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Kim et al.

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(54) **LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY AND
MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF**

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G02F 1/1343 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **349/146**; 349/139; 349/142; 349/144

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 349/129,
349/142-143, 146, 139

See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A liquid crystal display includes a substrate, a plurality of pixel electrodes formed on the substrate, a common electrode facing the pixel electrodes, and a liquid crystal layer interposed between the pixel electrodes and the common electrode. The pixel electrode includes at least one oblique edge including a plurality of protruded and depressed portions.

28 Claims, 20 Drawing Sheets

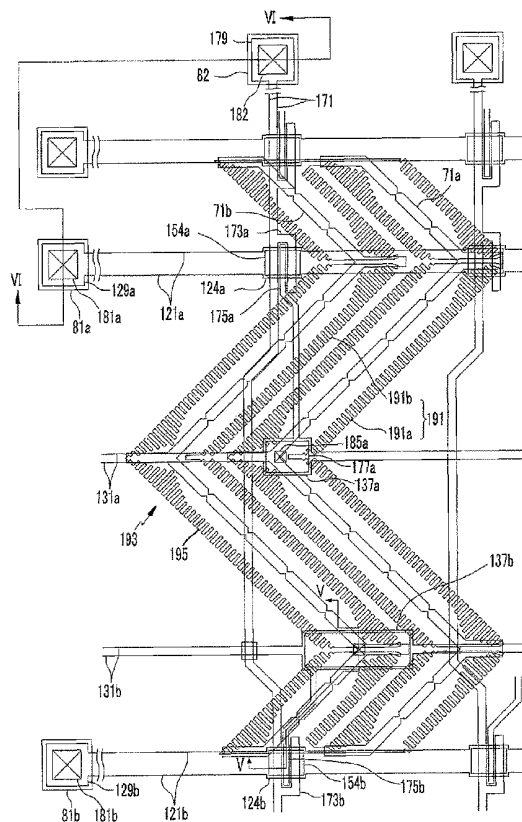


FIG. 1

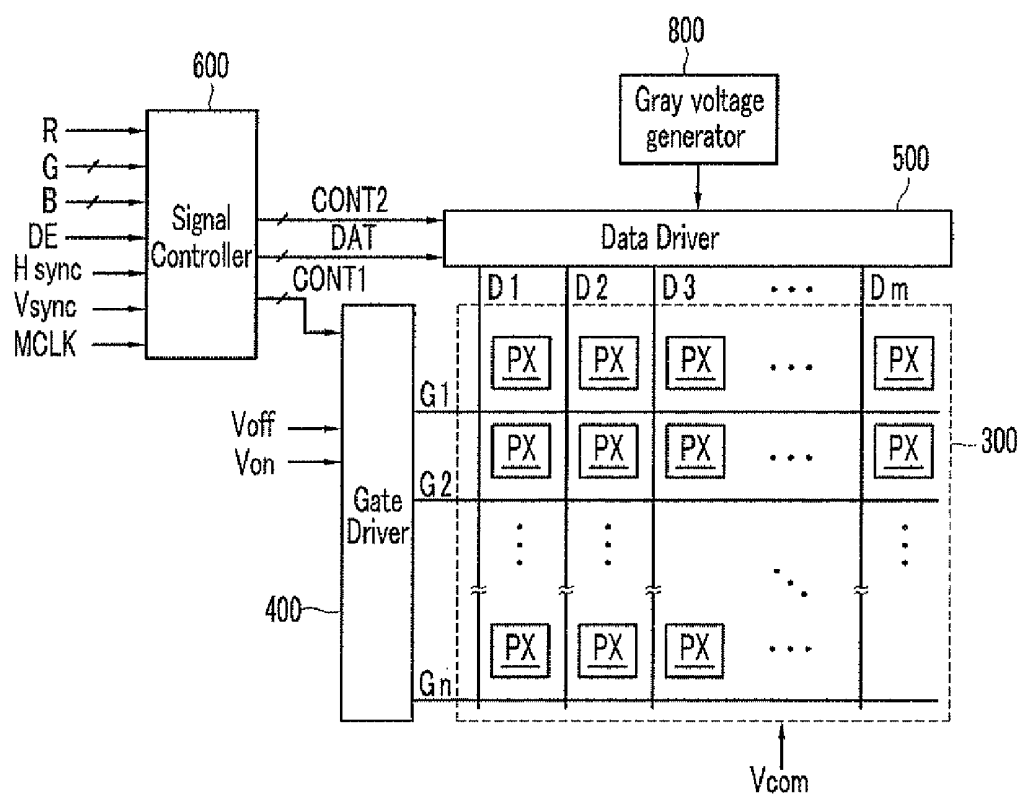
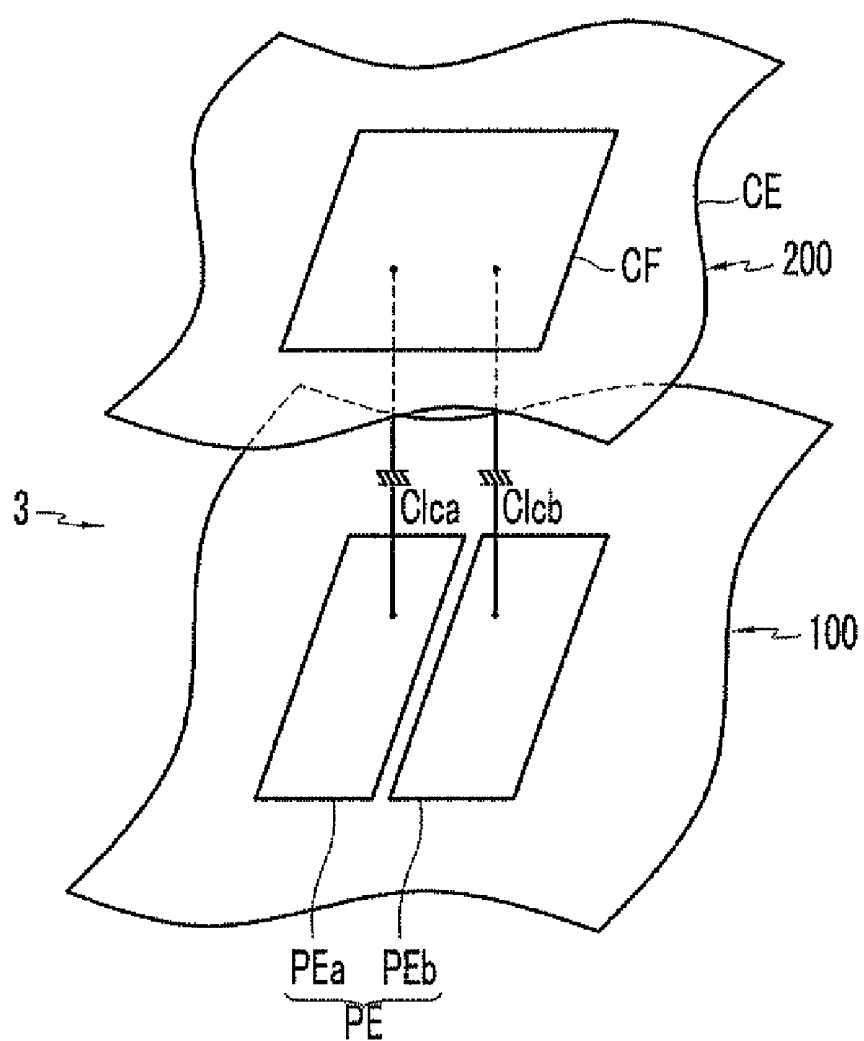


FIG. 2



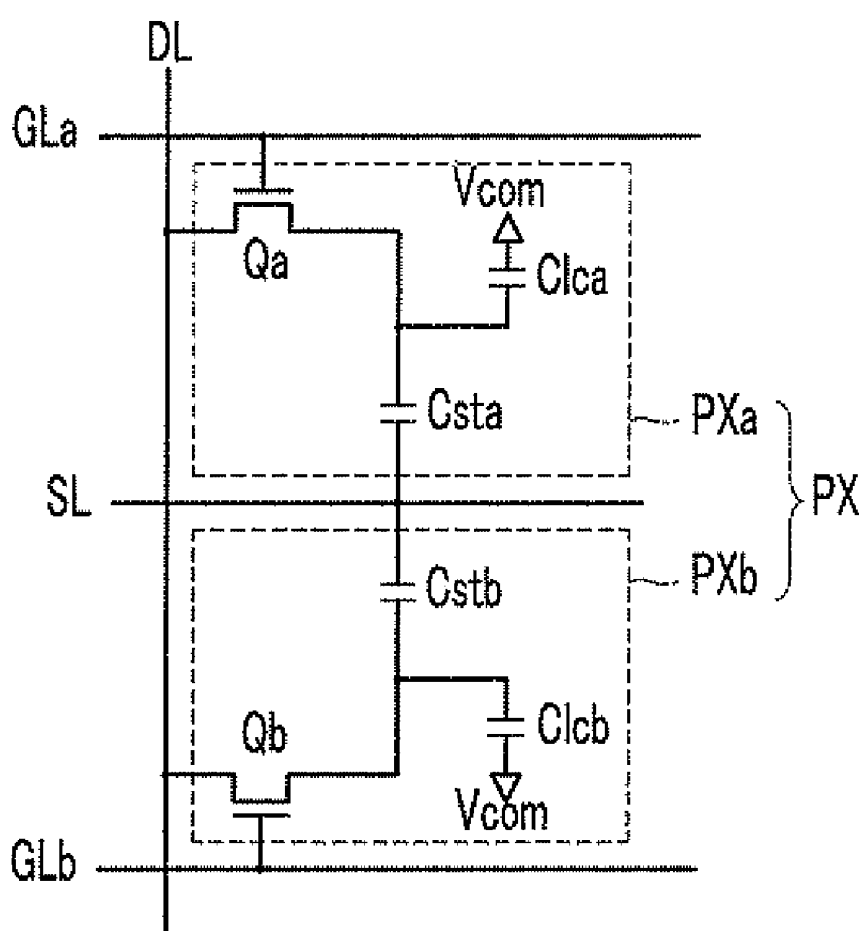
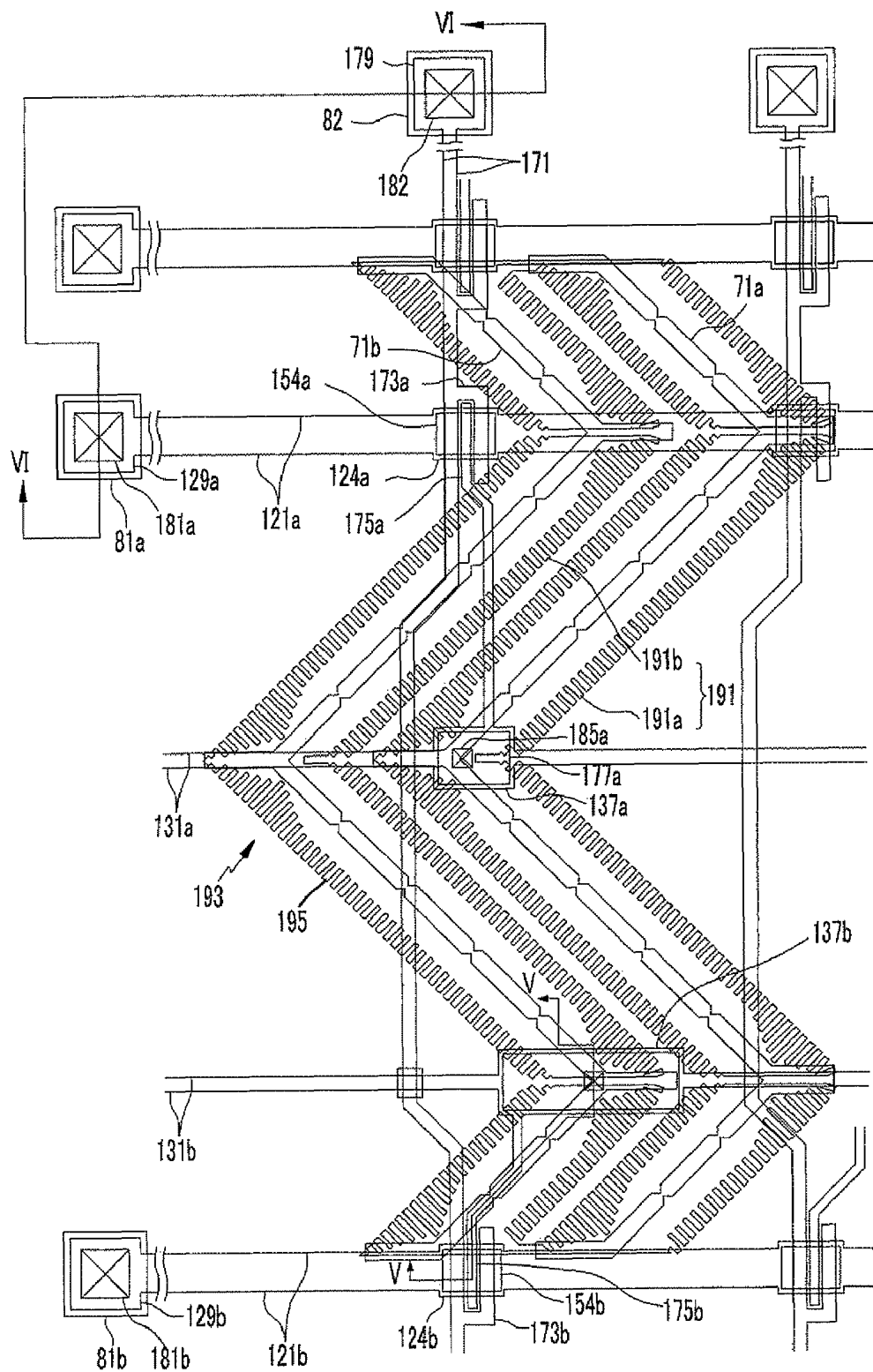


FIG. 4



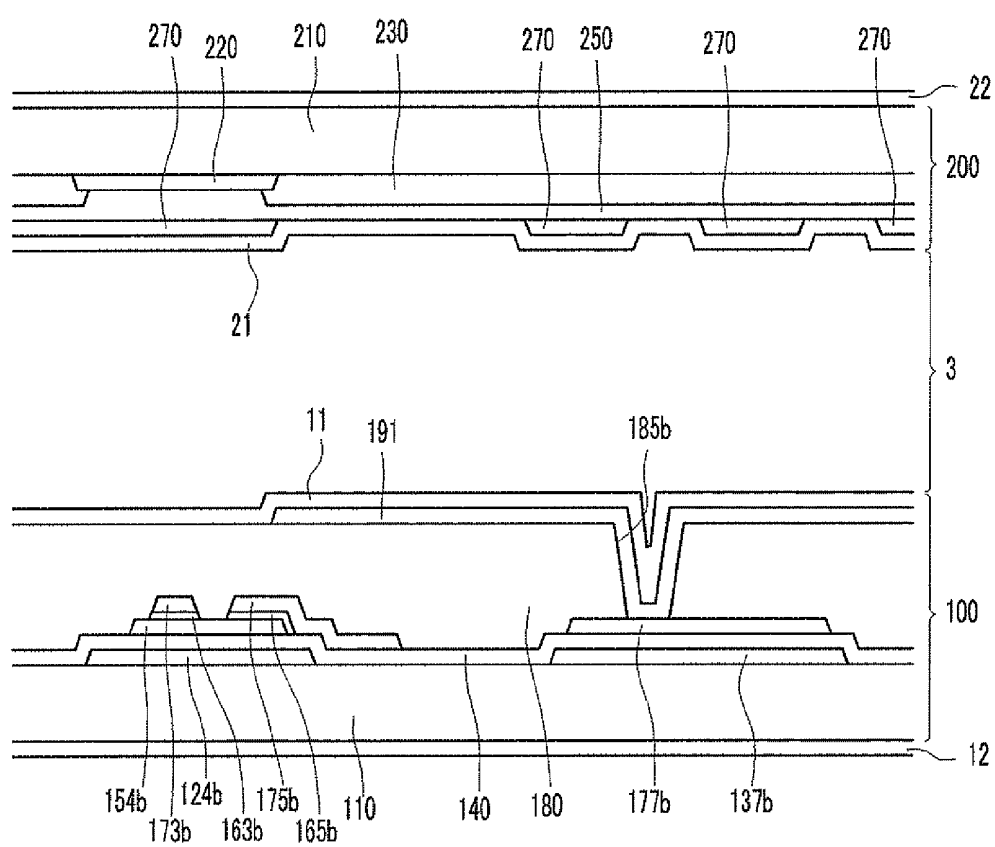


FIG. 6

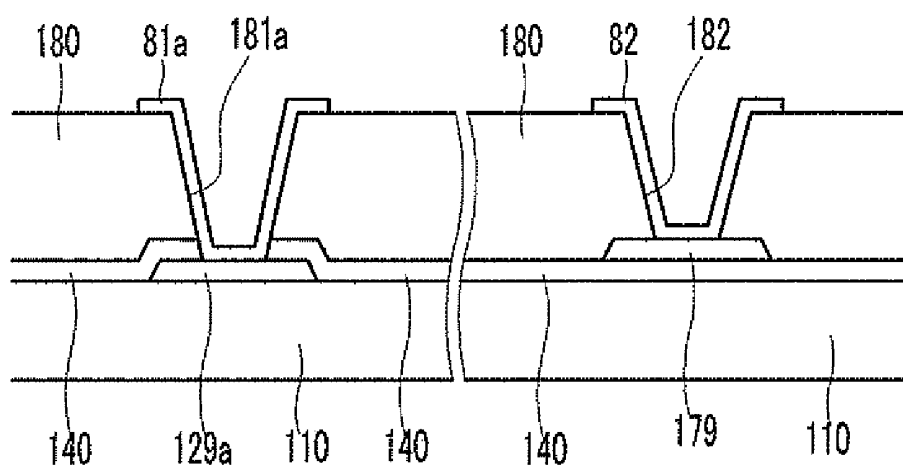


FIG. 7

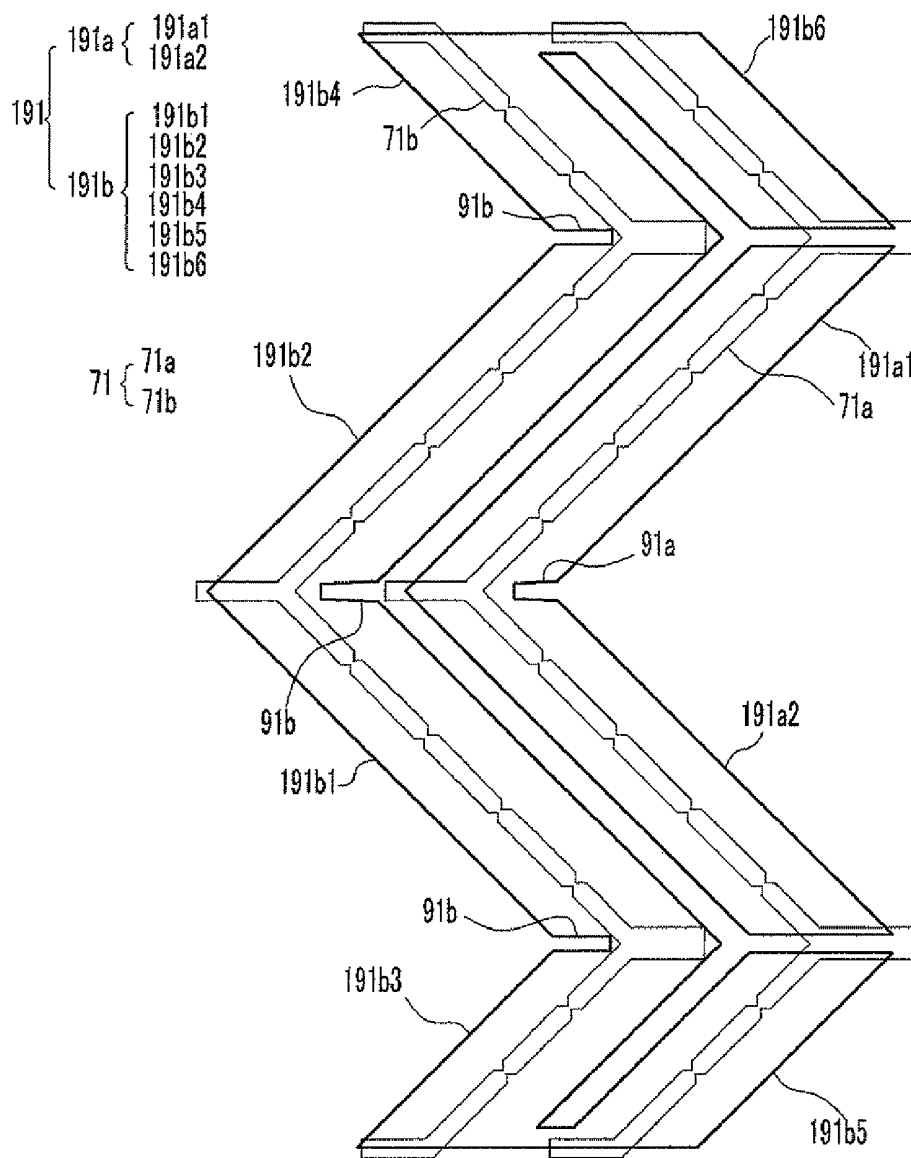


FIG. 8A

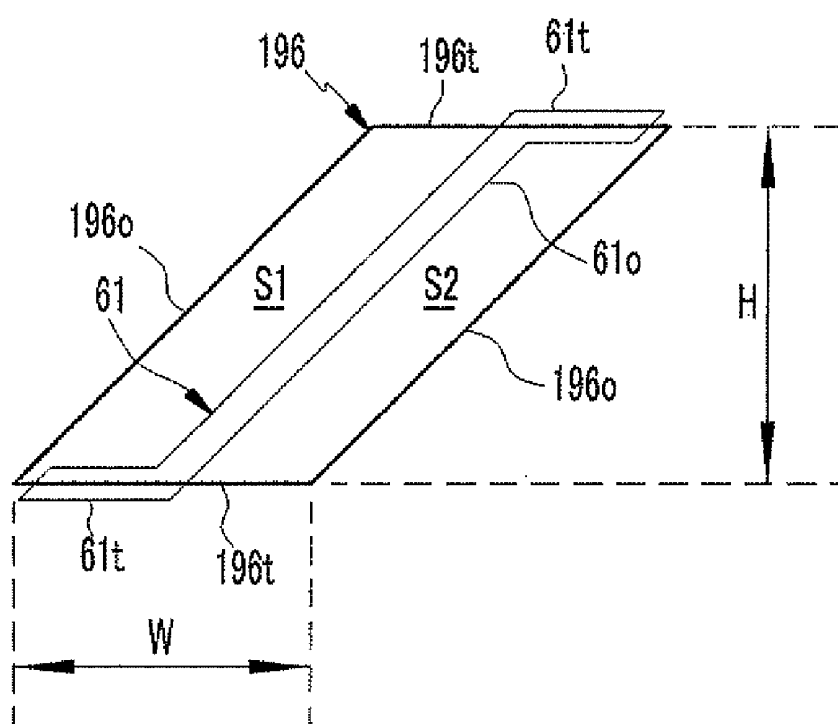


FIG. 8B

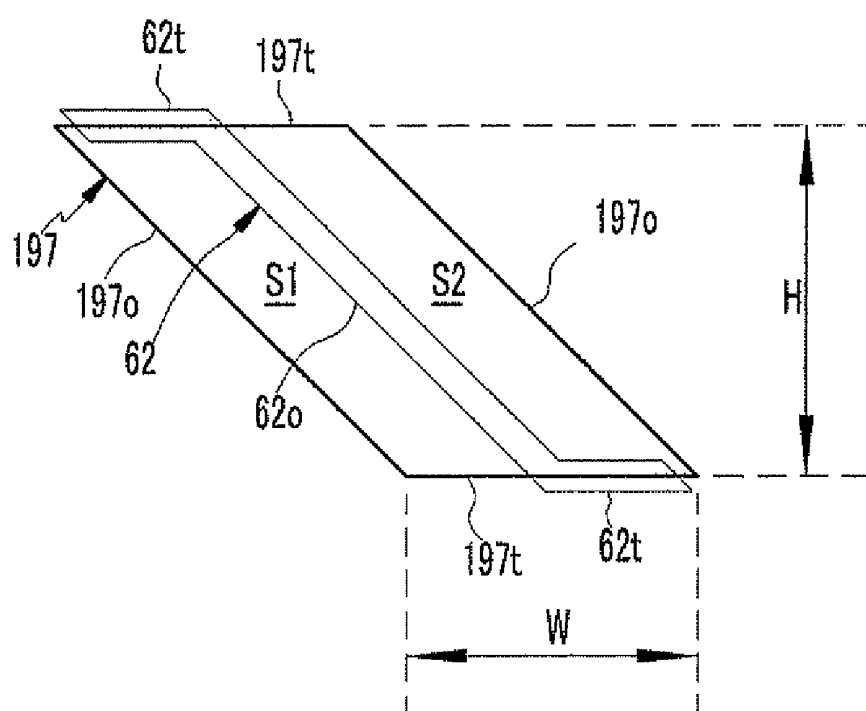


FIG. 8C

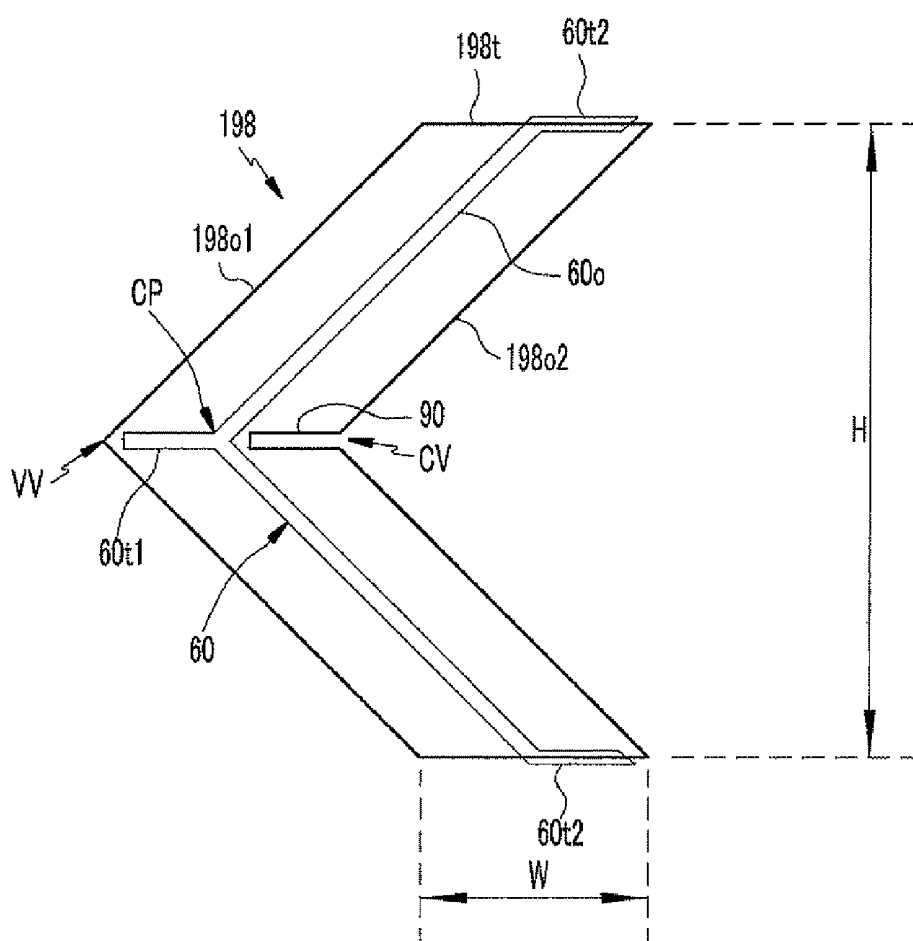


FIG. 9

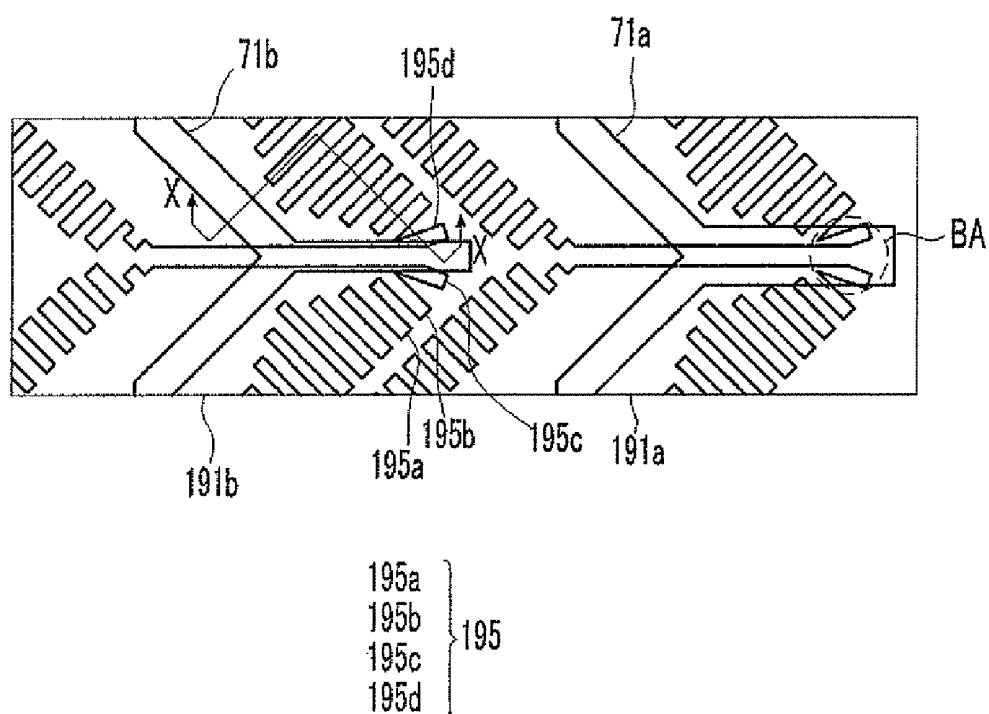


FIG. 10

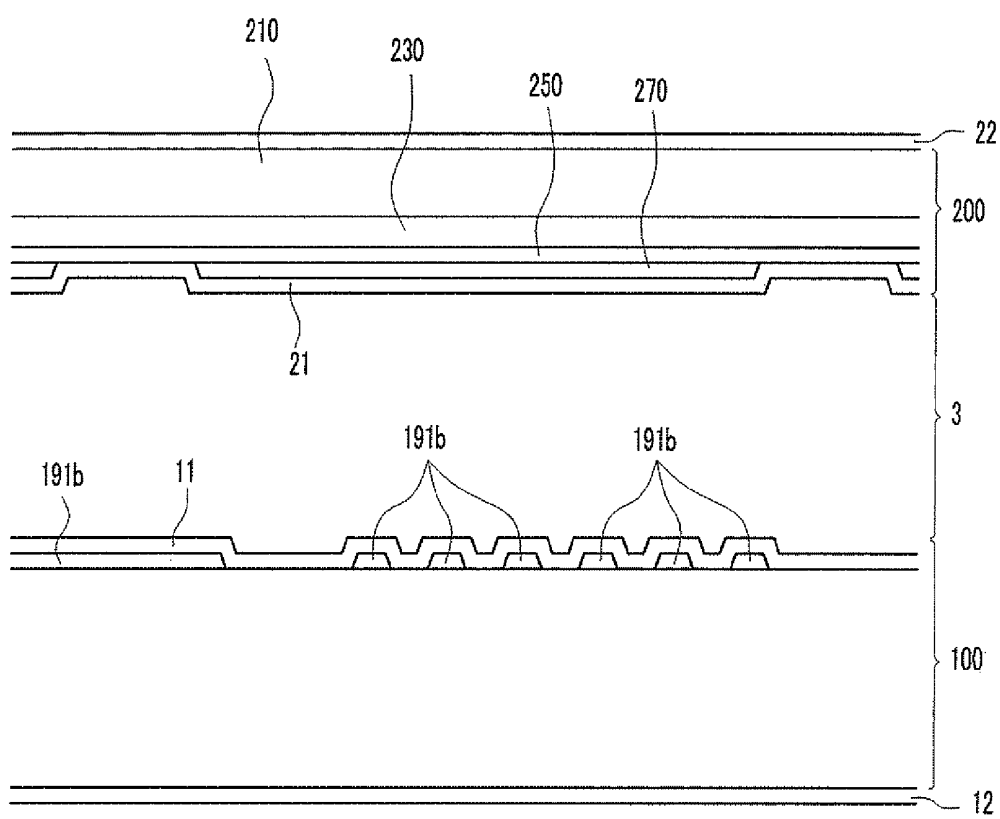


FIG. 11

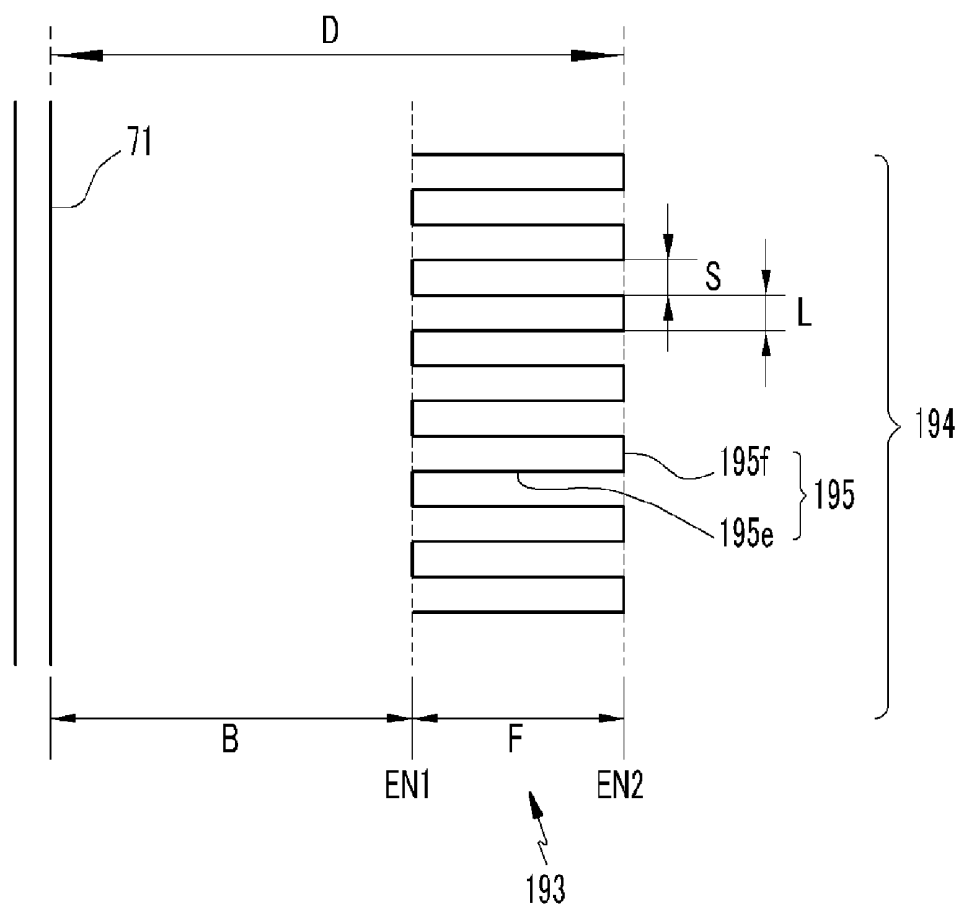


FIG. 12

	Exemplary embodiment	Exemplary embodiment 1	Exemplary embodiment 2	Exemplary embodiment 3	Exemplary embodiment 4	Exemplary embodiment 5	Exemplary embodiment 6	Exemplary embodiment 7	Exemplary embodiment 8	Exemplary embodiment 9	Exemplary embodiment 10	Exemplary embodiment 11	Exemplary embodiment 12
Protruded and depressed portions	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	X	0	0	First sub-pixel :X second sub-pixel :0	X	X
D(um)	33				33			27			First sub-pixel :33		
L(um)		4	4	4		4	4		5	5		5	5
S:L		1.5:1	1:1	2:1		1.5:1	1.5:1		1.5:1	1:1		1.5:1	1:1
F:B		1:1	1:1	1:1		1:1	1:1		1:1	1:1		1:0.3	1:0.3
Shape of protrusion		rectangular	rectangular	Triangular		rectangular	rectangular		rectangular	rectangular		rectangular	rectangular

FIG.13

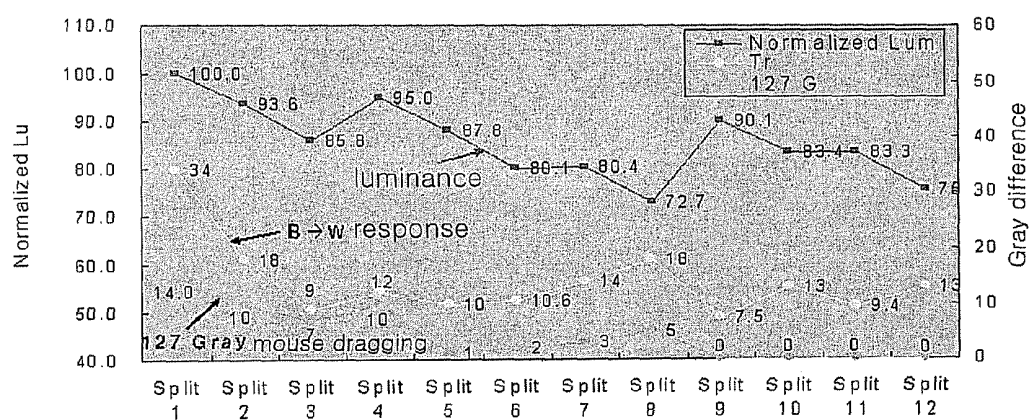


FIG. 14

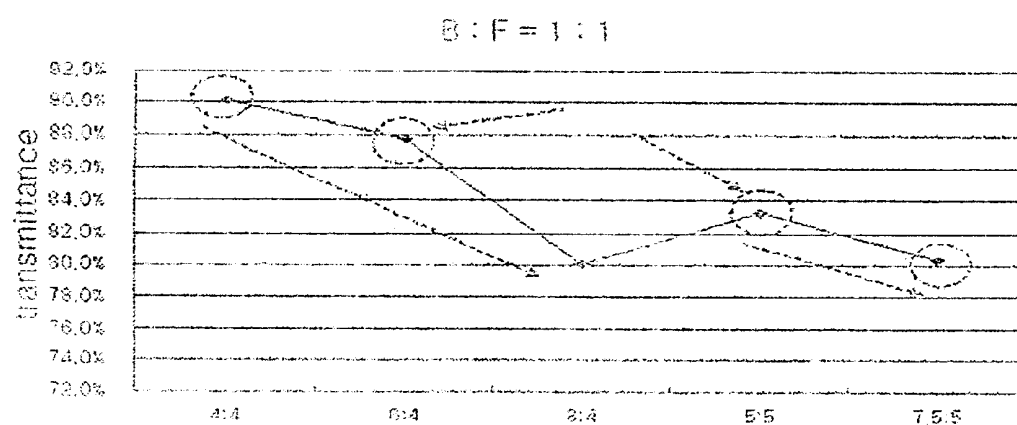


FIG.15

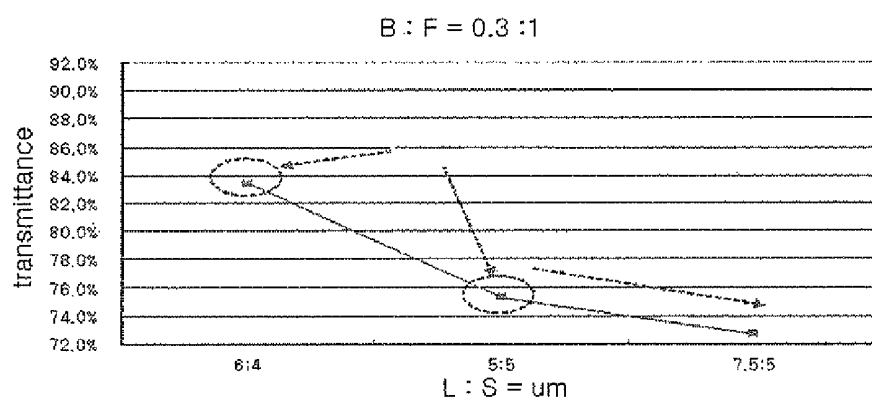


FIG.16

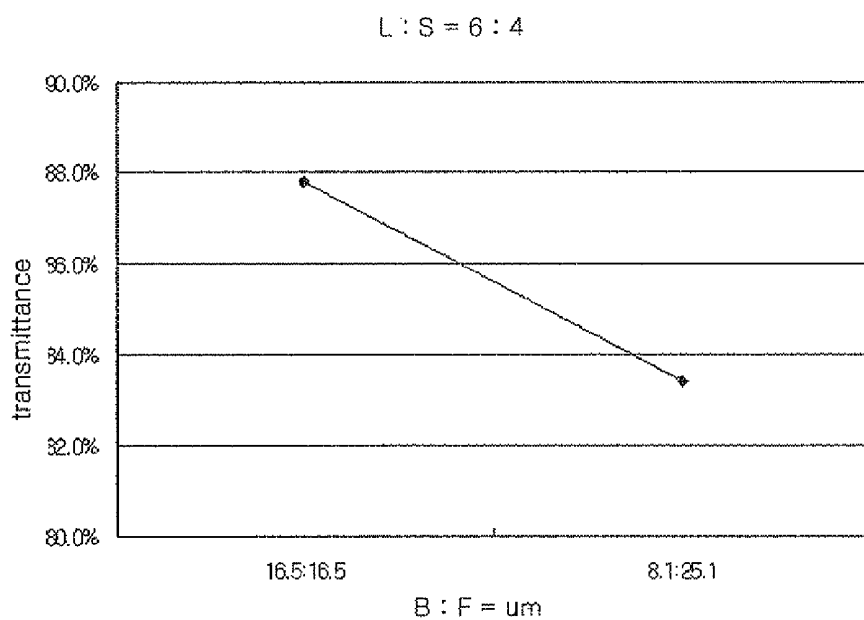
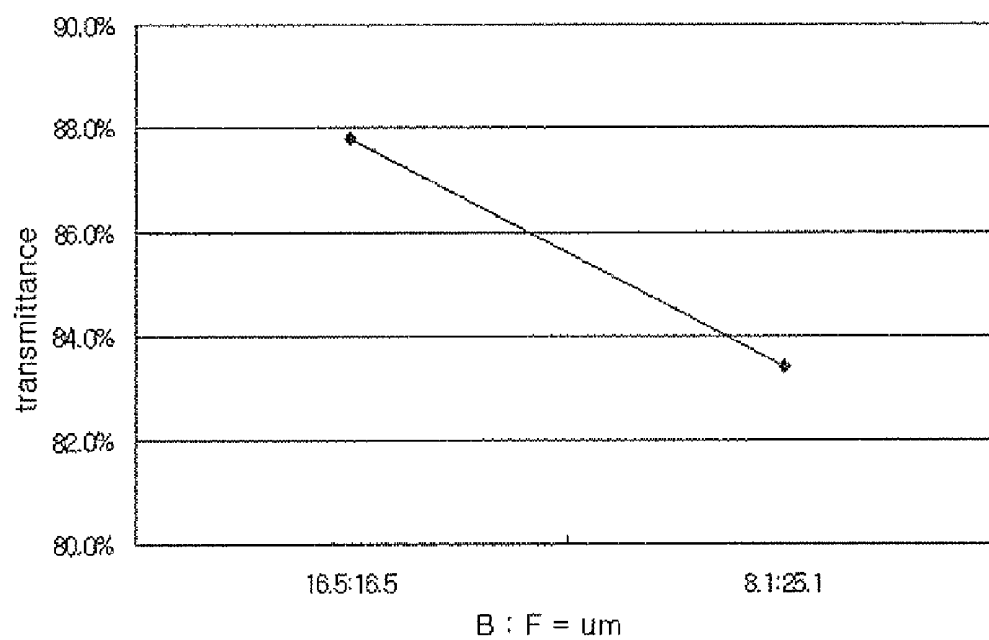


FIG. 17

 $L : S = 6 : 4$ 

(PRIOR ART)
FIG.18A

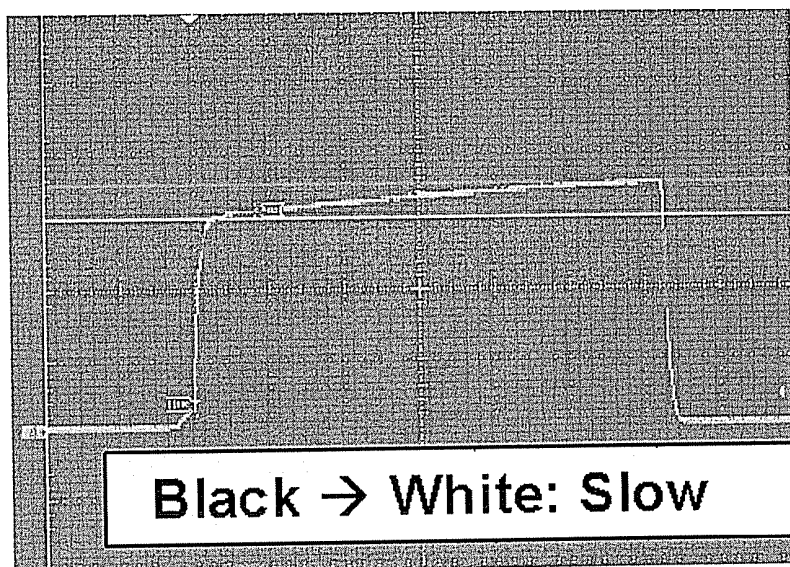
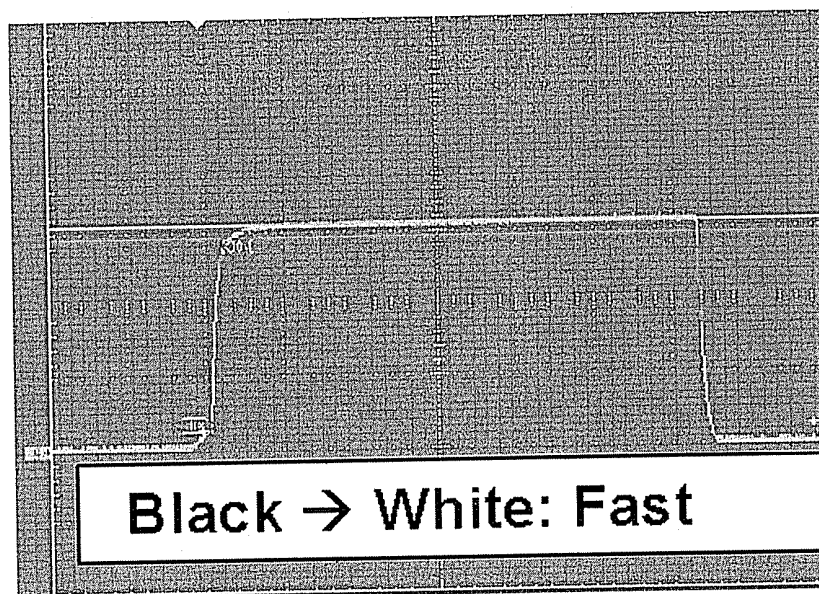


FIG.18B



(PRIOR ART)
FIG. 19A

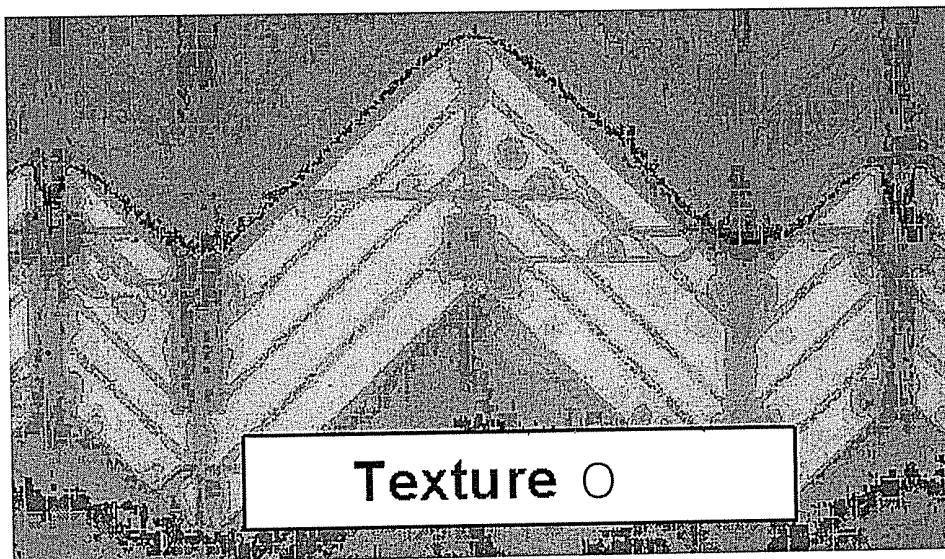
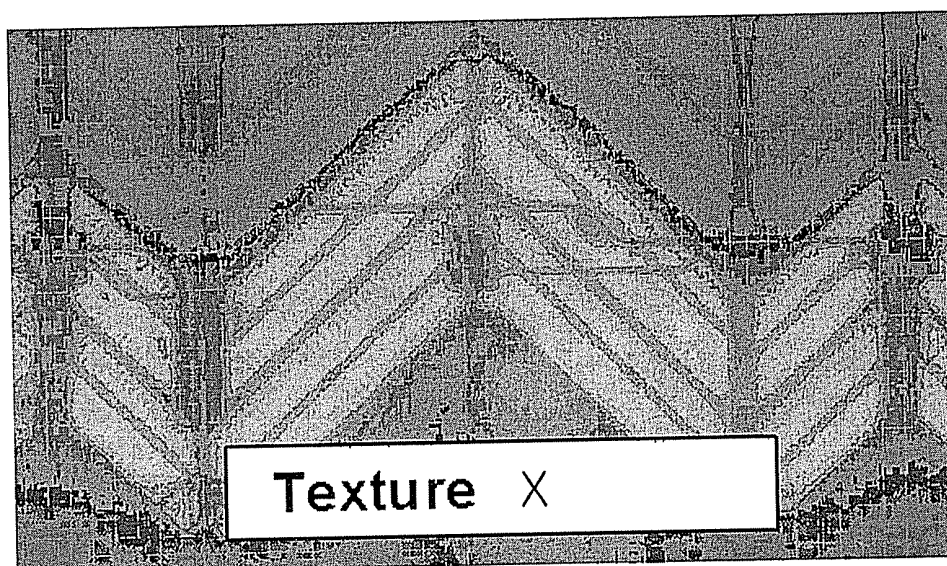


FIG. 19B



LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF

This application claims priority to Korean Patent Application No. 10-2006-0028252 filed on Mar. 29, 2006, and all the benefits accruing therefrom under 35 U.S.C. §119, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(a) Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a liquid crystal display.

(b) Description of the Related Art

Liquid crystal displays ("LCDs") are one of the most widely used flat panel displays. An LCD includes a pair of panels provided with field-generating electrodes, such as pixel electrodes and a common electrode, and a liquid crystal ("LC") layer interposed between the two panels. The LCD displays images by applying voltages to the field-generating electrodes to generate an electric field in the LC layer that determines the orientations of LC molecules therein to adjust polarization of incident light.

An LCD also includes switching elements connected to the respective pixel electrodes and a plurality of signal lines such as gate lines and data lines for controlling the switching elements and thereby applying voltages to the pixel electrodes.

Among the LCDs, a vertically aligned mode LCD, which aligns the major axes of the LC molecules perpendicular to the upper and lower panels in the absence of an electric field, is spotlighted because of its high contrast ratio and wide reference viewing angle. Here, the reference viewing angle is defined as a viewing angle making the contrast ratio equal to 1:10 or as a limit angle for the inversion in luminance between the grays.

To implement wide viewing angle in the vertically aligned mode LCD, cutouts are provided in the field generating electrodes or protrusions are provided on the field generating electrodes. Since the cutouts and the protrusions can determine the tilt directions of the LC molecules, the tilt directions can be distributed into several directions by using cutouts and protrusions, thereby giving a wide reference viewing angle.

However, an increase in the number of cutouts and protrusions reduces the transmittance since it is hard for light to transmit where the cutouts or the protrusions are located. In order to increase the aperture ratio, an ultrahigh aperture ratio structure, in which the size of the pixel electrodes is increased, has been suggested. However, in this case, the LC molecules located in the central area of the pixel electrode are hardly affected by the electric field near the edges of the pixel electrode, which causes a disorder of the orientations of the LC molecules, and as a result, texture or light leakage occurs and the response time increases.

Therefore, a display device is required with improved response speed and transmittance of an LCD as well as an increase the aperture ratio of the LCD.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An exemplary embodiment provides a liquid crystal display having advantages of improved response speed and transmittance, and an increased aperture ratio.

An exemplary embodiment provides a liquid crystal display including a substrate, a plurality of pixel electrodes formed on the substrate, a common electrode facing the pixel electrodes, and a liquid crystal layer interposed between the

pixel electrodes and the common electrode. The pixel electrode includes at least one oblique edge including a plurality of protruded and depressed portions.

In an exemplary embodiment, a width L of the protruded portion, a distance S between two neighboring edges of two adjacent protruded portions, and a thickness d of the liquid crystal layer may satisfy the following relation: $S+L \leq 2d$

In an exemplary embodiment, an area of the protruded portions may be smaller than a half of the entire area of the pixel electrode.

In an exemplary embodiment, the width L of the protruded portion and the distance S between the two neighboring edges of the two adjacent protruded portions may be different from each other.

In an exemplary embodiment, the distance S between the two neighboring edges of the two adjacent protruded portions may be greater than the width L of the protruded portion.

In an exemplary embodiment, the pixel electrode includes at least two parallelogrammic electrode pieces of which the inclination directions may be different from each other.

In an exemplary embodiment, the pixel electrode may include a first sub-pixel electrode and a second sub-pixel electrode.

In an exemplary embodiment, each of the first and second sub-pixel electrodes may include at least two parallelogrammic electrode pieces of which the inclination directions are different from each other.

In an exemplary embodiment, tilt directions of at least two of the protruded portions formed where the two parallelogrammic electrode pieces meet each other may be different from each other.

In an exemplary embodiment, the first sub-pixel electrode may include a right-inclined parallelogrammic electrode piece and a left-inclined parallelogrammic electrode piece, and the second sub-pixel electrode may include three right-inclined parallelogrammic electrode pieces and three left-inclined parallelogrammic electrode pieces.

In an exemplary embodiment, the right-inclined parallelogrammic electrode piece and the left-inclined parallelogrammic electrode piece may be alternately arranged in a longitudinal direction of the first sub-pixel electrode and the second sub-pixel electrode.

In an exemplary embodiment, an area of the second sub-pixel electrode may be larger than an area of the first sub-pixel electrode.

In an exemplary embodiment, a voltage of the first sub-pixel electrode may be different from a voltage of the second sub-pixel electrode.

In an exemplary embodiment, the liquid crystal display may further include a first thin film transistor connected to the first sub-pixel electrode, a second thin film transistor connected to the second sub-pixel electrode, a first gate line connected to the first thin film transistor, a second gate line connected to the second thin film transistor, and a data line connected to the first and second thin film transistors and intersecting the first and second gate lines.

In an exemplary embodiment, the first and second thin film transistors may be turned on in response to signals from the first and second gate lines and may transmit signals from the data line, respectively.

In an exemplary embodiment, the liquid crystal display may further include an organic layer formed between the data line and the pixel electrodes.

In an exemplary embodiment, a ratio of a width L of the protruded portion and a distance S between two neighboring edges of two adjacent protrusions may be different from one another according to a position of the pixel electrode.

In an exemplary embodiment, the liquid crystal display may further include a tilt direction determining member formed in the common electrode.

In an exemplary embodiment, the tilt direction determining member may include a cutout including an oblique portion.

In an exemplary embodiment, the protruded portion may be rectangular.

An exemplary embodiment provides a liquid crystal display including a substrate, a plurality of pixel electrodes formed on the substrate, a common electrode facing the pixel electrodes, and a liquid crystal layer interposed between the pixel electrodes and the common electrode. Each of the pixel electrodes includes a first and a second sub-pixel electrode. At least one of the first and second sub-pixel electrodes includes at least an edge having protruded and depressed portions.

In an exemplary embodiment, a width L of the protruded portion, a distance S between two neighboring edges of two adjacent protrusions, and a thickness d of the liquid crystal layer may satisfy the following relation: $S+L \leq 2d$

In an exemplary embodiment, an area of the protruded and depressed portions may be smaller than a half of the entire area of the pixel electrode.

An exemplary embodiment provides method of manufacturing a liquid crystal display. The method includes forming a plurality of pixel electrodes on a substrate, disposing a common electrode facing the plurality of pixel electrodes and interposing a liquid crystal layer between the pixel electrodes and the common electrode. The forming a plurality of pixel electrodes includes forming an oblique edge including a plurality of protruded and depressed portions on each pixel electrode.

An exemplary embodiment provides a method of forming manufacturing a liquid crystal display. The method includes forming a plurality of pixel electrodes on a substrate, disposing a common electrode facing the pixel electrodes and interposing a liquid crystal layer between the pixel electrodes and the common electrode. Each of the pixel electrodes including a first sub-pixel electrode and a second sub-pixel electrode. The forming a plurality of pixel electrodes includes forming an oblique edge including a plurality of protruded and depressed portions on one of the first sub-pixel electrode and the second sub-pixel electrode.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an exemplary embodiment of an LCD according to present invention;

FIG. 2 is an equivalent circuit diagram of an exemplary embodiment of two sub-pixels of an LCD according to the present invention;

FIG. 3 is an equivalent circuit diagram of an exemplary embodiment of an LC panel assembly according to the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a layout view of an exemplary embodiment of an LC panel assembly according to the present invention;

FIG. 5 and FIG. 6 are cross-sectional views of the LC panel assembly illustrated in FIG. 4 taken along line V-V and line VI-VI, respectively;

FIG. 7 is a layout view of an exemplary embodiment of a pixel electrode and a common electrode of an LC panel assembly according to the present invention;

FIG. 8A to FIG. 8C are top plane views of an exemplary embodiment of an electrode piece which is a base unit of each sub-pixel electrode illustrated in FIG. 7;

FIG. 9 is a top plane view illustrating an exemplary embodiment of a portion of the LC panel assembly shown in FIG. 4;

FIG. 10 is a cross-sectional view roughly illustrating the LC panel assembly shown in FIG. 9 taken along the line X-X;

FIG. 11 is a top plane view illustrating an exemplary embodiment of a portion of a pixel electrode of an LCD according to the present invention;

FIG. 12 is a graph illustrating conditions of exemplary embodiments of LCDs according to the present invention;

FIG. 13 is a graph illustrating examined luminance, response time, and mouse dragging of exemplary embodiments of LCDs described in FIG. 12 according to the present invention;

FIG. 14 to FIG. 17 are graphs illustrating transmittances examined according to various conditions of exemplary embodiments of an LCD according to the present invention;

FIG. 18A is a graph illustrating a response speed of an LCD according to the prior art;

FIG. 18B is a graph illustrating a response speed of an exemplary embodiment of an LCD according to the present invention;

FIG. 19A is a drawing illustrating an operation of an LCD according to the prior art; and

FIG. 19B is a drawing illustrating an operation of an exemplary embodiment of an LCD according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

An exemplary embodiment of the present invention will hereinafter be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

The present invention will be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which preferred embodiments of the invention are shown. As those skilled in the art would realize, the described embodiments may be modified in various different ways, all without departing from the spirit or scope of the present invention.

In the drawings, the thickness of layers, films, panels, regions, etc., are exaggerated for clarity. Like reference numerals designate like elements throughout the specification. It will be understood that when an element such as a layer, film, region, or substrate is referred to as being "on" or "mounted to" another element, it can be directly on the other element or intervening elements may also be present. In contrast, when an element is referred to as being "directly on" or "directly mounted to" another element there are no intervening elements present. Like numbers refer to like elements throughout. As used herein, the term "and/or" includes any and all combinations of one or more of the associated listed items.

It will be understood that, although the terms first, second, third, etc., may be used herein to describe various elements, components, regions, layers and/or sections, these elements, components, regions, layers and/or sections should not be limited by these terms. These terms are only used to distinguish one element, component, region, layer or section from another region, layer or section. Thus, a first element, component, region, layer or section discussed below could be termed a second element component, region, layer or section without departing from the teachings of the present invention.

Spatially relative terms, such as "below", "lower", "under", "above", "upper" and the like, may be used herein for ease of description to describe the relationship of one element or feature to another element(s) or feature(s) as illustrated in the figures. It will be understood that the spatially relative terms are intended to encompass different orientations of the device in use or operation, in addition to the orientation depicted in the figures. For example, if the device in the figures is turned

over, elements described as “below” or “beneath” relative to other elements or features would then be oriented “above” relative to the other elements or features. Thus, the exemplary term “below” can encompass both an orientation of above and below. The device may be otherwise oriented (rotated 90 degrees or at other orientations) and the spatially relative descriptors used herein interpreted accordingly.

The terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only and is not intended to be limiting of the invention. As used herein, the singular forms “a”, “an” and “the” are intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. It will be further understood that the terms “comprises” and/or “comprising,” when used in this specification, specify the presence of stated features, integers, steps, operations, elements, and/or components, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, operations, elements, components, and/or groups thereof.

Embodiments of the invention are described herein with reference to cross-section illustrations that are schematic illustrations of idealized embodiments (and intermediate structures) of the invention. As such, variations from the shapes of the illustrations as a result, for example, of manufacturing techniques and/or tolerances, are to be expected. Thus, embodiments of the invention should not be construed as limited to the particular shapes of regions illustrated herein but are to include deviations in shapes that result, for example, from manufacturing.

For example, an implanted region illustrated as a rectangle will, typically, have rounded or curved features and/or a gradient of implant concentration at its edges rather than a binary change from implanted to non-implanted region. Likewise, a buried region formed by implantation may result in some implantation in the region between the buried region and the surface through which the implantation takes place. Thus, the regions illustrated in the figures are schematic in nature and their shapes are not intended to illustrate the actual shape of a region of a device and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention.

Unless otherwise defined, all terms (including technical and scientific terms) used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this invention belongs. It will be further understood that terms, such as those defined in commonly used dictionaries, should be interpreted as having a meaning that is consistent with their meaning in the context of the relevant art and will not be interpreted in an idealized or overly formal sense unless expressly so defined herein.

All methods described herein can be performed in a suitable order unless otherwise indicated herein or otherwise clearly contradicted by context. The use of any and all examples, or exemplary language (e.g., “such as”), is intended merely to better illustrate the invention and does not pose a limitation on the scope of the invention unless otherwise claimed. No language in the specification should be construed as indicating any non-claimed element as essential to the practice of the invention as used herein.

Hereinafter, the present invention will be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Now, LCDs according to embodiments of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

An LCD according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to FIG. 1 and FIG. 2.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an exemplary embodiment of an LCD according to the present invention, and FIG. 2 is an

equivalent circuit diagram of an exemplary embodiment of a pixel of an LCD according to the present invention. As shown in FIG. 1, an LCD includes a liquid crystal panel assembly **300**, a gate driver **400** and a data driver **500** that are connected to the liquid crystal panel assembly **300**, a gray voltage generator **800** connected to the data driver **500**, and a signal controller **600** for controlling the above elements.

The liquid crystal panel assembly **300** includes a plurality of signal lines G_1 - G_m and D_1 - D_m , and a plurality of pixels PX connected to the signal lines and arranged substantially in a matrix, as seen in the equivalent circuit diagram. The liquid crystal panel assembly **300** includes lower and upper panels **100** and **200** that face each other with a liquid crystal layer **3** interposed therebetween, in a structural view shown in FIG. 2.

The signal lines G_1 - G_m and D_1 - D_m include a plurality of gate lines G_1 - G_n for transmitting gate signals (also referred to as “scanning signals”) and a plurality of data lines D_1 - D_m for transmitting data signals. The gate lines G_1 - G_n extend substantially in a row direction and substantially parallel to each other, and the data lines D_1 - D_m extend substantially in a column direction and substantially parallel to each other.

Each pixel PX includes a pair of sub-pixels, and each sub-pixel includes an LC capacitor C_{la} or C_{lb}. At least one of the two sub-pixels includes a switching element (not shown) connected to a gate line, a data line, and an LC capacitor C_{la} or C_{lb}.

The LC capacitor C_{la}/C_{lb} includes a sub-pixel electrode PE_a/PE_b provided on a lower panel **100** and a common electrode CE provided on the upper panel **200** as two terminals, and the LC layer **3** disposed between the sub-pixel electrode PE_a/PE_b. The common electrode CE functions as a dielectric of the LC capacitor C_{la}/C_{lb}. The sub-pixel electrodes PE_a and PE_b are separated from each other and form a pixel electrode PE as a pair. The common electrode CE covers an entire surface of the upper panel **200** and supplied with a common voltage V_{com}. The LC layer **3** has negative dielectric anisotropy, and the LC molecules in the LC layer **3** may be oriented so that their long axes are substantially perpendicular to the surfaces of the two panels in the absence of an electric field.

In order to implement color display, each pixel PX displays one of primary colors (spatial division) or each pixel PX sequentially displays the primary colors in turn (temporal division) such that the spatial or temporal sum of the primary colors are recognized as a desired color. The primary colors may include red, green, and blue colors. FIG. 2 shows an exemplary embodiment of the spatial division in which each pixel PX includes a color filter CF representing one of the primary colors in an area of the upper panel **200**. Unlike FIG. 2, in an alternative exemplary embodiment, the color filter CF may be provided on or under the sub-pixel electrode PE_a/PE_b provided on the lower panel **100**.

In exemplary embodiments, a pair of polarizers (not shown) are provided on the outer surface of the panels **100** and **200**, and the polarization axes of two polarizers may be perpendicular to each other. One of the two polarizers may be omitted when the LCD is a reflective LCD. In the case of perpendicular polarizers, light that is incident into the LC layer **3** in the absence of an electric field cannot pass through the polarizer.

Referring to FIG. 1 again, the gray voltage generator **800** generates a plurality of gray voltages (or reference gray voltages) related to the transmittance of the pixels PX. The gray voltage generator **800** may generate only a given number of gray voltages (referred to as reference gray voltages) instead of generating all of the gray voltages.

The gate driver **400** is connected to the gate lines G_1 - G_n of the LC panel assembly **300** and synthesizes a gate-on voltage V_{on} and a gate-off voltage V_{off} to generate gate signals V_g , which are applied to the gate lines G_1 - G_n .

The data driver **500** is connected to the data lines D_1 - D_m of the LC panel assembly **300** and selects the gray voltages supplied from the gray voltage generator **800** and then applies the selected gray voltage to the data lines D_1 - D_m as data signals. When the gray voltage generator **800** generates only reference gray voltages of a predetermined number rather than supplying voltages for all grays, the data driver **500** divides the reference gray voltages to generate gray voltages for all grays, from which data signals are selected.

The signal controller **600** controls the gate driver **400** and the data driver **500**.

In exemplary embodiments, the drivers **400**, **500**, **600** and/or **800** may be directly mounted on the LC panel assembly **300** in the form of at least one integrated circuit ("IC") chip. Alternatively, the drivers **400**, **500**, **600** and/or **800** may be mounted on a flexible printed circuit film (not shown) of a tape carrier package ("TCP") type which is attached to the LC panel assembly **300**. Alternatively, the drivers **400**, **500**, **600** and/or **800** may be mounted on a separate printed circuit board (not shown). Alternatively, the drivers **400**, **500**, **600** and/or **800** may be integrated into the LC panel assembly **300**. Alternatively, the drivers **400**, **500**, **600** and/or **800** may be integrated into a single chip where at least one of the drivers **400**, **500**, **600** and **800** or at least one circuit element forming them may be located outside of the single chip. As used herein, "integrated" is used to indicate formed to be a single unit or piece rather than combining separate elements.

An exemplary embodiment of an LC panel assembly according to the present invention will now be described in detail with reference to FIG. 3 to FIG. 8, along with FIG. 1 and FIG. 2 described above.

FIG. 3 is an exemplary embodiment of an equivalent circuit diagram of a pixel of an LC panel assembly according to the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 3, an LCD panel assembly includes signal lines including a plurality of pairs of gate lines GL_a and GL_b , a plurality of data lines DL , a plurality of storage electrode lines SL and a plurality of pixels PX connected to the signal lines.

Each pixel PX includes a pair of sub-pixels PX_a and PX_b . Each sub-pixel corresponding gate line GL_a/GL_b and a data line DL , an LC capacitor $CLca/CLcb$ connected to the switching element Qa/Qb , and a storage capacitor $Csta/Cstb$ connected to the switching element Qa/Qb and the storage electrode line SL .

In the illustrated embodiment, each switching element Qa/Qb including a thin film transistor ("TFT"), is a three-terminal element provided on the lower panel **100**. The switching element Qa/Qb has a control terminal connected to a gate line GL_a/GL_b , an input terminal connected to a data line DL , and an output terminal connected to an LC capacitor $CLca/CLcb$ and a storage capacitor $Csta/Cstb$.

The storage capacitor $Csta/Cstb$, functioning as an auxiliary capacitor for the LC capacitor $CLca/CLcb$, is formed by overlapping a storage electrode line SL provided on the lower panel **100** with a sub-pixel electrode PEa/PEb via an insulator disposed therebetween. The storage electrode line SL is supplied with a predetermined voltage such as the common voltage V_{com} . Alternatively, the storage capacitors $Csta$ and $Cstb$ may be formed by overlapping of the sub-pixel electrodes PEa and PEb with a previous gate line right above (e.g., adjacent to) them via an insulator.

A detailed description of the LC capacitors $CLca$ and $CLcb$, which were described above, will be omitted for brevity.

In an LCD including the illustrated embodiment of the LC panel assembly, the signal controller **600** may receive input image signals R , G , and B for a pixel PX and convert them into output image signals DAT for two sub-pixels PX_a and PX_b . The output image signals DAT are transmitted to the data driver **500**. Separate sets of gray voltages for the two sub-pixels PX_a and PX_b may be generated by the gray voltage generator **800**, the sets of gray voltages being alternately applied to the data driver **500** or alternately selected by the data driver **500**, thereby applying different voltages to the two sub-pixels PX_a and PX_b .

In exemplary embodiments, the image signals are compensated or sets of gray voltages are generated such that the synthesized gamma curve of the two sub-pixels PX_a and PX_b is close to the reference gamma curve at front view. In one exemplary embodiment, the synthesized gamma curve at front view is made to accord with the reference gamma curve at front view which is determined to be the most appropriate for the LC panel assembly, and the lateral synthesized gamma curve is made to be most similar to the reference gamma curve at front view.

An exemplary embodiment of the LC panel assembly illustrated in FIG. 3 will be described in detail with reference to FIG. 4 to FIG. 6 along with FIG. 3 described above.

FIG. 4 is an exemplary embodiment of a layout view of an LC panel assembly according to the present invention, and FIG. 5 and FIG. 6 are exemplary embodiments of cross-sectional views of the LC panel assembly illustrated in FIG. 4 taken along line V-V and line VI-VI, respectively.

Referring to FIG. 4 and FIG. 5, the LC panel assembly includes a lower panel **100** and an upper panel **200** opposing each other with an LC layer **3** interposed between the two panels **100** and **200**.

First, the lower panel **100** will be described in detail.

A plurality of gate conductors including a plurality of pairs of first and second gate lines $121a$ and $121b$ and a plurality of pairs of first and second storage electrode lines $131a$ and $131b$ are formed on an insulating substrate **110**. The substrate **100** may be made of transparent glass or plastic.

The first and second gate lines $121a$ and $121b$ for transmitting gate signals extend substantially in a transverse direction and are disposed in an upper position and a lower position, respectively.

Each of the first gate lines $121a$ includes a plurality of first gate electrodes $124a$ protruding upward and an end portion $129a$ having a relatively large area for connection with another layer or the gate driver **400**. Each of the second gate lines $121b$ includes a plurality of second gate electrodes $124b$ protruding downward and an end portion $129b$ having a relatively large area for connection with another layer or the gate driver **400**. In exemplary embodiments when the gate driver **400** is integrated into the substrate **110**, the gate lines $121a$ and $121b$ may be extended to be directly connected to the gate driver **400**.

The storage electrode lines $131a$ and $131b$ supplied with a predetermined voltage such as a common voltage V_{com} extend substantially in the transverse direction. The first and second storage electrode lines $131a$ and $131b$ are disposed between the first gate line $121a$ and the second gate line $121b$.

Each storage electrode line $131a$ and $131b$ includes a plurality of pairs of first and second storage electrodes $137a$ and $137b$ extending downward and upward, respectively. However, the shapes and arrangements of the storage electrode lines 131 including the storage electrodes $137a$ and $137b$ may be modified in various ways.

In exemplary embodiments, the gate conductors **121a**, **121b**, **131a** and **131b** may be made of an aluminum (Al) containing metal such as Al and an Al alloy, a silver (Ag) containing metal such as Ag and a Ag alloy, a copper (Cu) containing metal such as Cu and a Cu alloy, a molybdenum (Mo) containing metal such as Mo and a Mo alloy, chromium (Cr), tantalum (Ta), and titanium (Ti). Alternatively, the gate conductors **121a**, **124b**, **131a**, and **131b** may have a multi-layered structure including two conductive layers (not shown) having different physical properties. In one exemplary embodiment, one of the two conductive layers may be made of a low resistivity metal such as an Al-containing metal an Ag-containing metal, or a Cu-containing metal for reducing signal delay or voltage drop. The other conductive layer may be made of a material such as a Mo-containing metal, Cr, Ti, and Ta, which has good physical, chemical, and electrical contact characteristics with other materials such as indium tin oxide ("ITO") or indium zinc oxide ("IZO"). Exemplary embodiments of the combination of two layers include, but are not limited to, a pair of a lower Cr layer and an upper Al (alloy) layer and a pair of a lower Al (alloy) layer and an upper Mo (alloy) layer. However, the gate conductors **121a**, **121b**, **131a**, and **131b** may be made of many various metals or conductors besides the above.

Lateral sides of the gate conductors **121a**, **121b**, **131a** and/or **131b** may be inclined relative to an upper (e.g., horizontal) surface of the substrate **110**. An inclination angle of the gate conductors **121a**, **121b**, **131a** and/or **131b** may range from about 30 degrees to about 80 degrees.

A gate insulating layer **140** is formed on the gate conductors **121a**, **121b**, **131a** and **131b**. The gate insulating layer **140** may be made of silicon nitride (SiNx) or silicon oxide (SiOx).

A plurality of first and second semiconductor islands **154a** and **154b** are formed on the gate insulating layer **140**. The first and the second semiconductors **154a** and **154b** are disposed on the first and second gate electrodes **124a** and **124b**, respectively. The first and second semiconductor islands **154a** and **154b** may be made of hydrogenated amorphous silicon (abbreviated to "a-Si") or polysilicon.

A pair of ohmic contact islands **163b** and **165b** are formed on each of the first semiconductor islands **154a**, and a pair of ohmic contact islands (not shown) is also formed on each of the second semiconductor islands **154b**. The ohmic contacts **163b** and **165b** may be made of n+ hydrogenated a-Si heavily doped with an n-type impurity such as phosphorus (P), or of silicide.

Lateral sides of the semiconductors **154a** and **154b** and the ohmic contacts **163b** and **165b** may be inclined relative to the upper surface of the substrate **110**. Inclination angle of the lateral sides of the semiconductors **154a** and **154b** and the ohmic contacts **163b** and **165b** may range from about 30 degrees to about 80 degrees.

A plurality of data conductors including a plurality of data lines **171** and a plurality of pairs of first and second drain electrodes **175a** and **175b** are formed on the ohmic contacts **163b** and **165b** and the gate insulating layer **140**.

The data lines **171** transmitting data signals extend substantially in a longitudinal direction and intersect the gate lines **121a** and **121b** and the storage electrode lines **131a** and **131b**. As illustrated in FIG. 4, each data line **171** is not a straight line over all and it is curved (e.g., bends) at least twice.

Each data line **171** includes a plurality of pairs of first and second source electrodes **173a** and **173b** branched out toward the first and second gate electrodes **124a** and **124b**, respectively. An end portion **179** of data line **171** has a relatively large area for connection with another layer or the data driver

500. When the data driver **500** is integrated into the substrate **110**, the data lines **171** may be extended to be directly connected to it.

The first and second drain electrodes **175a** and **175b** are separated from each other and also separated from the data lines **171**.

The first/second drain electrode **175a/175b** opposes the first/second source electrode **173a/173b** with respect to the first/second gate electrode **124a/124b** and includes an end portion **177a/177b** having a large area and a stick-shaped end portion. The end portions **177a** and **177b** having a relatively large area overlapping the first and second storage electrodes **137a** and **137b**, respectively, the stick-shaped end portions **177a** and **177b** are partially surrounded by the first and second curved source electrodes **173a** and **173b**.

The first/second gate electrode **124a/124b**, the first/second source electrode **173a/173b**, and the first/second drain electrode **175a/175b**, along with the first/second semiconductor **154a/154b**, form the first/second TFT Qa/Qb. The first/second TFT Qa/Qb includes a channel formed in the first/second semiconductor **154a/154b** disposed between the first/second source electrode **173a/173b** and the first/second drain electrode **175a/175b**.

In an exemplary embodiment, the data conductors **171**, **175a**, and **175b** may be made of a refractory metal such as Mo, Cr, Ta, and Ti or an alloy thereof. The data line **171** and the drain electrode **175** may have a multi-layered structure including a refractory metal layer (not shown) and a conductive layer (not shown) having low resistivity. One exemplary embodiment of the multi-layered structure includes double layers of a lower Cr or Mo (alloy) layer and an upper Al (alloy) layer, and triple layers of a lower Mo (alloy) layer, an intermediate Al (alloy) layer, and an upper Mo (alloy) layer. However, the data conductors **171**, **175a** and **175b** may be made of many various metals or conductive materials besides the above.

Lateral sides of the data conductors **171**, **175a**, and **175b** may be inclined relative to the upper surface of the substrate **110**. Inclination angles of the lateral sides of the data conductors **171**, **175a**, and **175b** may range from about 30 degrees to about 80 degrees.

The ohmic contacts **163b** and **165b** are interposed only between the underlying semiconductors **154a** and **154b** and the overlying data conductors **171**, **175a**, and **175b** and reduce the contact resistance therebetween. The semiconductors **154a** and **154b** include exposed portions that are not covered with the data conductors **171**, **175a**, and **175b**, such as portions located between the source electrodes **173a** and **173b** and the drain electrodes **175a** and **175b**.

A passivation layer **180** is formed on the data conductors **171**, **175a**, **175b** and the exposed portions of the semiconductors **154a** and **154b**. The passivation layer **180** may be made of an inorganic insulator or an organic insulator. An upper surface of the passivation layer **180** may be substantially flat (e.g., parallel to the upper surface of the substrate **110**). In exemplary embodiments, the organic insulator may have photosensitivity and/or a dielectric constant of less than about 4.0. Alternatively, the passivation layer **180** may have a double-layered structure including a lower inorganic layer and an upper organic layer in order not to harm the exposed portions of the semiconductors **154a** and **154b** and to make the most of the favorable insulating characteristics of the organic layer.

The passivation layer **180** has a plurality of contact holes **182**, **185a**, and **185b** respectively exposing the end portions **179** of the data lines **171** and the large end portions **177a** and **177b** of the first and second drain electrodes **175a** and **175b**.

The passivation layer **180** and the gate insulating layer **140** have a plurality of contact holes **181a** and **181b** respectively exposing the end portions **129a** and **129b** of the gate lines **121a** and **121b**.

A plurality of pixel electrodes **191** and a plurality of contact assistants **81a**, **81b**, and **82** are formed on the passivation layer **180**. The contact assistants **81a**, **81b**, and **82** may be made of a transparent conductor such as ITO or IZO, or a reflective metal such as Al, Ag, Cr, or an alloy thereof.

Each pixel electrode **191** includes a pair of first and second sub-pixel electrodes **191a** and **191b** that are separated from each other.

Each of the first sub-pixel electrodes **191a** is connected to a respective first drain electrode **175a** through the contact hole **185a**, and each of the second sub-pixel electrodes **191b** is connected to a respective second drain electrode **175b** through the contact hole **185b**.

The pixel electrodes **191** overlap the data lines **171** with the passivation layer **180** interposed therebetween. Each data line **171** overlaps every adjacent pair of pixel electrodes **191**. The data line **171** is curved or bent several times rather than being in a substantially straight longitudinal line in order to overlap both of a self pixel electrode **191** connected to the data line **171** through the first TFT and an adjacent pixel electrode **191** which is adjacent to the self pixel electrode **191**.

A detailed structure of an exemplary embodiment of a pixel electrode of the LC panel assembly will now be described in detail with reference to FIG. 7, FIG. 8A, FIG. 8B, FIG. 8C, FIG. 9, FIG. 10, and FIG. 11.

FIG. 7 is a rough layout view of an exemplary embodiment of a pixel electrode and a common electrode of an LC panel assembly according to the present invention, FIG. 8A to FIG. 8C are top plane views of an exemplary embodiment of an electrode piece that is a base unit of each sub-pixel electrode illustrated in FIG. 7, FIG. 9 is a top plane view illustrating an exemplary embodiment of a portion of the LC panel assembly shown in FIG. 4, FIG. 10 is a cross-sectional view roughly illustrating the LC panel assembly shown in FIG. 9 taken along line X-X and FIG. 11 is a top plane view illustrating an exemplary embodiment of a portion of a pixel electrode of an LCD according to the present invention.

As shown in FIG. 7, each pixel electrode **191** of an LC panel assembly includes a pair of first and second sub-pixel electrodes **191a** and **191b** that are separated from each other. The first sub-pixel electrode **191a** and the second sub-pixel electrode **191b** are adjacent to each other in the row (e.g., transverse) direction, and include cutouts **91a** and **91b**. The common electrode (**270**, refer to FIGS. 2 and 5) includes cutouts **71a** and **71b** opposing (e.g., facing) the first and second sub-pixel electrodes **191a** and **191b**. As shown in FIG. 4 and FIG. 9, a plurality of protruded and depressed portions **193** are formed around the edges of the first and second sub-pixel electrodes **191a** and **191b**. However, for convenience sake, the protruded and depressed portions **193** are omitted in FIG. 7 to FIG. 8C that will be described hereinafter, and will be described afterwards.

Each of the first and second sub-pixel electrodes **191a** and **191b** includes at least one parallelogrammic electrode piece **196** illustrated in FIG. 8A and one parallelogrammic electrode piece **197** illustrated in FIG. 8B. The electrode pieces **196** and **197** illustrated in FIG. 8A and FIG. 8B are connected to form a base electrode **198** shown in FIG. 8C. Each sub-pixel electrode **191a** and **191b** has a structure on based on forming the base electrode **198**.

As shown in FIG. 8A and FIG. 8B, each of the electrode pieces **196** and **197** has a pair of oblique edges **196o** and **197o** and a pair of transverse edges **196t** and **197t**, and substantially

has a shape of a parallelogram. Each oblique edge **196o** and **197o** forms an oblique angle with the transverse edges **196t** and **197t**. The oblique angle ranges from about 45 degrees to about 135 degrees. Hereinafter, for convenience sake, the shape of the electrode piece **196** and **197** is classified according to the direction of inclination ("inclination direction") from a perpendicular state with respect to the transverse edges **196t** and **197t**, and it is referred to as "right-inclined" when the inclination direction is rightward as shown in FIG. 8A and as "left-inclined" when the inclination direction is leftward as shown in FIG. 8B.

A length of the transverse edges **196t** and **197t** of the electrode pieces **196** and **197**, e.g., a width W, and a distance between the outer transverse edges **196t** and **197t**, e.g., a height H, may be vary in accordance with the overall size of the LC panel assembly **300**. The transverse edges **196t** and **197t** of each electrode piece **196** and **197** may be modified, such as curved or projected, in consideration of a relationship with other parts. Such a modification may be included when referring to a parallelogram hereinafter.

The common electrode **270** includes cutouts **61** and **62** opposing (e.g., facing) the electrode pieces **196** and **197**. The electrode pieces **196** and **197** are partitioned into two sub-regions S1 and S2 with respect to the cutouts **61** and **62**. The cutout **61/62** has at least one notch. The cutout **61/62** includes an oblique portion **61o/62o** substantially parallel with the oblique edges **196o** and **197o** of the electrode pieces **196** and **197**. Transverse portions of the cutout **61/62** form obtuse angles with respect to the oblique portion **61o/62o** and overlap the transverse edges **196t** and **197t** of the electrode pieces **196** and **197**, respectively.

Each sub-region S1 and S2 of the electrode pieces **196** and **197** includes two primary edges defined by the oblique portions **61o** and **62o** of the cutouts **61** and **62** and the oblique edges **196t** and **197t** of the electrode pieces **196** and **197**. A distance between the primary edges taken in a direction substantially parallel to transverse edges **61t** and **62t**, e.g., a width of a sub-region, may be about 25 micrometers (μm) to about 40 micrometers (μm).

The base electrode **198** illustrated in FIG. 8C is formed by combining a right-inclined electrode piece **196** and a left-inclined electrode piece **197**. An angle formed by the right-inclined electrode piece **196** and the left-inclined electrode piece **197** is substantially a right angle. The connection of two electrode pieces **196** and **197** is made only at a portion thereof. The portions of the electrode pieces **196** and **197** that are not connected form a cutout **90** disposed at the concavely curved side of the base electrode **198**. Alternatively, the cutout **90** may be omitted.

The outer transverse edges **196t** and **197t** of two electrode pieces **196** and **197** form transverse edges **198t** of the base electrode **198**. Corresponding oblique edges **196o** and **197o** of two electrode pieces **196** and **197** are connected to each other to form curved edges **198o1** and **198o2** of the base electrode **198**.

The curved edges **198o1** and **198o2** include a convex edge **198o1** meeting and making obtuse angles, such as about 135 degrees, with respect to the transverse edges **198t**. The curved edges **198o1** and **198o2** include a concave edge **198o2** meeting and making acute angles, such as about 45 degrees, with respect to the transverse edges **198t**. A pair of oblique edges **196o** and **197o** meet each other substantially at right angles to form curved edges **198o1** and **198o2** so that the curved angles thereof are substantially right angles.

The cutout **60** of the common electrode **270** extends from the concave vertex CV of the concave edge **198o2** toward the

convex vertex VV of the convex edge 198o1 substantially up to a middle of the base electrode 198, (e.g., the middle taken in a transverse direction).

Cutouts 61 and 62 of the common electrode 270 are connected to each other to form a cutout 60. As illustrated in FIG. 8C, the overlapped transverse portions 61t and 62t of the cutouts 61 and 62 are combined to form a transverse portion 60t1. This new cutout 60 may be described as follows.

The cutout 60 includes a curved portion 60o having a curve point CP, a middle transverse portion 60t1 connected to the curve point CP of the curved portion 60o, and a pair of terminal transverse portions 60t2 connected to the respective ends of the curved portion 60o. The curved portion 60o of the cutout 60 has a pair of oblique portions meeting each other at a right angle. The curved portion 60o is substantially parallel to the curved edges 198o1 and 198o2 of the base electrode 198 and bisects the base electrode 198 into left and right halves. The middle transverse portion 60t1 of the cutout 60 makes an obtuse angle, such as about 135 degrees, with the curved portion 60o and extends substantially toward the convex vertex VV of the base electrode 198. The terminal transverse portions 60t2 are aligned with the transverse edges 198t of the base electrode 198 and make obtuse angles, such as about 135 degrees, with the curved portion 60o.

The base electrode 198 and the cutout 60 of the common electrode 270 substantially have inversion symmetry with respect to the imaginary straight line (hereinafter referred to as a "transverse center-line") connecting the convex vertex VV and the concave vertex CV of the base electrode 198.

In a pixel electrode 191 illustrated in FIGS. 4 and 7, the size (e.g., an area in a plane view) of the first sub-pixel electrode 191a is smaller than the size of the second sub-pixel electrode 191b. A height (e.g., taken in a longitudinal direction) of the second sub-pixel electrode 191b is greater than a height of the first sub-pixel electrode 191a. Widths (e.g., taken in a transverse direction) of the two sub-pixel electrodes 191a and 191b are substantially the same. The number of electrode pieces of the second sub-pixel electrode 191b is greater than the number of electrode pieces of the first sub-pixel electrode 191b.

Referring to FIG. 7, the first sub-pixel electrode 191a includes a left-inclined electrode piece 197 and a right-inclined electrode piece 196, and has substantially the same structure as the base electrode 198 illustrated in FIG. 8C.

The second sub-pixel electrode 191b is formed by combination of two or more left-inclined electrode pieces 197 and two or more right-inclined electrode pieces 196, and includes a base electrode 198 illustrated in FIG. 8C and left-inclined and right-inclined electrode pieces 196 and 197 combined with the base electrode 198.

The second sub-pixel electrode 191b illustrated in FIG. 7 includes a total of six electrode pieces 191b1-191b6, two of the electrode pieces, 191b5 and 191b6, that are disposed above and below (e.g., taken in a plane view) the first sub-pixel electrode 191a. The pixel electrode 191b has a structure that is curved three times, which is advantageous for displaying vertical lines compared to a structure that is curved once. Moreover, since the transverse portions 61t and 62t of the cutouts 61 and 62 of the common electrode 270 are combined at the place where the electrode pieces 191a1 and 191a2 of the first sub-pixel electrode 191a and the electrode pieces 191b5 and 191b6 of the second sub-pixel electrode 191b are adjacent to each other to form a transverse portion, the aperture ratio is further increased.

A height H (e.g., taken in a longitudinal direction) of the electrode pieces 191a1, 191a2, 191b1, and 191b2 disposed in the middle is different from the height of the electrode pieces

191b3-191b6 disposed above and below the electrode pieces 191a1, 191a2, 191b1, and 191b2. In one exemplary embodiment the height of the upper and lower electrode pieces 191b3-191b6 is about half of the height of the middle electrode pieces 191a1, 191a2, 191b1, and 191b2. Accordingly, the area ratio of the first sub-pixel electrode 191a to the second sub-pixel electrode 191b becomes about 1:2. Advantageously, a desired area ratio can be obtained by regulating the height of the upper and lower electrode pieces 191b3-191b6. In exemplary embodiments, the area ratio ranges from about 1:1.1 to about 1:3.

In FIG. 7, a positional relationship and the curved direction of the first and the second sub-pixel electrodes 191a and 191b may be modified. The pixel electrode 191 in FIG. 9 may be modified through inversion symmetrical transformation up and down or right and left, or through rotational transformation.

Referring to FIG. 9 to FIG. 11, a major edge 194 of a pixel electrode 191 of an LC panel assembly includes a first envelope EN1 and a second envelope EN2. Protuded and depressed portions 193, including a plurality of protrusions 195, are formed between the first and second envelopes EN1 and EN2 of the pixel electrode 191.

Each protrusion 195 includes a first edge 195e connecting the first and second envelopes EN1 and EN2 and a second edge 195f/perpendicular to the first edge 195e. The protrusion 195 substantially has a rectangular shape.

In FIG. 11, a length of the first edge 195e is denoted by F and a length of the second edge 195f is denoted by L. The relation between the length L of the second edge 195f and a distance S between two neighboring (e.g., adjacent) edges of two neighboring protrusions 195 among the plurality of protrusions 195 is given by the following equation.

$$L+S \leq 2d \quad (\text{Equation 1})$$

Here, d represents the thickness (e.g., taken substantially perpendicular to an upper surface of the lower panel, as illustrated in FIG. 10) of the LC layer 3.

The distance S between two neighboring edges of two neighboring protrusions 195 among the plurality of protrusions 195, and the length L of the second edge 195f may be different from each other. In exemplary embodiments, S is greater than L.

To ensure a sufficient aperture ratio of an LCD, an entire area of the protruded and depressed portions 193, that is the sum of the areas of the plurality of protrusions 195, may be less than 50% of the area of the entire pixel electrode 191.

Referring to FIG. 9, the first edges 195e of a plurality of protrusions 195a and 195b are parallel to each other at most places of the pixel electrode 191, while tilt directions of the protrusions 195c and 195d may be varied in the vicinity BA where the inclination directions of the parallelogrammic electrode pieces forming the pixel electrode 191 are changed. The LC molecules can be oriented naturally even in the vicinity BA of the places where the inclination directions of the parallelogrammic electrode pieces forming the pixel electrode 191 are changed.

The ratio between the distance S between two neighboring edges of two neighboring protrusions 195 among the plurality of protrusions 195, and the length L of the second edge 195b may be varied depending on the position of a pixel electrode 191. That is, protruded and depressed portions 193 formed in two electrode pieces having different inclination directions from each other among the parallelogrammic electrode pieces forming a pixel electrode 191 may have different L/S values from each other. Advantageously, bad formation of

patterns due to a possible error occurring during an exposure can be reduced or effectively prevented.

Even though protruded and depressed portions **193** are formed in both of the first and second sub-pixel electrodes **191a** and **191b** as illustrated in FIG. 4 and FIG. 9, the protruded and depressed portions **193** may be formed in only one of the first sub-pixel electrode **191a** and the second sub-pixel electrode **191b**. Advantageously, the protruded and depressed portions **193** may be formed in any one of the sub-pixel electrodes, thereby ensuring relatively high transmittance.

Referring to FIG. 4 to FIG. 6 again, the first/second sub-pixel electrode **191a/191b** and the common electrode **270** provided on the upper panel **200** along with the LC layer **3** disposed therebetween form a first/second LC capacitor **C1ca/C1cb** respectively to store applied voltages even after the TFT **Qa/Qb** is turned off.

A first/second sub-pixel electrode **191a/191b** and a first/second drain electrode **175a/175b** connected thereto overlap a storage electrode **137a/137b** via the gate insulating layer **140** interposed therebetween to form a first/second storage capacitor **Csta/Cstb**, respectively, and the first/second storage capacitor **Csta/Cstb** enhances the voltage storing capacity of the first/second LC capacitor **C1ca/C1cb**.

The contact assistants **81a, 81b**, and **82** are connected to the end portions **129a** and **129b** of the gate lines **121a** and **121b** and the end portion **179** of the data line **171** through the contact holes **181a, 181b**, and **182**, respectively. The contact assistants **81a, 81b**, and **82** supplement adhesion of the end portions **129a** and **129b** of the gate lines **121a** and **121b** and the end portions **179** of the data lines **171** to exterior devices, and protect them.

Next, the description of the upper panel **200** follows.

Referring to FIGS. 2, 5 and 10, a light blocking member **220** is formed on an insulating substrate **210**. The insulating substrate **210** may be made of transparent glass or plastic. The light blocking member **220** includes curved portions facing the curved edges of the pixel electrodes **191** and quadrilateral portions facing the TFTs. The light blocking member **220** defines opening areas opposed to the pixel electrodes **191** and also reduces or effectively prevents the leakage of light between the pixel electrodes **191**.

A plurality of color filters **230** are also formed on the substrate **210** and the light blocking member **220**. The color filters **230** are disposed substantially in the areas enclosed by the light blocking member **220** and may extend in a longitudinal direction substantially along the pixel electrodes **191**. Each of the color filters **230** may represent one of the primary colors such as red, green, and blue colors.

An overcoat **250** is formed on the color filters **230** and the light blocking member **200**. In an exemplary embodiment, the overcoat **250** may be made of an (organic) insulator. The overcoat layer reduces or effectively prevents the color filters **230** from being exposed and also provides a substantially flat (e.g., upper and lower) surface. In an alternative embodiment, the overcoat **250** may be omitted.

The common electrode **270** is formed on the overcoat **250**.

Alignment layers **11** and **21** are coated on inner surfaces of the panels **100** and **200**. The alignment layers may be homeotropic.

Polarizers **12** and **22** are provided on outer surfaces of the panels **100** and **200**. Polarization axes of the polarizers **11** and **22** may be perpendicular to each other, and one of the polarization axes is preferably parallel to the gate lines **121a** and **121b**. In an alternative embodiment, one of the polarizers **12** and **22** may be omitted when the LCD is a reflective LCD.

The LCD may include a backlight unit (not shown) for supplying light to the polarizers **12** and **22**, a retardation film (not shown), the panels **100** and **200**, and the LC layer **3**.

The LC layer **3** is in a state of negative dielectric anisotropy and the LC molecules in the LC layer **3** are aligned such that their long axes are substantially vertical to the surfaces of the panels **100** and **200** in the absence of an electric field.

Now, the operation of the LCD will be described in detail.

Referring again to FIG. 1, the signal controller **600** is supplied with input image signals R, G, and B and input control signals for controlling the display thereof from an external graphics controller (not shown). The input image signals R, G, and B include luminance information of each pixel PX, and the luminance has a predetermined number of, such as, **1024** ($=2^{10}$), **256** ($=2^8$), or **64** ($=2^6$) grays. The input control signals include, but are not limited to, a vertical synchronization signal Vsync, a horizontal synchronization signal Hsync, a main clock signal MCLK, and a data enable signal DE.

On the basis of the input control signals and the input image signals R, G, and B, the signal controller **600** processes the input image signals R, G, and B to be suitable for the operating condition of the LC panel assembly **300** and the data driver **500**, and generates gate control signals **CONT1** and data control signals **CONT2**. Then, the signal controller **600** transmits the gate control signals **CONT1** to the gate driver **400** and transmits the processed image signals **DAT** and the data control signals **CONT2** to the data driver **500**. The output image signals **DAT** are digital signals having a predetermined number of values (or grays).

The gate control signals **CONT1** may include a scanning start signal STV for instructing to start scanning and at least one clock signal for controlling the output time of the gate-on voltage **Von**. The gate control signals **CONT1** may further include an output enable signal **OE** for defining the duration of the gate-on voltage **Von**.

The data control signals **CONT2** may include a horizontal synchronization start signal **STH** for informing a start of image data transmission for a packet of sub-pixels, a load signal **LOAD** for instructing to apply the data signals to the LC panel assembly **300**, and a data clock signal **HCLK**. The data control signal **CONT2** may further include an inversion signal **RVS** for reversing the polarity of the data signals with respect to the common voltage **Vcom** (hereinafter, "polarity of the data signals with respect to the common voltage **Vcom**" is referred to as "polarity of the data signals").

In response to the data control signals **CONT2** from the signal controller **600**, the data driver **500** sequentially receives the digital image signals **DAT** for the packet of sub-pixels, selects gray voltages corresponding to the respective digital image signals **DAT**, converts the digital image signals **DAT** into analog data signals, and applies the analog data signals to the corresponding data lines.

The gate driver **400** applies the gate-on voltage **Von** to the gate lines in response to the gate control signals **CONT1** from the signal controller **600**, thereby turning on the switching elements connected to the gate lines. Then, data signals applied to the data lines are applied to the corresponding sub-pixels through the turned-on switching elements.

Here, the first sub-pixel electrode **191a** and the second sub-pixel electrode **191b** forming a pixel electrode **191** are connected to different switching elements from each other, and the two sub-pixels are supplied with different data voltages through the same data line at a different time from each other. Alternatively, the first sub-pixel electrode **191a** and the second sub-pixel electrode **191b** are connected to different switching elements from each other, and the two sub-pixels

may be supplied with different data voltages through different data lines from each other at the same time. Alternatively, when the first sub-pixel electrode **191a** is connected to a switching element (not shown) and the second sub-pixel electrode **191b** is capacitively coupled to the first sub-pixel electrode **191a**, only the sub-pixel including the first sub-pixel electrode **191a** is supplied with data voltages through the switching element, and the sub-pixel including the second sub-pixel electrode **191b** is supplied with voltages depending on the voltages of the first sub-pixel electrode **191a**. Here, the voltage of the first sub-pixel electrode **191a** having a relatively small area is higher than the voltage of the second sub-pixel electrode **191b** having a relatively large area.

As in the illustrated embodiment, when a potential difference is generated across the first or second LC capacitor **Clc1** or **Clc2**, a primary electric field that is substantially perpendicular to the surfaces of the panels **100** and **200** is generated in the LC layer **3**. Hereinafter, the pixel electrode **191** and the common electrode **270** are jointly referred to as "field generating electrodes". Then, the LC molecules in the LC layer **3** tilt in response to the electric field such that their long axes become perpendicular to the electric field direction, and the degree of the tilt of the LC molecules determines the change of the polarization of incident light onto the LC layer **3**. This change of the light polarization causes a change of light transmittance through the polarizers, and in this way, the LCD displays images.

The tilt angle of the LC molecules depends on the strength of the electric field. Since the voltages of the two LC capacitors **Clca** and **Clcb** are different from each other, the tilt angles of the LC molecules are also different from each other and thus the luminances of the two sub-pixels are different from each other. Therefore, the voltage of the first LC capacitor **Clca** and the voltage of the second LC capacitor **Clcb** can be adjusted so that an image viewed from a lateral side is most similar to an image viewed from the front, that is, the lateral gamma curve can be made to be most similar to the gamma curve at the front, thereby improving the lateral visibility.

Also, when the area of the first sub-pixel electrode **191a** supplied with a higher voltage is formed to be smaller than the area of the second sub-pixel electrode **191b**, the lateral gamma curve can be more similar to the gamma curve at the front. In an exemplary embodiment, when the area ratio of the first to the second sub-pixel electrodes **191a** and **191b** is approximately 1:2 to 1:3, the lateral gamma curve is much more similar to the gamma curve at the front, thereby further improving the lateral visibility.

The edges of the sub-pixel electrodes **191a** and **191b** and the cutouts **71a** and **71b** of the electric field-generating electrodes **191** and **270** distort the primary electric field and give it a horizontal component, which initially determines the tilt directions of the LC molecules. The horizontal component of the primary electric field are perpendicular to the edges of the sub-pixel electrodes **191a** and **191b** and the edges of the cutouts **71a** and **71b**.

Referring again to FIG. 7, since the LC molecules on each sub-region divided by the cutouts **71a** and **71b** substantially tilt vertically to the primary edges, the azimuthal distribution of the tilt directions is localized to four directions. In this way, when tilt directions of the LC molecules are various, the reference viewing angle of the LCD is increased.

Meanwhile, the direction of a secondary electric field that is secondarily generated due to the voltage difference between the sub-pixel electrodes **191a** and **191b** is perpendicular to each of the primary edges of the sub-regions. Accordingly, the direction of the secondary electric field coincides with that of the horizontal component of the pri-

mary electric field. Consequently, the secondary electric field between the sub-pixel electrodes **191a** and **191b** enhances the determination of the tilt directions of the LC molecules.

The further a distance between the cutouts **71a** and **71b** of the common electrode **270** and the major edges **194** of the pixel electrode **191** is, the more the transmittance of the LCD is ensured, while the LC molecules located relatively far from the cutouts **71a** and **71b** or the major edges **194** are hardly affected by the electric field. Advantageously, the motion of the LC molecules responding to the electric field is slowed, and the response speed of the LCD is decreased.

If protruded and depressed portions **193** are formed at the edges of the pixel electrode **191** as in the illustrated exemplary embodiments, the distance between the first envelope **EN1** and the cutout **71** of the common electrode **270** becomes relatively short. Therefore, the LC molecules located between the first envelope **EN1** and the cutout **71** of the common electrode can be relatively easily affected by the electric field generated by the cutout **71** or the major edge **194**. Accordingly, the motion of the LC molecules becomes fast and the response speed is improved. As a distance between the second envelope **EN2** and the cutout **71** of the common electrode is relatively far so as to not contribute to the response speed, the far distance may ensure the area of the pixel electrode **191**.

Advantageously, as in the illustrated embodiments, the transmittance of the LCD can be sufficiently ensured while improving the response speed.

By repeating this procedure by a unit of the horizontal period (which is also denoted as "1H" and is equal to one period of the horizontal synchronization signal **Hsync** and the data enable signal **DE**), all pixels **PX** are supplied with data signals, thereby displaying an image for a frame.

When the next frame starts after one frame is finished, the inversion signal **RVS** applied to the data driver **500** is controlled such that the polarity of the data signals applied to each pixel **PX** is reversed to be opposite to the polarity in the previous frame (which is referred to as "frame inversion"). Here, even during one frame, the polarity of the data signal flowing in a data line may vary in accordance with the characteristics of the inversion signal **RVS** (for example row inversion and dot inversion), or the polarities of the data signals applied to a packet of pixels may be different from each other (for example column inversion and dot inversion).

Now, effects of an exemplary embodiment of an LCD according to the present invention will be described in detail with reference to FIG. 12 to FIG. 19B.

FIG. 12 is a table describing characteristics of LCDs according to various exemplary embodiments of the present invention, and FIG. 13 is a graph illustrating examined luminance, response time, and mouse dragging of LCDs according to the various exemplary embodiments described in FIG. 12.

In exemplary embodiment 1, exemplary embodiment 4, and exemplary embodiment 7, protruded and depressed portions are not formed in the pixel electrode **191**, and the distance **D** between the cutout **71** of the common electrode **270** and the edge of the pixel electrode **191** is changed. That is, **D** is 33 μm , 30 μm , and 27 μm in exemplary embodiment 1, exemplary embodiment 4, and exemplary embodiment 7, respectively.

In exemplary embodiment 2, exemplary embodiment 3, exemplary embodiment 5, exemplary embodiment 6, exemplary embodiment 8, exemplary embodiment 9, exemplary embodiment 11, and exemplary embodiment 12, protruded and depressed portions were formed in the pixel electrode **191** with various conditions. In exemplary embodiment 2, exem-

plary embodiment 3, exemplary embodiment 5, and exemplary embodiment 6, the distance S between neighboring edges of neighboring protrusions 195 is 4 μ m, respectively, and in the exemplary embodiment 8, exemplary embodiment 9, exemplary embodiment 11, and exemplary embodiment 12, the distance L between neighboring edges of neighboring protrusions 195 is 5 μ m, respectively.

In exemplary embodiment 2, exemplary embodiment 6, exemplary embodiment 8, and exemplary embodiment 11, the ratio of the length L of the second edge 195f of the protrusion 195 to the distance S between neighboring edges of two neighboring protrusions 195 is 1.5:1, in exemplary embodiment 3, exemplary embodiment 9, and exemplary embodiment 12, the ratio is 1:1, and in exemplary embodiment 5, the ratio is 2:1.

In exemplary embodiment 2, exemplary embodiment 3, exemplary embodiment 5, exemplary embodiment 8, and exemplary embodiment 9, the ratio of the length F of the first edge 195e of the protrusion 195 to a distance B between the cutout 71 of the common electrode 270 and the first envelope EN1 is 1:1, and in the exemplary embodiment 6, exemplary embodiment 11, and exemplary embodiment 12 the ratio is 1:0.3.

In addition, in exemplary embodiment 5, the shape of the protrusion is triangular, and in the rest of the exemplary embodiments, the shape of the protrusion is rectangular.

In exemplary embodiment 10, protruded and depressed portions 193 are not formed in the first sub-pixel electrode 191a, with D of 33 μ m, and protruded and depressed portions are formed in the second sub-pixel electrode 191b.

Referring to FIG. 13, luminance, response time when black changes into white, and mouse dragging at 127 gray were examined in exemplary embodiment 1 to exemplary embodiment 12. When the luminance of exemplary embodiment 1 is seen as 100%, each exemplary embodiment shows 75% to 90% of transmittance depending on the respective conditions.

Examining exemplary embodiment 9 to exemplary embodiment 12, the mouse dragging appears to be 0 millisecond (ms), so the problem of a mouse dragging phenomenon was completely solved.

Now, transmittances according to various conditions will be described with reference to FIG. 14 to FIG. 17.

FIG. 14 to FIG. 17 are graphs illustrating transmittances according to exemplary embodiments of the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 14, transmittances were examined while the distance S between two neighboring edges of two neighboring protrusions 195 and the length L of the second edge 195f were varied as 4 μ m:4 μ m, 6 μ m:4 μ m, 8 μ m:4 μ m, 5 μ m:5 μ m, and 7 μ m:5.5 μ m. Here, the ratio of the length F of the first edge 195e of the protrusion 195 to the distance B between the cutout 71 of the common electrode 270 and the first envelope EN1 was kept at 1:1. If the summed length of L and S is referred to as a pitch of the protruded and depressed portions 193, it can be known that as the pitch increases, the transmittance decreases.

Referring to FIG. 15, transmittances were examined while the distance S between two neighboring edges of two neighboring protrusions 195 and the length L of the second edge 195f were varied as 6 μ m:4 μ m, 5 μ m:5 μ m, and 7 μ m:5.5 μ m. Here, the ratio of the length F of the first edge 195e of the protrusion 195 to the distance B between the cutout 71 of the common electrode 270 and the first envelope EN1 was kept at 1:0.3. Examining the results of FIG. 15, the transmittance decreases as L increases when S is fixed to 5 μ m.

Referring to FIG. 16 and FIG. 17, transmittance was examined while B:F was varied from 16.5:16.5 to 8.1:25.1 with L:S

fixed at 6:4. As a result, when F is greater than B, the transmittance decreased. Referring to FIG. 16 and FIG. 17, the ratio of B:F is the same and the pitch is the same at 10 μ m. However, S is greater than L in FIG. 17 compared to FIG. 16. Here, the transmittance is decreased.

Now, response speed and luminance of an LCD according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to FIG. 18A to FIG. 19B.

FIG. 18A is a graph illustrating a response speed of an LCD according to the prior art, and FIG. 18B is a graph illustrating a response speed of an exemplary embodiment of an LCD according to the present invention.

Comparing FIG. 18A with FIG. 18B, when the operation of an LCD varies from black to white, the desired luminance level is displayed after a certain time in the case of an LCD according to the prior art. In comparison, as in the illustrated embodiments, luminance is changed to the desired level in the case of an LCD according to the present invention. Therefore, the response speed is relatively fast so that phenomena such as mouse dragging do not occur in an LCD according to the illustrated embodiments.

FIG. 19A is a drawing illustrating an operation of an LCD according to the prior art, and FIG. 19B is a drawing illustrating an operation of an exemplary embodiment of an LCD according to the present invention.

Examining FIG. 19A, it is shown that texture occurs in the pixel electrodes representing red, green, and blue. On the contrary, in FIG. 19B, an image is displayed relatively clearly without texture occurrence. Therefore, texture does not occur in an LCD according to the illustrated exemplary embodiments, such that the luminance is improved.

As in the illustrated embodiments, the aperture ratio of an LCD can be increased while improving the response speed and the transmittance.

Although preferred embodiments of the present invention have been described in detail hereinabove, it should be clearly understood that many variations and/or modifications of the basic inventive concepts herein taught, which may appear to those skilled in the present art, will still fall within the spirit and scope of the present invention, as defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A liquid crystal display comprising:

- a substrate;
 - a plurality of pixel electrodes formed on the substrate;
 - a common electrode facing the plurality of pixel electrodes; and
 - a liquid crystal layer interposed between the plurality of pixel electrodes and the common electrode,
- wherein
- a pixel electrode comprises at least one oblique edge including a plurality of protruded and depressed portions alternately disposed along an oblique direction, and
 - a width L of the protruded portion, a distance S between two neighboring edges of two adjacent protruded portions, and a thickness d of the liquid crystal layer satisfy the following relationship:

$$S+L \leq 2d.$$

2. The liquid crystal display of claim 1, wherein an area of the protruded portions is smaller than a half of an entire area of the pixel electrode.

3. The liquid crystal display of claim 2, wherein the protruded portions comprise a group in which an area of each of the protruded portions is different from one another.

4. The liquid crystal display of claim 3, wherein the group of the protruded portions is arranged in a position where the inclination directions of a tilt direction determining member formed in the common electrode are changed.

5. The liquid crystal display of claim 1, wherein the width L of the protruded portion and the distance S between the two neighboring edges of the two adjacent protruded portions are different from each other.

6. The liquid crystal display of claim 5, wherein the distance S between the two neighboring edges of the two adjacent protruded portions is greater than the width L of the protruded portion.

7. The liquid crystal display of claim 1, wherein the pixel electrode comprises at least two parallelogrammatic electrode pieces of which the inclination directions are different from each other.

8. The liquid crystal display of claim 1, wherein the pixel electrode comprises a first sub-pixel electrode and a second sub-pixel electrode.

9. The liquid crystal display of claim 8, wherein each of the first and second sub-pixel electrodes comprises at least two parallelogrammatic electrode pieces of which the inclination directions are different from each other.

10. The liquid crystal display of claim 9, wherein a tilt direction of at least two of the protruded portions formed where the two parallelogrammatic electrode pieces meet each other, are different from each other.

11. The liquid crystal display of claim 9, wherein

the first sub-pixel electrode comprises a right-inclined parallelogrammatic electrode piece and a left-inclined parallelogrammatic electrode piece, and

the second sub-pixel electrode comprises three right-inclined parallelogrammatic electrode pieces and three left-inclined parallelogrammatic electrode pieces.

12. The liquid crystal display of claim 11, wherein the right-inclined parallelogrammatic electrode piece and the left-inclined parallelogrammatic electrode piece are alternately arranged in a longitudinal direction of the first sub-pixel electrode and the second sub-pixel electrode.

13. The liquid crystal display of claim 8, wherein an area of the second sub-pixel electrode is larger than an area of the first sub-pixel electrode.

14. The liquid crystal display of claim 8, wherein a voltage of the first sub-pixel electrode is different from a voltage of the second sub-pixel electrode.

15. The liquid crystal display of claim 8, further comprising:

a first thin film transistor connected to the first sub-pixel electrode;

a second thin film transistor connected to the second sub-pixel electrode;

a first gate line connected to the first thin film transistor; a second gate line connected to the second thin film transistor; and

a data line connected to the first and second thin film transistors and intersecting the first and second gate lines.

16. The liquid crystal display of claim 15, wherein the first and second thin film transistors are turned on in response to signals from the first and second gate lines and transmit signals from the data line, respectively.

17. The liquid crystal display of claim 15, further comprising an organic layer formed between the data line and the pixel electrodes.

18. The liquid crystal display of claim 1, wherein a ratio of a width L of the protruded portion and a distance S between

two neighboring edges of two adjacent protruded portions are different from one another according to a position of the pixel electrode.

19. The liquid crystal display of claim 1, further comprising a tilt direction determining member formed in the common electrode.

20. The liquid crystal display of claim 19, wherein the tilt direction determining member comprises a cutout including an oblique portion.

21. The liquid crystal display of claim 1, wherein the protruded portion is rectangular.

22. A liquid crystal display comprising:

a substrate;

a plurality of pixel electrodes formed on the substrate, each of the pixel electrodes including a first and a second sub-pixel electrode;

a common electrode facing the pixel electrodes; and

a liquid crystal layer interposed between the pixel electrodes and the common electrode,

wherein

at least one of the first sub-pixel electrode and second sub-pixel electrode comprises an edge having protruded and depressed portions alternately disposed along an oblique direction, and

a width L of the protruded portion, a distance S between two neighboring edges of two adjacent protruded portions, and a thickness d of the liquid crystal layer satisfy the following relationship:

$$S+L \leq 2d.$$

23. The liquid crystal display of claim 22, wherein an area of the protruded portions is smaller than a half of an entire area of the pixel electrode.

24. A method of manufacturing a liquid crystal display, the method comprising:

forming a plurality of pixel electrodes on a substrate;

disposing a common electrode facing the plurality of pixel electrodes; and

interposing a liquid crystal layer between the pixel electrodes and the common electrode;

wherein

the forming a plurality of pixel electrodes comprises forming an oblique edge including a plurality of protruded and depressed portions alternately disposed along an oblique direction on each pixel electrode, and

a width L of the protruded portion, a distance S between two neighboring edges of two adjacent protruded portions, and a thickness d of the liquid crystal layer satisfy the following relationship:

$$S+L \leq 2d.$$

25. A method of forming manufacturing a liquid crystal display, the method comprising:

forming a plurality of pixel electrodes on a substrate, each of the pixel electrodes including a first sub-pixel electrode and a second sub-pixel electrode;

disposing a common electrode facing the pixel electrodes; and

interposing a liquid crystal layer between the pixel electrodes and the common electrode;

wherein

the forming a plurality of pixel electrodes comprises forming an oblique edge including a plurality of protruded and depressed portions alternately disposed along an oblique direction on one of the first sub-pixel electrode and the second sub-pixel electrode, and

23

a width L of the protruded portion, a distance S between two neighboring edges of two adjacent protruded portions, and a thickness d of the liquid crystal layer satisfy the following relationship:

$$S+L\leq 2d.$$

26. A liquid crystal display comprising: a substrate; a plurality of pixel electrodes formed on the substrate; a common electrode facing the plurality of pixel electrodes; and a liquid crystal layer interposed between the plurality of pixel electrodes and the common electrode, wherein a pixel electrode comprises at least one oblique edge including a plurality of protruded and depressed portions alternately disposed along an oblique direction, wherein a distance S between two neighboring edges of two adjacent protruded portions is greater than a width L of the protruded portion.

27. The liquid crystal display of claim **26**, wherein the pixel electrode comprises at least two parallelogrammatic electrode pieces of which the inclination directions are different from each other.

24

28. A liquid crystal display comprising:

a substrate;

a plurality of pixel electrodes formed on the substrate;

a common electrode facing the plurality of pixel electrodes; and

a liquid crystal layer interposed between the plurality of pixel electrodes and the common electrode,

wherein a pixel electrode comprises at least one oblique edge including a plurality of protruded and depressed portions alternately disposed along an oblique direction,

wherein a width L of the protruded portion, a distance S between two neighboring edges of two adjacent protruded portions, and a thickness d of the liquid crystal layer satisfy the following relationship:

$$S+L\leq 2d,$$

wherein the distance S between the two neighboring edges of the two adjacent protruded portions is greater than the width L of the protruded portion.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	液晶显示器及其制造方法		
公开(公告)号	US8395743	公开(公告)日	2013-03-12
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[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	三星电子株式会社		
申请(专利权)人(译)	SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO. , LTD.		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	三星DISPLAY CO. , LTD.		
[标]发明人	KIM DONG GYU MOON SUNG JAE		
发明人	KIM, DONG-GYU MOON, SUNG-JAE		
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代理机构(译)	康托科尔伯恩LLP		
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摘要(译)

液晶显示器包括基板，形成在基板上的多个像素电极，面对像素电极的公共电极，以及插入在像素电极和公共电极之间的液晶层。像素电极包括至少一个倾斜边缘，该倾斜边缘包括多个突出和凹陷部分。

