ \mu\text{m}$.

[0110] Referring to FIGS. 25A to 25C, using a photomask **400** having a partial exposure pattern corresponding to a transmission region (T) and a full exposure pattern corresponding to a reflection region (R), the photoresist film **324** is exposed. Preferably, the partial exposure pattern has a slit structure or a semi-transparent film pattern and it is made in the form of an open pattern having a line width corresponding to a half of the resolution of the exposure machine.

[0111] Next, the photoresist film **320** is developed, so that it remains thick to a thickness of about $1.9\ \mu\text{m}$ at the reflection region (R), remains thin to a thickness of about 4000\AA or less by a diffraction exposure at the transmission region (T), and is completely removed at the remaining region (N), thereby forming a photoresist pattern **324a**. At this time, in order to enhance the reliability of the gate pad and data pad, the partial exposure pattern is aligned to correspond to the pad region such that the photoresist film on the pad region remains thin to a thickness of about 4000\AA or less.

[0112] Referring to FIGS. 26A to 26C, using the photoresist pattern **324a** as an etch mask, the reflection electrode layer **322** and the transparent electrode layer **320** are wet-etched at the same time. Here, a mixed solution of H_3PO_4 , HNO_3 and CH_3COOH , which is an aluminum etchant, is used as a wet-etch solution.

[0113] Next, the photoresist pattern **324a** is ashed or plasma dry-etched to completely remove the photoresist pattern **324a** in the transmission region (T) such that the underlying reflection electrode layer **322** is exposed. The photoresist pattern **324a** remains in the reflection region (R) without being removed.

[0114] Referring to FIGS. 27A to 27C, the exposed reflection electrode layer 322 is dry-etched by using the remaining photoresist pattern 324b as an etch mask and BCl_3 and Cl_2 gas as an etch gas. Thus, the reflection electrode layer in the transmission region is removed and only the transparent electrode layer remains. At this time, if the reflection electrode layer 322 is wet-etched, since there is no an etch selectivity ratio between the reflection electrode layer 322 and the underlying transparent electrode layer, even the underlying transparent electrode layer 320 may be etched.

[0115] Next, the photoresist pattern 324b is removed by an ashing or strip process, so that a TFT for a reflection and transmission composite type LCD in which the reflection electrode 322a remains around a transparent electrode 320a is completed. A pixel electrode 330 is connected to the source electrode 312 through the first via hole 316 and it is formed in a double layered structure in which the reflection electrode 322a is stacked on the transparent electrode 320a. In the present embodiment, since the pixel electrode 330 is formed to be overlapped with the gate wiring and data wiring 310, the reflection electrode 322a remains around an overlapped region with the wirings, so that a sufficient aperture ratio can be obtained.

[0116] At this time, a pad electrode 332, which is connected to the gate pad 303 through the second via hole 317, is formed of only the transparent electrode. In other words, since the partial exposure pattern of the photomask is positioned on the pad region, the photoresist film in the partial exposure pattern is completely removed during a step of exposing the reflection electrode layer of the transmission region. Accordingly, the reflection electrode layer on the pad region is completely removed during dry-etch of the reflection electrode layer and only the transparent electrode remains. According to the present embodiment, the transparent electrode layer is made of IZO. Meanwhile, in a conventional reflection and transmission composite type LCD having a transparent electrode layer made of ITO and an overlying reflection electrode layer made of aluminum or an aluminum-containing metal alloy, when a potential difference is continuously applied between the two conductive layers, the oxide of the ITO reacts with aluminum at the boundary between the transparent electrode layer and the reflection electrode layer, to create a very thin insulating film of Al_2O_3 . To this end, there may occur a problem in that a potential of the ITO transparent electrode layer is not transferred to the reflection electrode layer.

[0117] In addition, the ITO transparent electrode layer is electrochemically reacted with the reflection electrode layer by an organic solvent of TMAH (Tetra Methyl Ammonium Hydroxide) which is conventionally used during a developing process of the photoresist film, so that corrosion of the ITO transparent electrode layer may occur. Further, when etching the reflection electrode layer and the transparent electrode layer by using the photoresist pattern as an etch mask, the Al reflection electrode layer should be wet-etched using an Al etchant and then the ITO transparent electrode layer should be wet-etched using an ITO etchant.

[0118] As an etchant for wet-etching the ITO transparent electrode layer, there can be used a strong acid such as HCl, HNO_3 or FeCl_3 . If one of these strong acids is used as the etchant, although the photoresist film exists on the ITO transparent electrode layer, the strong acid may etch the Al reflection electrode severely.

[0119] Meanwhile, if IZO provided in embodiments of the present invention is used as the transparent electrode layer, any oxide or insulator is not formed. Further, an electrochemical reaction does not occur between the IZO transparent electrode layer and the Al reflection electrode layer. Furthermore, when etching the reflection electrode layer and the transparent electrode layer by using the photoresist pattern as an etch mask, since the IZO transparent electrode layer is easily etched by a mixing solution of H_3PO_4 , HNO_3 and CH_3COOH , which is an Al etchant, the Al reflection electrode layer and the IZO transparent electrode layer can be wet-etched at the same time. Accordingly, a boundary characteristic between the transparent electrode and the reflection electrode is enhanced and the manufacturing process is simplified.

[0120] According to the first embodiment of the present invention, a passivation film made of an organic insulating film is once exposed using a photomask having a partial exposure pattern formed at an edge portion of a via hole to form an organic passivation film pattern such that the slope of the organic passivation film decreases as it travels to an edge where the via hole is to be formed. Afterwards, a dry-etch process is performed by using the organic passivation film pattern as an etch mask to form the via hole. Then, the organic passivation film pattern is ashed or plasma dry-etched to thereby remove the undercut beneath the organic passivation film pattern. Thus, as the undercut is removed, a lower film of the organic passivation film pattern is protruded from a bottom edge of the via hole. Therefore, there does not occur a failure in which a metal film deposited during a subsequent process is opened at a stepped portion.

[0121] Here, if the partial exposure pattern is further formed at a position corresponding to the reflection plate of the pixel region in the photomask, the via hole can be formed by one exposure process using a single photomask and at the same time an irregular surface having a plurality of concave portions and convex portions can be formed. Therefore, in a reflection and transmission composite type LCD or a reflection type LCD, it is possible to reduce the number of photomasks needed from seven sheets to five sheets.

[0122] According to the second embodiment of the present invention, an organic passivation film pattern is left at an edge of a via hole region by performing the exposure process twice in success using two photomasks. Afterwards, the via hole is formed using the organic passivation film pattern and an ashing or plasma dry-etch process is performed to remove the undercut formed beneath the organic passivation film pattern. Therefore, there can be prevented a failure in which a metal film for a pixel electrode is opened at a stepped portion due to a height difference.

[0123] Here, since either one of the two photomasks can be used as an exposure mask for forming an irregular surface in the organic passivation film, in a reflection and transmission composite type LCD or a reflection type LCD, it is possible to reduce the number of photomasks needed from seven sheets to six sheets.

[0124] According to the third embodiment, since a transparent electrode in a reflection and transmission composite type LCD is formed of IZO instead of ITO, a boundary characteristic between the transparent electrode and the reflection electrode is enhanced and the manufacturing process is simplified. Also, since a passivation film is made of

a single layer of an organic insulating film and one end of the transparent electrode is overlapped with a gate wiring and a data wiring such that a reflection electrode is left around the overlapped region, a high aperture ratio for a sufficient light transmission is obtained.

[0125] While the present invention has been described in detail, it should be understood that various changes, substitutions and alterations can be made hereto without departing from the scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

1-40. (Cancelled)

41. A thin film transistor for a liquid crystal display (LCD), comprising:

a gate wiring formed on a substrate including a display region and a pad region positioned at an outer portion of the display region, said gate wiring extending in a first direction;

a gate insulating film formed on the gate wiring and the substrate, for partially exposing the gate wiring;

an active pattern formed on the gate insulating film;

a data wiring partially overlapped with the active pattern, the data wiring formed on the gate insulating film and extending in a second direction substantially normal to the first direction;

an organic passivation film pattern formed on the data wiring and the gate insulating film, said organic passivation film pattern including a first via hole to partially expose the data wiring and a second via hole to partially expose the gate wiring;

a pixel electrode formed on the organic passivation film pattern and connected to the data wiring through the first via hole; and

a pad electrode formed on the organic passivation film pattern and connected to the gate wiring through the second via hole,

wherein the data wiring comprises a stepped portion arranged on a surface of the data wiring in the first via hole, and

wherein the stepped portion extends from a side wall of the first via hole.

42. The thin film transistor of claim 41, wherein the gate insulating film extends from a sidewall of the second via hole.

43. The thin film transistor of claim 41, wherein the gate wiring comprises a gate line including a gate electrode formed within the display region and a gate pad formed at the pad region, the gate pad is connected to an end of the gate line and the second via hole is formed on the gate pad.

44. The thin film transistor of claim 41, wherein the data wiring comprises a first electrode overlapped with a first region of the active pattern and a second electrode overlapped with a second region of the active pattern, the second region arranged opposite to the first region, and the first via hole is formed on the first electrode.

45. The thin film transistor of claim 41, further comprising a data pad arranged at the pad region and formed from the same layer as the gate wiring.

46. The thin film transistor of claim 45, further comprising a bridge electrode formed on the organic passivation film pattern, the bridge electrode is from the same layer as the pixel electrode and the bridge electrode connects an end of the data wiring with the data pad through a third via hole formed in the organic passivation film pattern on the end of the data wiring and a fourth via hole formed at both the gate insulating film and the organic passivation film pattern on the data pad.

47. The thin film transistor of claim 41, wherein the organic passivation film pattern has an irregular upper surface at the display region.

48. The thin film transistor of claim 41, wherein the pixel electrode further comprises a double layered structure including a transparent electrode and a reflection electrode.

49. The thin film transistor of claim 48, wherein the pad electrode comprises a single layer of the transparent electrode.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	用于液晶显示器的薄膜晶体管及其制造方法		
公开(公告)号	US20040227864A1	公开(公告)日	2004-11-18
申请号	US10/876007	申请日	2004-06-25
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	金东GYU		
申请(专利权)人(译)	金东GYU		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	三星DISPLAY CO. , LTD.		
[标]发明人	KIM DONG GYU		
发明人	KIM, DONG-GYU		
IPC分类号	G02F1/1333 C23F1/20 G02F1/1335 G02F1/1343 G02F1/136 G02F1/1362 G02F1/1368 H01L21/302 H01L21/3065 H01L21/77 H01L21/84 H01L27/12 H01L29/423 H01L29/786 H01L21/00		
CPC分类号	G02F1/13458 G02F1/136227 G02F2001/136231 H01L27/12 H01L29/42384 H01L29/78669 H01L27/1288 Y10S438/948 Y10S438/949 Y10S438/945 H01L27/124 H01L27/1244 H01L27/1248 Y10S438/942		
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其他公开文献	US7176494		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

公开了一种用于液晶显示器 (LCD) 的薄膜晶体管 (TFT) 及其制造方法，与常规方法相比，其允许减少光刻工艺中使用的光掩模的数量。形成钝化膜作为单层有机绝缘膜，并且减少所需的曝光步骤的数量，从而减少所需的光掩模片的数量，从而提高TFT制造工艺的效率。所公开方法的应用包括反射和透射复合型LCD以及反射型LCD。

