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Wong

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(54) **METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THIN FILM TRANSISTOR LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY**

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(51) **Int. Cl.⁷** **H01L 29/04; H01L 31/036; H01L 27/01; H01L 27/12; H01L 31/0392; H01L 21/00; H01L 21/84**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **257/59; 257/347; 438/149**

(58) **Field of Search** 438/149; 257/57, 257/347

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Primary Examiner—Steven Loke

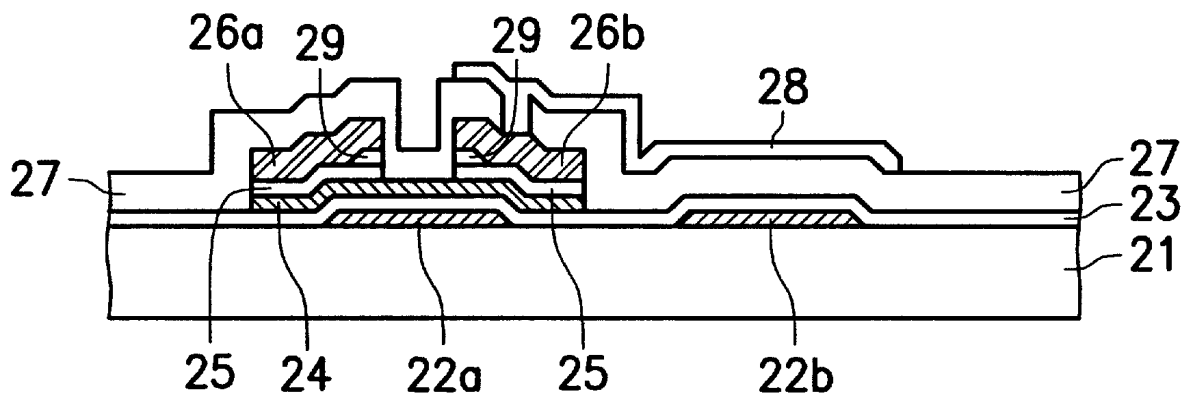
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A manufacturing method and the structure of a thin film transistor liquid crystal display (TFT-LCD) are disclosed. The TFT-LCD uses metal electrodes as a mask to thoroughly remove the unwanted semiconductor layer during the etching process for forming the source and drain electrodes. This manufacturing method can reduce the problems caused by the unwanted semiconductor layer, hence improving the quality of the TFT.

29 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets



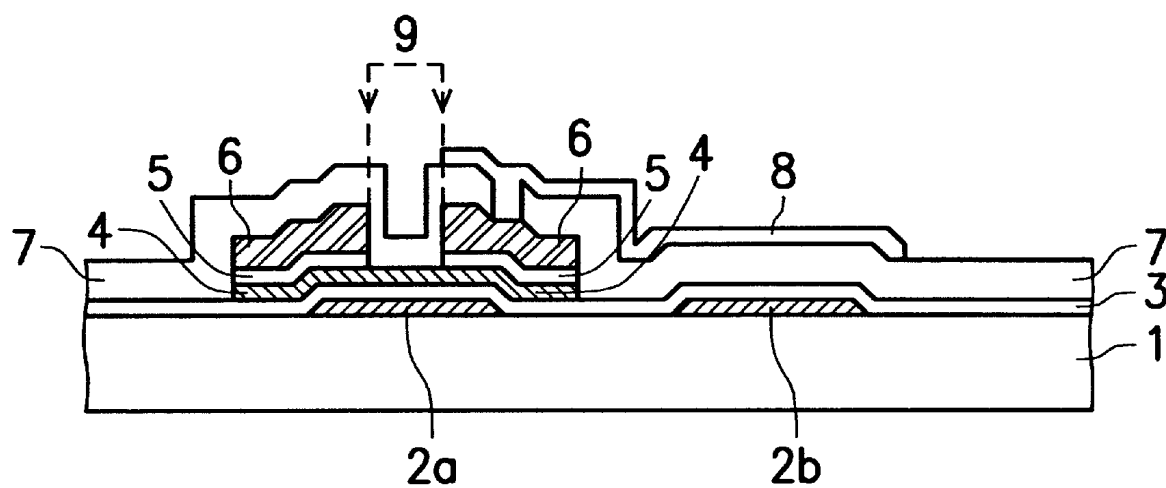


FIG. 1 (PRIOR ART)

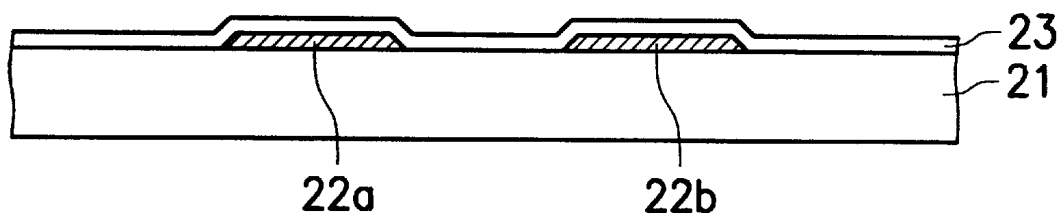


FIG. 2A

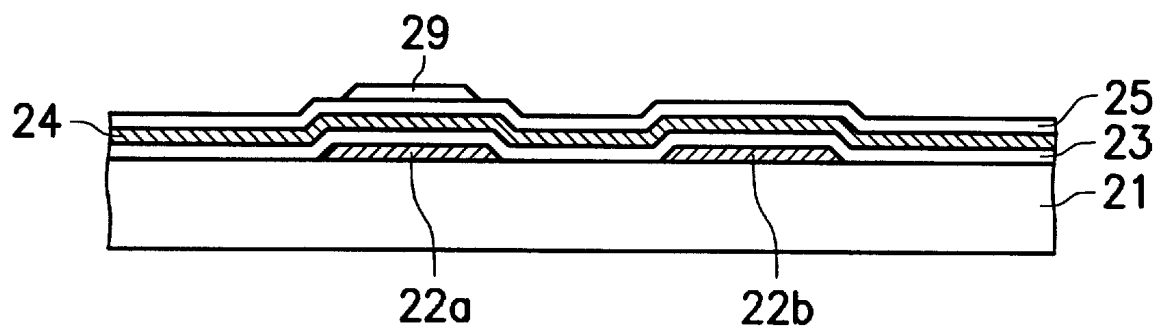


FIG. 2B

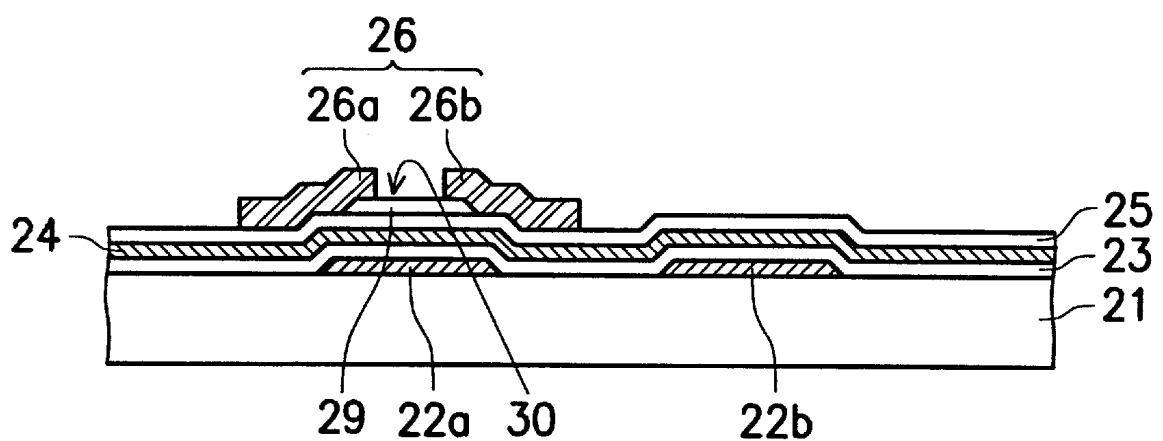


FIG. 2C

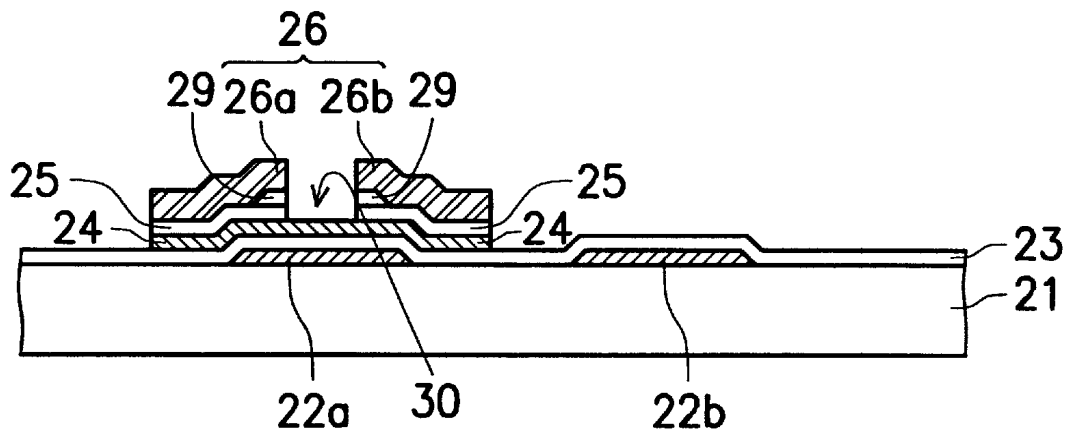


FIG. 2D

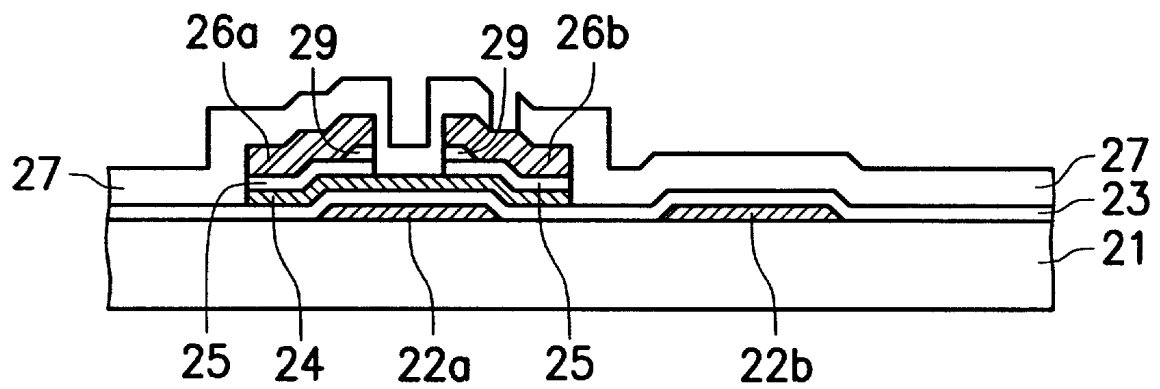


FIG. 2E

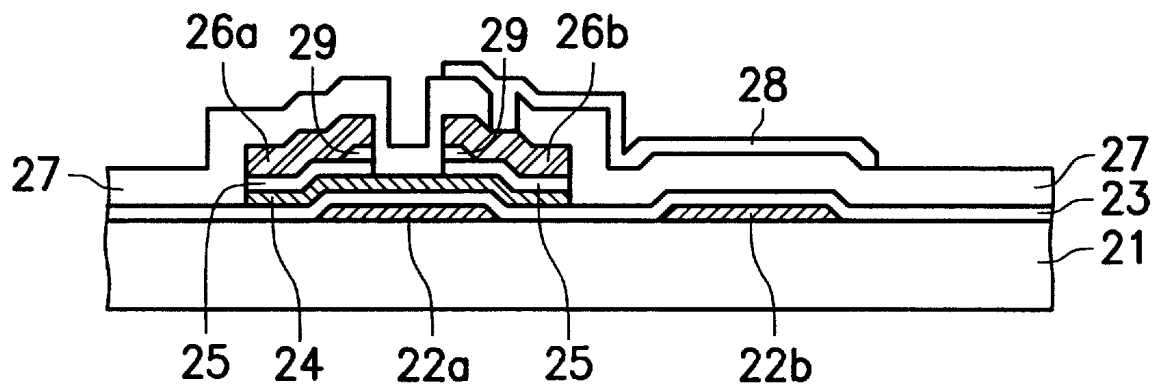


FIG. 2F

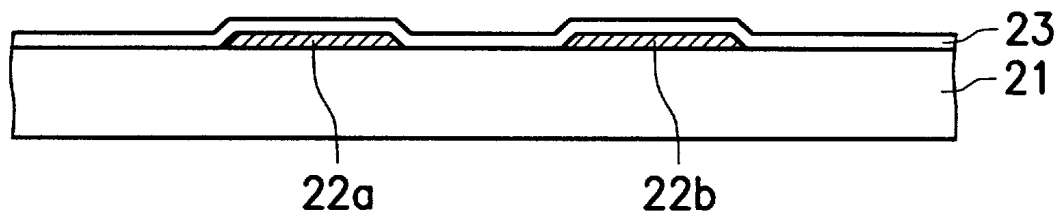


FIG. 3A

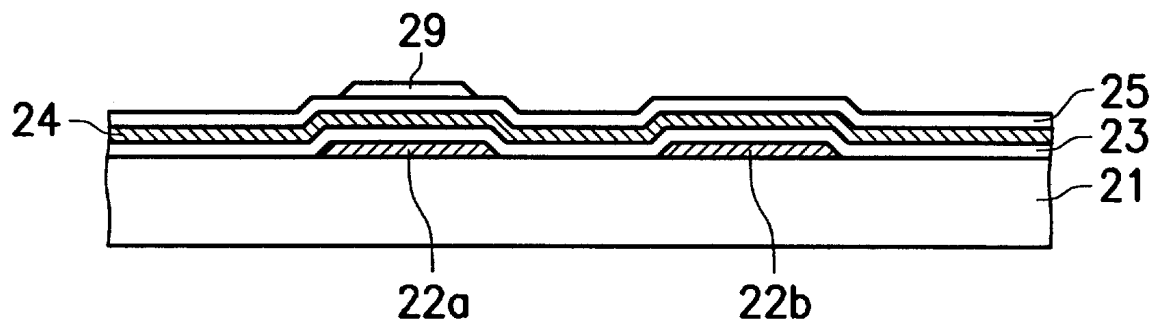


FIG. 3B

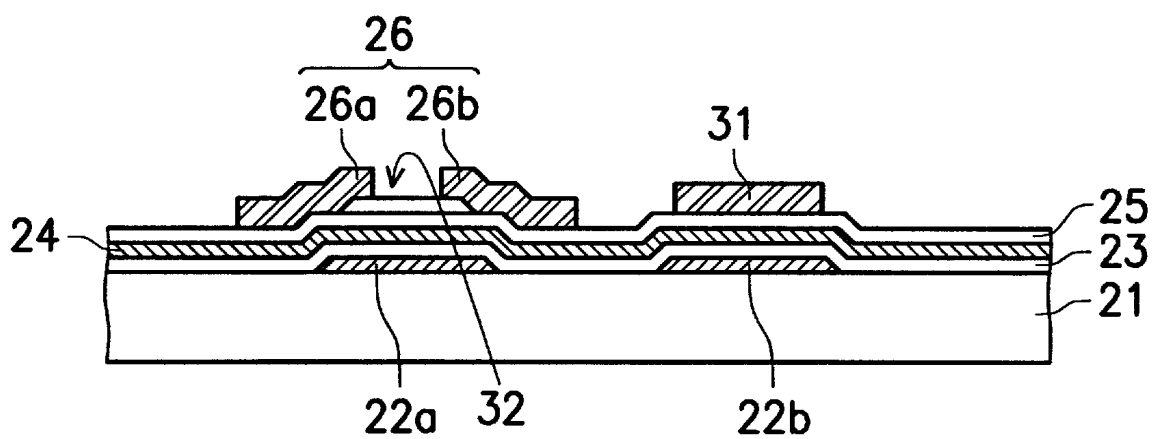


FIG. 3C

FIG. 3F

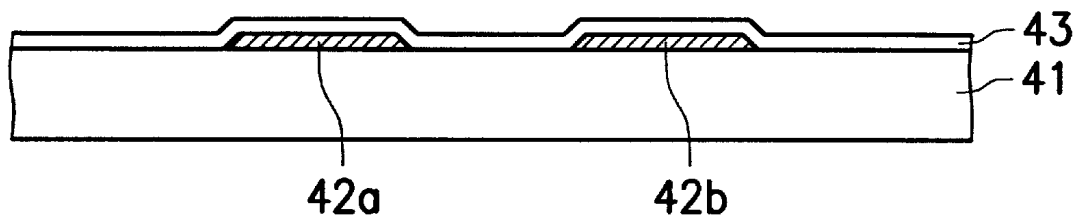


FIG. 4A

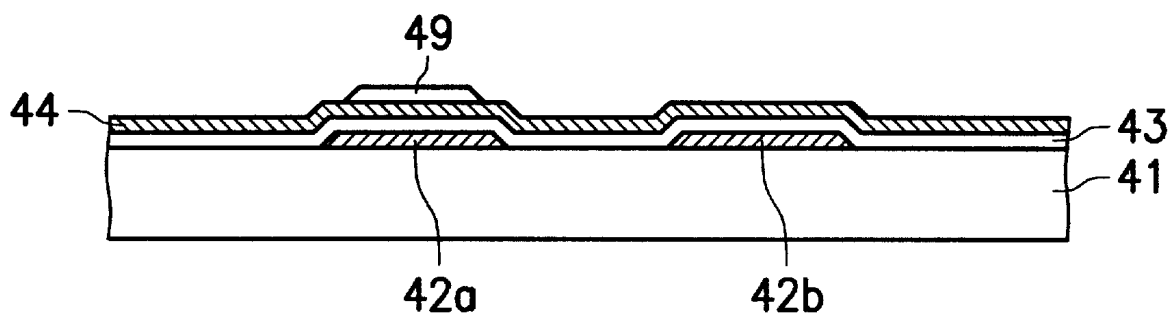


FIG. 4B

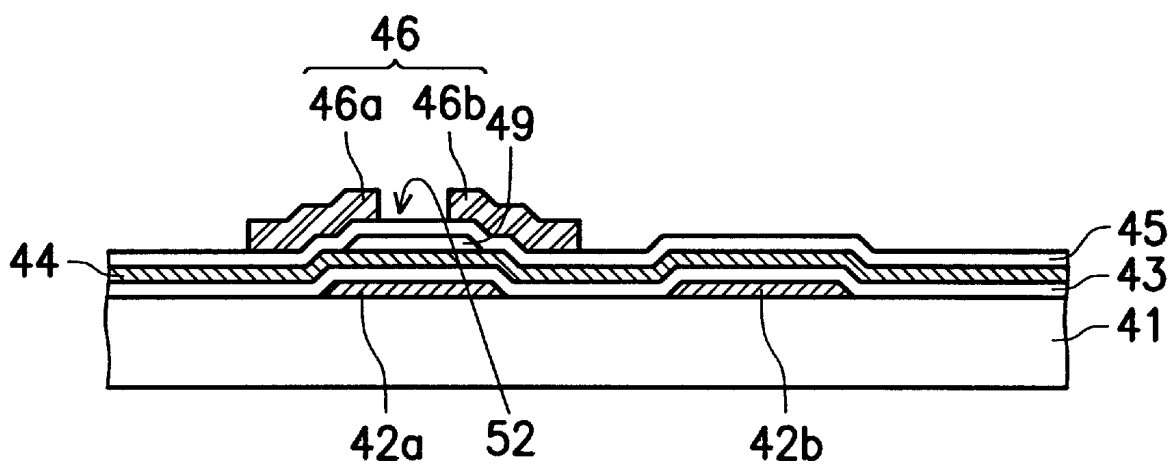


FIG. 4C

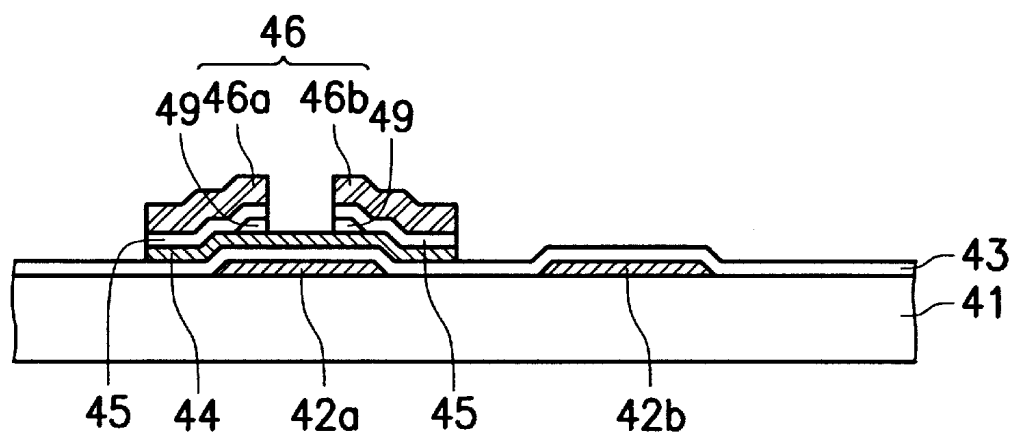


FIG. 4D

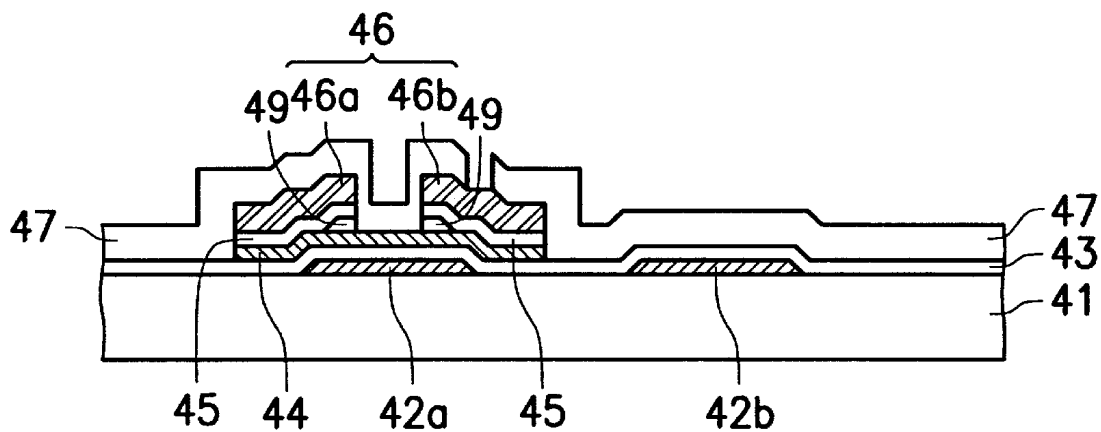


FIG. 4E

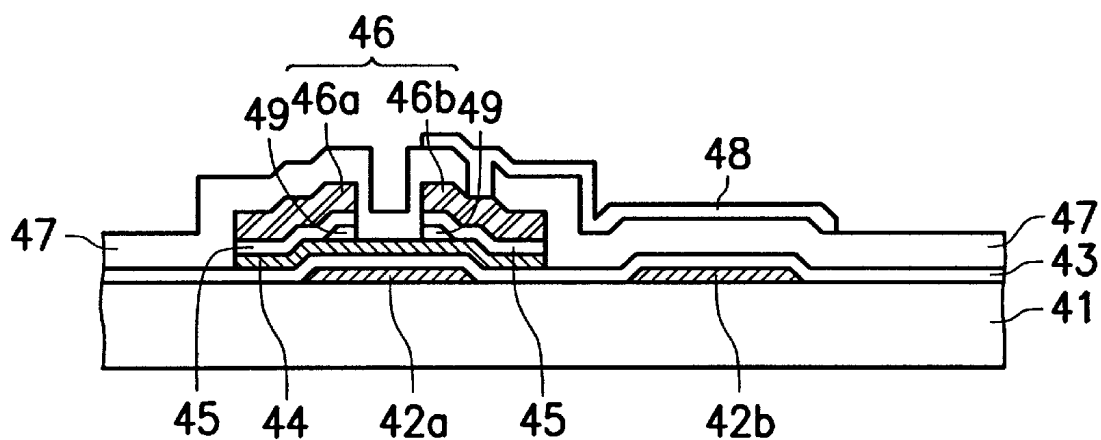


FIG. 4F

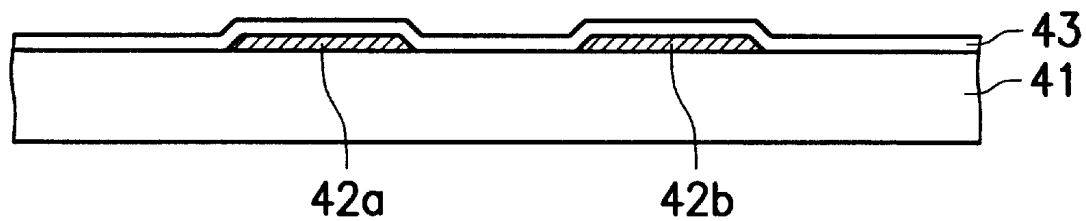


FIG. 5A

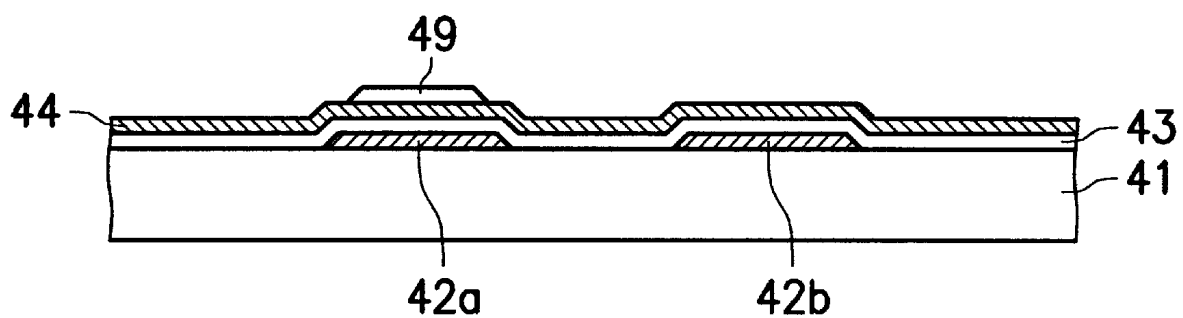


FIG. 5B

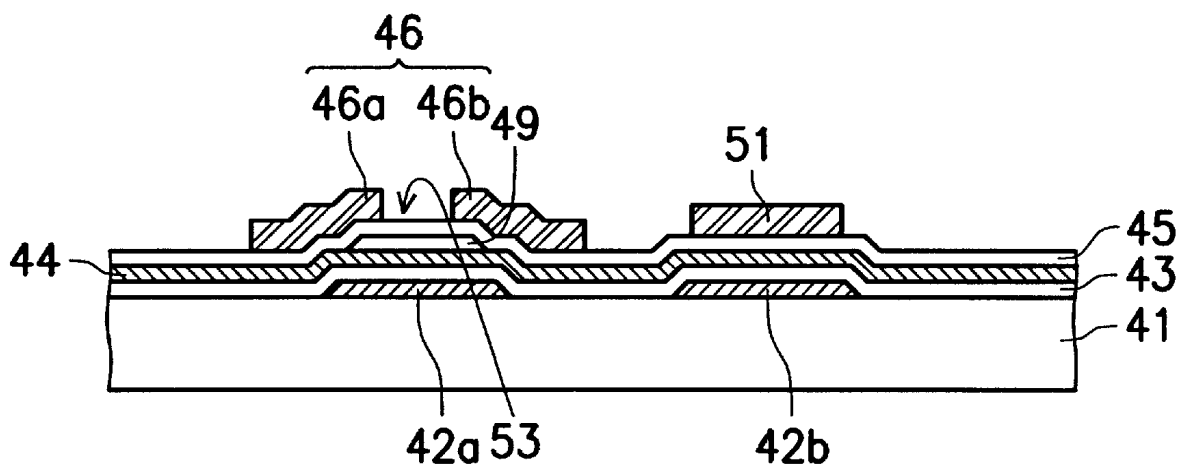


FIG. 5C

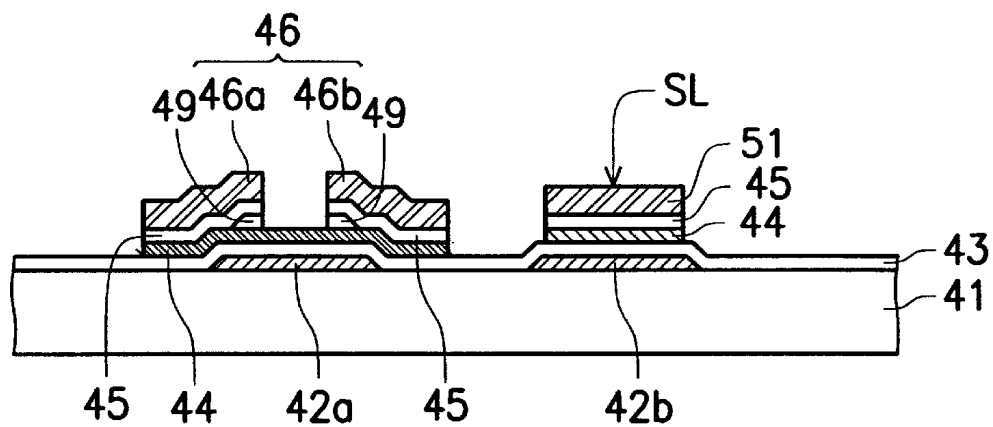


FIG. 5D

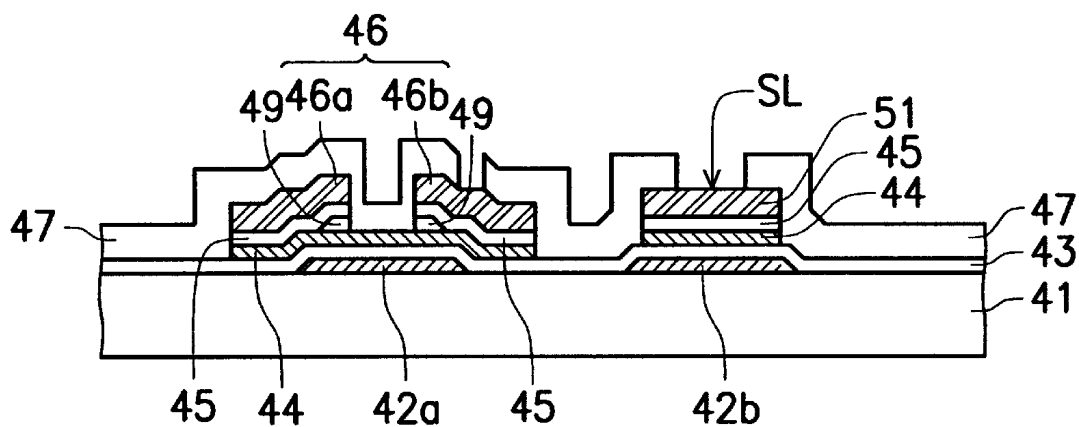


FIG. 5E

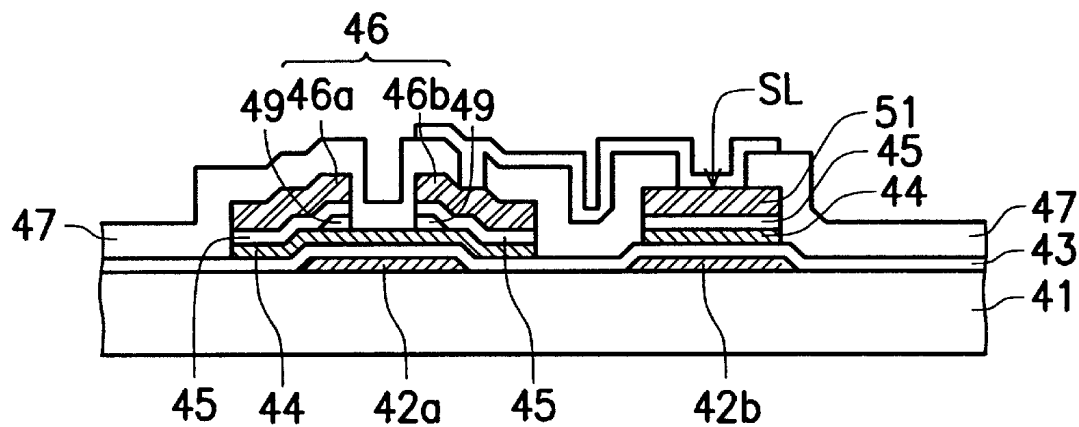


FIG. 5F

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METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THIN FILM TRANSISTOR LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a thin film transistor and the manufacturing method thereof, and more particularly to a thin film transistor used in a thin film transistor liquid crystal display.

2. Description of the Related Art

In an active matrix liquid crystal displays, a thin film transistor (TFT) is commonly adopted for good driving and switching capabilities. FIG. 1 shows the essential components of a TFT used in a thin film transistor liquid crystal display (TFT-LCD). The substrate 1 is made from glass or quartz. A metal layer 2a is used as the gate electrode of the TFT. The electrode 2b is an electrode of a storage capacitor. A insulating layer 3 is formed on the substrate 1. A semiconductor layer 4 is further formed above the insulating layer 3 and usually made from amorphous silicon. An n type doped polysilicon layer 5 and a metal electrode 6 are used to form source/drain electrodes of the TFT. A passivation layer 7 is formed above the substrate 1. A transparent conductive layer 8, such as an ITO layer, is used to form the pixel electrode. Between the source electrode and the drain electrode, a channel 9 is defined.

According to the TFT shown in FIG. 1, the amorphous silicon layer 4 is formed on the insulating layer 3, and the channel 9 is defined by etching the amorphous silicon layer 4. During the above etching process, if any amorphous silicon is left above the insulating layer 3 at the position outside the TFT, it will harm the properties of the TFT and reduce the quality of the TFT-LCD. Additionally, two dielectric layers, including the insulating layer 3 and the passivation layer 7, are formed on the substrate 1 and will reduce the transmittance of the substrate 1.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to provide a method for forming a thin film transistor liquid crystal display (TFT-LCD) using metallic electrodes as a mask to remove the unwanted amorphous silicon layer when forming the source/drain electrodes. This method avoids the problems resulting from unwanted amorphous silicon layer, and enhances the TFT quality.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a manufacturing method for forming a thin film transistor liquid crystal display (TFT-LCD) to efficiently reduce the thickness of the insulating layer by controlling the etching condition for forming the drain/source electrodes without affecting the quality of the TFT. It also increases the capacitance Cs of the storage capacitor by reducing the thickness of the insulating layer.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a method for forming a thin film transistor liquid crystal display (TFT-LCD) to define a shielding metal layer above a lower electrode of a storage capacitor. After the drain/source electrodes are patterned, a number of layers are formed between the lower electrode and the shielding metal layer for increasing the storage capacitor.

To achieve the objects described, the present invention provides a first method for forming a thin film transistor liquid crystal display (TFT-LCD). The TFT-LCD has at least

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one thin film transistor (TFT) and one storage capacitor. The manufacturing process is described below. First, a substrate is provided, a first and a second conductive layer are then deposited on the substrate to respectively form a gate electrode of the TFT and a bottom electrode of the storage capacitor. Then, forming an insulating layer above these conductive layers and the substrate. Further, sequentially forming a semiconductor layer and a doped silicon layer on the insulating layer, then depositing a sacrifice layer with an island shape on the doped silicon layer, especially directly above the first conductive layer. A metal layer is formed covering the island-shaped sacrifice layer and the doped silicon layer, the metal layer is then patterned to form source and drain electrodes above the first conductive layer. A channel is defined between the source electrode and the drain electrode, and the sacrifice layer is exposed in the channel. A portion of the substrate not covered by the source electrode, the drain electrode, and the channel is defined as a non-TFT region so as to expose the doped silicon in the non-TFT region. By using the source and the drain electrodes as a mask, several etching processes are performed at the same time during: (a) the island-shaped sacrifice layer and the doped silicon layer in the channel are removed so that the semiconductor layer is exposed in the channel; and (b) the doped silicon layer and the semiconductor layer on the non-TFT region are removed so that the insulating layer is exposed in the non-TFT region. Finally, a passivation layer is formed to cover the source electrode, the drain electrode, the channel, and the substrate.

To achieve the objects described, the present invention provides a second method for forming a thin film transistor liquid crystal display (TFT-LCD). The TFT-LCD has at least one thin film transistor (TFT) and one storage capacitor. The manufacturing process is described below. First, a substrate is provided, a first and a second conductive layer are then deposited on the substrate to form a gate electrode of the TFT and a bottom electrode of the storage capacitor. Then, forming an insulating layer above these conductive layers and the substrate. Further, sequentially forming a semiconductor layer and a doped silicon layer on the insulating layer, then depositing a sacrifice layer with an island shape on the doped silicon layer, especially directly above the first conductive layer. A metal layer is formed covering the island-shaped sacrifice layer and the doped silicon layer, the metal layer is then patterned to form a source electrode and a drain electrode above the first conductive layer, and form a shielding metal layer above the second conductive layer. A channel is defined between the source electrode and the drain electrode, and the sacrifice layer is exposed in the channel. A capacitor region is defined as a portion of the substrate covered by the shielding metal layer. A portion of the substrate not covered by the source electrode, the drain electrode, the capacitor, and the channel is defined as a non-TFT region so as to expose the doped silicon in the non-TFT region. By using the source electrode, the drain electrode, and the shielding metal layer as a mask, several etching processes are performed at the same time during: (a) the island-shaped sacrifice layer and the doped silicon layer in the channel are removed so that the semiconductor layer is exposed in the channel; and (b) the doped silicon layer and the semiconductor layer on the non-TFT region are removed so that the insulating layer is exposed. Finally, a passivation layer is formed to cover the source electrode, the drain electrode, the channel, and the capacitor region.

To achieve the objects described, the present invention provides a third method for forming a thin film transistor liquid crystal display (TFT-LCD). The third manufacturing

method is similar to the first manufacturing method. The major difference between the third method and the first method is the position of the sacrifice layer. In the third method, the island-shaped sacrifice layer is formed on the semiconductor layer, and the doped silicon layer is formed above the sacrifice layer in the channel.

To achieve the objects described, the present invention provides a fourth method for forming a thin film transistor liquid crystal display (TFT-LCD). The fourth manufacturing method is similar to the second manufacturing method. The major difference between the fourth method and the second method is the position of the sacrifice layer. In the fourth method, the island-shaped sacrifice layer is formed on the semiconductor layer, and the doped silicon layer is formed above the sacrifice layer in the channel.

In these methods mentioned above, the etching rates of the island-shaped sacrifice layer, the doped silicon layer, and the semiconductor layer are R_{IS} , R_n , and R_a respectively. The thickness of the island-shaped sacrifice layer, the doped silicon layer, and the semiconductor layer are T_{IS} , T_n , and T_a respectively. The time for removing the island-shaped sacrifice layer in the channel and the doped silicon layer ($T_{IS}/R_{IS} + T_n/R_n$) is not less than the time for removing the doped silicon layer and the semiconductor layer on the non-TFT region ($T_n/R_n + T_a/R_a$).

By controlling the thickness of the sacrifice layer, the thickness of the insulating layer on the non-TFT region is reduced at the same time during the etching processes for etching the doped silicon layer and the sacrifice layer in the channel as well as etching away the doped silicon layer, the semiconductor layer, and a portion of the insulating layer in the non-TFT region.

The portion of the removed insulating layer has an etching rate R_{INS} and a thickness T_{INS} , and the time for removing the sacrifice layer and the doped silicon layer in the channel ($T_{IS}/R_{IS} + T_n/R_n$) is equal to the time for removing the doped silicon layer, the semiconductor layer and the removed insulating layer in the non-TFT region ($T_n/R_n + T_a/R_a + T_{INS}/R_{INS}$).

One type of thin film transistor (TFT) is produced in the present invention. The TFT includes a gate electrode with an island shape formed on a substrate, an insulating layer covering the island-shaped gate electrode, an semiconductor layer with an island shape formed on the insulating layer, and a source doped silicon layer and a drain doped silicon layer formed on the semiconductor layer. The island-shaped semiconductor layer is positioned above the island-shaped gate electrode. A channel is defined between the source doped silicon layer and the drain doped silicon layer, and the island-shaped semiconductor layer is exposed in the channel. The TFT further includes first and second sacrifice layers having island shapes and respectively formed on the source doped silicon layer and drain doped silicon layer. The first and the second island-shaped sacrifice layers are separated by the channel. The TFT further includes a source electrode formed on the first sacrifice layer and the source doped silicon layer, and a drain electrode formed on the second sacrifice layer and the drain doped silicon layer. The thickness of the first and second sacrifice layers are varied according to the thickness of the island-shaped semiconductor layer because the time for etching the first and second sacrifice layers is substantially equal to the time for etching the semiconductor layer in the subsequent process.

A second type of thin film transistor is produced in the present invention. The TFT includes a gate electrode with an island shape formed on a substrate, an insulating layer

covering the island-shaped gate electrode, and semiconductor layer with an island shape formed on the insulating layer, and first and second sacrifice layers with island shapes formed on the semiconductor layer. The first and second island-shaped sacrifice layers are positioned above the gate electrode. A channel is defined between the first and the second sacrifice layers, and the semiconductor layer is exposed in the channel. The TFT further includes a source doped silicon layer and a drain doped silicon layer formed above the first sacrifice layer, the second sacrifice layer, and the semiconductor layer. The source and drain doped silicon layers are spaced apart by the channel. The TFT further includes a source electrode and a drain electrode respectively formed on the source doped silicon layer and the drain doped silicon layer. The thickness of the first and second island-shaped sacrifice layers are varied according to the thickness of the island-shaped semiconductor layer because the time for etching the first and second island-shaped sacrifice layers is substantially equal to the time for etching the semiconductor layer in the subsequent process.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention can be more fully understood by reading the subsequent detailed description in conjunction with the examples and references made to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a perspective diagram of the essential component of a TFT-LCD in the prior art;

FIG. 2A to FIG. 2F are the sectional diagrams of the manufacturing process described in the first embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3A to FIG. 3F are the sectional diagrams of the manufacturing process described in the second embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 4A to FIG. 4F are the sectional diagrams of the manufacturing process described in the third embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 5A to FIG. 5F are the sectional diagrams of the manufacturing process described in the forth embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The First Embodiment

FIG. 2A to FIG. 2F are the sectional diagrams of the manufacturing process described in the first embodiment of the present invention.

First of all, a first conductive layer **22a** and a second conductive layer **22b** are deposited on a substrate **21** to form a gate electrode **22a** of a thin film transistor (TFT) and a bottom electrode **22b** of a storage capacitor. Usually, the first and the second conductive layers **22a** and **22b** are metal layers, and the substrate **21** is made of glass or quartz.

Next, forming an insulating layer **23** above the first and the second conductive layers **22a**, **22b** and the substrate **21**, as shown in FIG. 2A. Then, a semiconductor layer **24** and a doped silicon layer **25** are formed on the insulating layer **23**. In the present embodiment, the semiconductor layer **24** is an amorphous silicon layer, and the doped silicon layer **25** is an n type doped poly-silicon layer.

A sacrifice layer **29** with an island shape is formed on the doped silicon layer **25**, and especially above the first conductive layer **22a** as shown in FIG. 2B. A metal layer **26** is formed to cover the island-shaped sacrifice layer **29** and the doped silicon layer **25**. As shown in FIG. 2c, the metal layer **26** is patterned to form a source electrode **26a** and a drain

electrode **26b** above the gate electrode **22a**. A channel **30** is defined between the source electrode **26a** and the drain electrode **26b** so as to expose the sacrifice layer **29** in the channel **30**. A portion of the substrate **21** which is not covered by the source electrode **26a**, the drain electrode **26b**, and the channel **30** is defined as a non-TFT region, and the doped silicon layer is exposed in the non-TFT region as shown in FIG. 2C.

By using the source and the drain electrodes **26a** and **26b** as a mask to perform the following etching processes at the same time: (1) removing the island-shaped sacrifice layer **29** and the doped silicon layer **25** in the channel, and (2) removing the doped silicon layer **25** and the semiconductor layer **24** in the non-TFT region, so that the semiconductor layer **24** is exposed in the channel **30** and the insulating layer **23** is exposed in the non-TFT region as shown in FIG. 2D.

In the etching process, etching rates of the island-shaped sacrifice layer **29**, the doped silicon layer **25**, and the semiconductor layer **24** are respectively R_{IS} , R_n , and R_a . The thickness of the island-shaped sacrifice layer **29**, the doped silicon layer **25**, and the semiconductor layer **24** are T_{IS} , T_n , and T_a , respectively. The amount of T_{IS} , T_n , and T_a can be adjusted in advance to cooperate with a suitable etching process so that the time T_1 for removing the sacrifice layer **29** and the doped silicon layer **25** in the channel is equal to the time T_2 for removing the doped silicon layer **25** and the semiconductor layer **24** in the non-TFT region. T_1 equals to $T_{IS}/R_{IS}+T_n/R_n$, and T_2 equals to $T_n/R_n+T_a/R_a$, that is $(T_{IS}/R_{IS}+T_n/R_n) \cong (T_n/R_n+T_a/R_a)$. After the etching process, the semiconductor layer **24** is exposed in the channel **30**, and the insulating layer **23** is exposed in the non-TFT region.

The thickness of the island-shaped sacrifice layer **29** can be adjusted so that a portion of the insulating layer **23** can be removed after etching away the doped silicon layer **25** and the semiconductor layer **24** in the non-TFT region during the etching process for removing the island-shaped sacrifice layer **29** and the doped silicon layer **25** in the channel, as shown in FIG. 2D. In other words, when the etching rate and the thickness of the removed portion of the insulating layer **23** are respectively R_{INS} and T_{INS} , the time T_1 for removing the sacrifice layer **29** and the doped silicon layer **25** in the channel ($T_1=T_{IS}/R_{IS}+T_n/R_n$) is equal to the time T_3 for removing the doped silicon layer **25**, the semiconductor layer **24**, and the removed insulating layer **23** in the non-TFT region ($T_3=T_n/R_n+T_a/R_a+T_{INS}/R_{INS}$).

Further, a passivation layer **27** is formed to cover the source electrode **26a**, the drain electrode **26b**, and the channel **30**. Therefore, this kind of TFT can be suitable for applying in an in-plane-switch (IPS) type TFT-LCD.

In the non-IPS type TFT-LCD, the passivation layer **27** is patterned to expose the drain electrode **26b** as shown in FIG. 2E. Finally, a transparent conductive layer **28** is formed on the passivation layer **27** to electrically connect to the drain electrode **26b** as shown in FIG. 2F. The transparent conductive layer can be an indium tin oxide (ITO) layer.

The Second Embodiment:

FIG. 3A to FIG. 3F are the sectional diagrams of the manufacturing process described in the second embodiment of the present invention. The same structures are labeled by the same symbolic numberings as FIG. 2A to FIG. 2F.

The process of the second embodiment is similar to that of the first embodiment. The major difference is that a shielding metal layer **31** is formed directly above the lower electrode **22b** of the storage capacitor during the process for defining the source and drain electrodes **26a** and **26b**, as shown in FIG. 3C. Thereby, the shielding metal layer **31**, the doped silicon layer **25**, and the semiconductor layer **24** form

a stack layer SL above the insulating layer **23** and the lower electrode **22b**, as shown in FIG. 3D.

A channel **32** is defined between the source and the drain electrodes **26a** and **26b**. A portion of the substrate uncovered by the source electrode **26a**, the drain electrode **26b**, the channel **32**, and the storage capacitor is defined as a non-TFT region. Meanwhile, the time T_1 for removing the sacrifice layer **29** and the doped silicon layer **25** in the channel ($T_1=T_{IS}/R_{IS}+T_n/R_n$) is not less than the time T_2 for removing the doped silicon layer **25** and the semiconductor layer **24** ($T_2=T_n/R_n+T_a/R_a$). When the etching process is terminated, the semiconductor layer **24** is exposed in the channel **32**, and the insulating layer **23** is exposed on the non-TFT region as shown in FIG. 3D.

According to FIG. 3E, a passivation layer **27** is formed to cover the TFT, and the passivation layer **27** is then patterned to expose the drain electrode **26b** and the stack layer SL. Finally, defining a transparent conductive layer **28** on the passivation layer **27**. The transparent conductive layer **28** is made of ITO, and electrically connected to the drain electrode **26b**. The transparent conductive layer **28** also connects to the shielding metal layer **31** to form an upper electrode of the storage capacitor.

The Third Embodiment

FIG. 4A to FIG. 4F are the sectional diagrams of the manufacturing process in the third embodiment of the present invention.

First of all, a first conductive layer **42a** and a second conductive layer **42b** are deposited on a substrate **41** to form a gate electrode **42a** of a thin film transistor (TFT) and a bottom electrode **42b** of a storage capacitor.

Next, forming an insulating layer **43** above the first and the second conductive layers **42a**, **42b** and the substrate **41**, as shown in FIG. 4A. Then, a semiconductor layer **44** is formed on the insulating layer **43**. In the present embodiment, the semiconductor layer **44** is an amorphous silicon layer.

A sacrifice layer **49** with an island shape is then formed on the semiconductor layer **44**, and directly above the first conductive layer **42a**. Next, a doped silicon layer **45** is formed on the island-shaped sacrifice layer **49** and the semiconductor layer **44**. The doped silicon layer **45** can be an n type doped poly-silicon layer.

A metal layer **46** is formed to cover the doped silicon layer **45**. As shown in FIG. 4c, the metal layer **46** is patterned to form a source electrode **46a** and a drain electrode **46b** above the gate electrode **42a**. A channel **52** is defined between the source electrode **46a** and the drain electrode **46b** so as to expose the doped silicon layer **45** in the channel **52**. A portion of the substrate **41** which is not covered by the source electrode **46a**, the drain electrode **46b**, and the channel **52** is defined as a non-TFT region, and the doped silicon layer **45** is also exposed in the non-TFT region as shown in FIG. 4C.

By using the source and the drain electrodes **46a** and **46b** as a mask to perform the following etching processes at the same time: (1) removing the doped silicon layer **45** and the island-shaped sacrifice layer **49** in the channel **52**, and (2) removing the doped silicon layer **45** and the semiconductor layer **44** in the non-TFT region, so that the semiconductor layer **44** is exposed in the channel **52** and the insulating layer **43** is exposed in the non-TFT region as shown in FIG. 4D.

In the etching process, etching rates of the island-shaped sacrifice layer **49**, the doped silicon layer **45**, and the semiconductor layer **44** are respectively R_{IS} , R_n , and R_a . The thickness of the island-shaped sacrifice layer **49**, the doped silicon layer **45**, and the semiconductor layer **44** are T_{IS} , T_n ,

and T_a respectively. The amount of T_{IS} , T_n , and T_a can be adjusted in advance to cooperate with a suitable etching process so that the time T_1 for removing the sacrifice layer 49 and the doped silicon layer 45 in the channel is not less than the time T_2 for removing the doped silicon layer 45 and the semiconductor layer 44 in the non-TFT region. T_1 equals to $T_{IS}/R_{IS}+T_n/R_n$ and T_2 equals to $T_n/R_n+T_a/R_a$, that is $(T_{IS}/R_{IS}+T_n/R_n) \geq (T_n/R_n+T_a/R_a)$. After the etching process, the semiconductor layer 44 is exposed in the channel 52, and the insulating layer 43 is exposed in the non-TFT region.

Further, the thickness of the island-shaped sacrifice layer 49 is controlled so that a portion of the insulating layer 43 can be removed when etching the sacrifice layer 49 and the doped silicon layer 45 in the channel 52. Therefore, the thickness of the insulating layer 43 can be reduced.

More clearly, the etching rate and the thickness of the removed portion of the insulating layer 43 are R_{INS} and T_{INS} . The time T_1 for removing the island-shaped sacrifice layer 49 and the doped silicon layer 45 in the channel 52 ($T_1 = T_{IS}/R_{IS}+T_n/R_n$) will be equal to the time T_3 for removing the doped silicon layer 45, the semiconductor layer 44, and the removed part of the insulating layer 43 on the non-TFT region ($T_3 = T_n/R_n+T_a/R_a+T_{INS}/R_{INS}$). The thickness of the insulating layer 43 is reduced so that the transmittance of the substrate 41 can be increased, and the capacitance of the storage capacitor can also be increased.

Then, a passivation layer 47 is formed and patterned to expose the drain electrode 46b, as shown in FIG. 4E. Finally, a transparent conductive layer 48, such as an ITO layer, is formed on the passivation layer 47, and electrical connected to the drain electrode 46b, as shown in FIG. 4F.

The Fourth Embodiment

FIG. 5A to FIG. 5F are the sectional diagrams of the manufacturing process described in the fourth embodiment of the present invention. The same structures are labeled by the same symbolic numberings as FIG. 4A to FIG. 4F.

The process of the fourth embodiment is similar to that of the third embodiment. The major difference is that a shielding metal layer 51 is formed directly above the lower electrode 42b of the storage capacitor during the process for defining the source and drain electrodes 46a and 46b, as shown in FIG. 5C. Therefore, the metal shielding layer 51, the doped silicon layer 45, and the semiconductor layer 44 form a stack layer SL above the insulating layer 43 and the lower electrode 42b, as shown in FIG. 5D.

A channel 53 is defined between the source and the drain electrodes 46a and 46b. A portion of the substrate uncovered by the source electrode 46a, the drain electrode 46b, the channel 53, and the storage capacitor is defined as a non-TFT region. Meanwhile, the time for removing the sacrifice layer 49 and the doped silicon layer 45 in the channel $T_1 (= T_{IS}/R_{IS}+T_n/R_n)$ is not less than the time spent for removing the doped silicon layer 45 and the semiconductor layer 44 $T_2 (= T_n/R_n+T_a/R_a)$. When the etching process is terminated, the semiconductor layer 44 is exposed in the channel 53, and the insulating layer 43 is exposed on the non-TFT region as shown in FIG. 5D.

Finally, defining a transparent conductive layer 48 on the passivation layer 27. The transparent conductive layer 48 is made of ITO, and electrically connected to the drain electrode 46b. The transparent conductive layer 48 also connects to the shielding metal layer 51 to form an upper electrode of the storage capacitor.

Besides, when forming the channel 53, a portion of the insulating layer 43 can be removed. The etching rate and the thickness of the removed portion of the insulating layer 43 are R_{INS} and T_{INS} . The time T_1 for removing the island-

shaped sacrifice layer 49 and the doped silicon layer 45 in the channel 53 ($T_1 = T_{IS}/R_{IS}+T_n/R_n$) will be equal to the time T_3 for removing the doped silicon layer 45, the semiconductor layer 44, and the removed part of the insulating layer 43 on the non-TFT region ($T_3 = T_n/R_n+T_a/R_a+T_{INS}/R_{INS}$). The thickness of the insulating layer 43 is reduced so that the transmittance of the substrate 41 can be increased.

Although a part of the insulating layer is removed, there is still a stack layer SL formed between the lower electrode 42b and the upper electrode of the storage capacitance. The stack layer SL can increase the capacitance when the insulating layer 43 is thinner.

From the embodiments described, the present invention uses metal electrodes as a mask to thoroughly remove the semiconductor layer outside the thin film transistor on the substrate. This reduces the product defects caused by the residual semiconductor layer, thus enhancing the product quality. Moreover, forming stacked layers between the lower and upper electrodes of the capacitor can increase the capacitance of the capacitor. The thickness of the insulating layer can be reduced for increasing the light transmittance of the TFT-LCD.

Referring to the FIGS. 2F and 3F, One kind of thin film transistor (TFT) is described as follows. The thin film transistor (TFT) includes a gate electrode 22a with an island shape formed on a substrate 21, an insulating layer 23 covering the gate electrode 22a, and a semiconductor layer 24 with an island shape formed on the insulating layer 23, and positioned directly above the gate electrode 22a. The TFT further includes source and drain doped silicon layers 25 formed on the semiconductor layer 24. A channel 30 or 32 is defined between the source doped silicon layer and the drain doped silicon layer 25 to expose the semiconductor layer 24 in the channel. The TFT further includes the first and second sacrifice layers 29, a source electrode 26a, and a drain electrode 26b. The first and second sacrifice layers 29 have island shapes and are respectively formed on the source and drain doped silicon layers 25. The first and second sacrifice layers 29 are spaced apart by the channel 30, 32. The source electrode 26a is formed above the first sacrifice layer 29 and the source doped silicon layer 25. The drain electrode 26b is formed above the second sacrifice layer 29 and the drain doped silicon layer 25. The thickness of the first and second sacrifice layers 29 varies according to the thickness of the semiconductor layer 24 because the time for etching the first and second sacrifice layers 29 is substantially equal to the time for etching the semiconductor layer 24 in the subsequent process.

Referring to the FIGS. 4F and 5F, a second kind of thin film transistor (TFT) is described as follows. The thin film transistor (TFT) includes a gate electrode 42a with an island shape formed on a substrate 41, an insulating layer 43 covering the gate electrode 42a, a semiconductor layer 44 with an island shape formed on the insulating layer 43 and positioned above the gate electrode 42a, and first and second sacrifice layers 49 with island shapes formed on the semiconductor layer. A channel 52, 53 is defined between the first and second sacrifice layers 49 so as to expose the semiconductor layer 44 in the channel 52, 53. The TFT further includes source and drain doped silicon layers 45 formed above the first sacrifice layer 49, second sacrifice layer 49, and the semiconductor layer 44. The source and the drain doped silicon layers 45 are spaced apart by the channel 52, 53. The TFT further includes a source electrode 46a and a drain electrode 46b respectively formed on the source and drain doped silicon layers 45. The thickness of the first and second sacrifice layers 49 varies with the thickness of the

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semiconductor layer 44 because the time for etching the first and second sacrifice layers 49 is substantially equal to the time for etching the semiconductor layer 44 in the subsequent process.

Finally, while the invention has been described by way of example and in terms of the preferred embodiment, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiments. On the contrary, it is intended to cover various modifications and similar arrangements as would be apparent to those skilled in the art. Therefore, the scope of the appended claims should be accorded the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications and similar arrangements.

What is claimed is:

1. A manufacturing method of a thin film transistor (TFT), comprising the steps of:

- providing a substrate;
- depositing a conductive layer above the substrate to form a gate electrode of the thin film transistor;
- forming an insulating layer above the conductive layer and the substrate;
- sequentially forming a semiconductor layer and a doped silicon layer on the insulating layer;
- depositing a sacrifice layer with an island shape above the doped silicon layer, and the sacrifice layer being positioned directly above the gate electrode;
- forming a metal layer covering the sacrifice layer and the doped silicon layer;
- patterning the metal layer to form a source electrode and a drain electrode, a channel being defined between the source electrode and the drain electrode, a non-TFT region being defined as a portion of the substrate not covered by the source electrode, the drain electrode, and the channel, and the island-shaped sacrifice layer being exposed in the channel and the doped silicon layer being exposed in the non-TFT region after the metal layer being patterned;
- using the source and the drain electrodes as a mask to perform the following etching processes at the same time during a predetermined period: (a) removing the island-shaped sacrifice layer and the doped silicon layer in the channel so that the semiconductor layer being exposed in the channel; and (b) removing the doped silicon layer and the semiconductor layer in the non-TFT region to expose the insulating layer; and
- forming a passivation layer to cover the source electrode, the drain electrode, the channel, and the substrate.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein during the etching process, etching rates and the thickness of the island-shaped sacrifice layer, the doped silicon layer, and the semiconductor layer are respectively R_{IS} , T_{IS} , R_n , T_n , R_a , and T_a , and the time for removing the island-shaped sacrifice layer and the doped silicon layer in the channel ($T_{IS}/R_{IS}+T_n/R_n$) is not less than the time for removing the doped silicon layer and the semiconductor layer in the non-TFT region ($T_n/R_n+T_a/R_a$).

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the thickness of the insulating layer in the non-TFT region is reduced by controlling the thickness of the island-shaped sacrifice layer so that a portion of the insulating layer is removed in the non-TFT region when the island-shaped sacrifice layer and the doped silicon layer is removed in the channel, and the doped silicon layer and the semiconductor layer is removed in the non-TFT region.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the etching rate and the thickness of the removed insulating layer is R_{INS} and T_{INS} , and the time for removing the sacrifice layer and the doped

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silicon layer in the channel ($T_{IS}/R_{IS}+T_n/R_n$) is equal to the time for removing the doped silicon layer, the semiconductor layer and the removed insulating layer in the non-TFT region ($T_n/R_n+T_a/R_a+T_{INS}/R_{INS}$).

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the following steps:

- etching the passivation layer to expose one of the source electrode and the drain electrode; and
- forming a transparent conductive layer above the passivation layer so as to electrically connect to one of the source electrode and the drain electrode.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the semiconductor layer is an amorphous silicon layer, the doped silicon layer is an n-type poly-silicon layer, the conductive layer is a metal layer, the substrate is made of glass or quartz, and the transparent conductive layer is an indium tin oxide (ITO) layer.

7. A method for manufacturing a thin film transistor (TFT), comprising the steps of:

- providing a substrate;
- depositing a conductive layer above the substrate to form a gate electrode of the thin film transistor;
- forming an insulating layer above the conductive layer and the substrate;
- forming a semiconductor layer on the insulating layer;
- forming a sacrifice layer with an island shape on the semiconductor layer, and the sacrifice layer being positioned directly above the gate electrode;
- forming a doped silicon layer on the sacrifice layer and the semiconductor layer;
- forming a metal layer covering the doped silicon layer;
- patterning the metal layer to form a source electrode and a drain electrode, a channel being defined between the source electrode and the drain electrode, a non-TFT region being defined as a portion of the substrate not covered by the source electrode, the drain electrode and the channel, and the doped silicon layer being exposed in the channel and the non-TFT region;
- using the source and the drain electrodes as a mask to perform the following etching processes at the same time during a predetermined period: (a) removing the doped silicon layer and the island-shaped sacrifice layer within the channel so as to expose the semiconductor layer in the channel; and (b) removing the doped silicon layer and the semiconductor layer in the non-TFT region so as to expose the insulating layer; and
- forming a passivation layer to cover the source electrode, the drain electrode, the channel, and the non-TFT region.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein during the etching process, the etching rate and the thickness of the island-shaped sacrifice layer, the doped silicon layer, and the semiconductor layer are respectively R_{IS} , T_{IS} , R_n , T_n , R_a , and T_a , and the time for removing the doped silicon layer and the island-shaped sacrifice layer in the channel ($T_{IS}/R_{IS}+T_n/R_n$) is not less than the time for removing the doped silicon layer and the semiconductor layer in the non-TFT region ($T_n/R_n+T_a/R_a$).

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the thickness of the insulating layer in the non-TFT region is reduced by controlling the thickness of the island-shaped sacrifice layer so that a portion of the insulating layer is removed in the non-TFT region when the doped silicon layer and the island-shaped sacrifice layer is etched in the channel.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the etching rate and the thickness of the removed insulating layer are respec-

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tively R_{INS} and T_{INS} , the time for removing the doped silicon layer and the island-shaped sacrifice layer in the channel ($T_{IS}/R_{IS}+T_n/R_n$) is equal to the time for removing the doped silicon layer, the semiconductor layer, and the removed insulating layer in the non-TFT region ($T_n/R_n+T_a/R_a+T_{INS}/R_{INS}$).

11. The method of claim 7, further comprising the following steps:

etching the passivation layer to expose one of the source electrode and the drain electrode; and

forming a transparent conductive layer above the passivation layer so as to electrically connect to one of the source electrode and the drain electrode.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the semiconductor layer is an amorphous silicon layer, the doped silicon layer is an n-type poly-silicon layer, the conductive layer is a metal layer, and the transparent conductive layer is an ITO layer.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the sacrifice layer has an area smaller than that of the doped silicon layer in a predetermined TFT region.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the sacrifice layer is made of silicon compound such as silicon nitride.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the sacrifice layer is removed entirely.

16. A method for forming a thin film transistor liquid crystal display (TFT-LCD), the TFT-LCD including at least one thin film transistor (TFT) and one storage capacitor (Cs), the method comprising the steps of:

providing a substrate;

depositing a first and a second conductive layer on the substrate to form a gate electrode of the TFT and a bottom electrode of the storage capacitor and;

forming an insulating layer above the conductive layers and the substrate;

sequentially forming a semiconductor layer and a doped silicon layer on the insulating layer;

depositing a sacrifice layer with an island shape above the doped silicon layer, and the sacrifice layer being positioned directly above the first conductive layer;

forming a metal layer covering the sacrifice layer and the doped silicon layer;

patterning the metal layer to form a source electrode and a drain electrode above the first conductive layer, a channel being defined between the source electrode and the drain electrode to expose the sacrifice layer therein, and a non-TFT region being defined as a portion of the substrate not covered by the source electrode, the drain electrode, and the channel so as to expose the doped silicon layer thereon;

using the source and the drain electrodes as a mask to perform the following etching processes at the same time (a) to remove the island-shaped sacrifice layer and the doped silicon layer in the channel, as well as (b) to remove the doped silicon layer and the semiconductor layer in the non-TFT region, so that the semiconductor layer being exposed in the channel and the insulating layer being exposed in the non-TFT region; and

forming a passivation layer to cover the source electrode, the drain electrode, the channel, and the second conductive layer.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein during the etching process, etching rates of the island-shaped sacrifice layer, the doped silicon layer, and the semiconductor layer are respectively R_{IS} , R_n and R_a , the thickness of the island-shaped

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sacrifice layer, the doped silicon layer, and the semiconductor layer are respectively T_{IS} , T_n , and T_a , and the time for removing the island-shaped sacrifice layer and the doped silicon layer in the channel ($T_{IS}/R_{IS}+T_n/R_n$) is not less than the time for removing the doped silicon layer and the semiconductor layer in the non-TFT region ($T_n/R_n+T_a/R_a$).

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the thickness of the insulating layer in the non-TFT region is reduced by controlling the thickness of the island-shaped sacrifice layer so that a portion of the insulating layer is removed in the non-TFT region when the island-shaped sacrifice layer and the doped silicon layer is removed in the channel, and the doped silicon layer and the semiconductor layer is removed in the non-TFT region.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the etching rate and the thickness of the removed insulating layer are R_{INS} and T_{INS} , and the time for removing the island-shaped sacrifice layer and the doped silicon layer in the channel ($T_{IS}/R_{IS}+T_n/R_n$) is equal to the time for removing the doped silicon layer, the semiconductor layer, and the removed insulating layer in the non-TFT region ($T_n/R_n+T_a/R_a+T_{INS}/R_{INS}$).

20. The method of claim 16, further comprising the following steps:

forming a hole in the passivation layer to expose one of the source electrode and the drain electrode; and

depositing a transparent conductive layer above the passivation layer and extending above one of the source and drain electrodes and the second conductive layer, and the transparent conductive layer being electrically connected to one of the source and drain electrodes through the hole for forming an upper electrode of the storage capacitor.

21. The method of claim 16, wherein the sacrifice layer has an area smaller than that of the doped silicon layer in a predetermined TFT region.

22. A method for manufacturing a thin film transistor liquid crystal display (TFT-LCD), the TFT-LCD having at least one thin film transistor (TFT) and one storage capacitor (Cs), the method comprising the steps of:

providing a substrate;

depositing a first and a second conductive layer above the substrate to form a gate electrode of the TFT and a bottom electrode of the storage capacitor, respectively;

forming an insulating layer above the conductive layers and the substrate;

depositing a semiconductor layer on the insulating layer;

forming a sacrifice layer with an island shape on the semiconductor layer, and the sacrifice layer being positioned directly above the first conductive layer;

depositing a doped silicon layer on the island-shaped sacrifice layer and the semiconductor layer;

forming a metal layer covering the doped silicon layer and the island-shaped sacrifice layer;

patterning the metal layer to form a source electrode and a drain electrode above the first conductive layer, a channel being defined between the source electrode and the drain electrode to expose the doped silicon layer therein, and a non-TFT region being defined as a portion of the substrate not covered by the source electrode, the drain electrode, and the channel to expose the doped silicon layer thereon;

using the source and the drain electrodes as a mask to perform the following etching processes at the same time to (a) remove the doped silicon layer and the island-shaped sacrifice layer in the channel so as to

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expose the semiconductor layer in the channel, and (b) to remove the doped silicon layer and the semiconductor layer in the non-TFT region so as to expose the insulating layer; and

forming a passivation layer to cover the source electrode, the drain electrode, the channel, and the second conductive layer.

23. The method of claim **22**, wherein during the etching process, the etching rate and the thickness of the island-shaped sacrifice layer, the doped silicon layer, and the semiconductor layer are R_{IS} , T_{IS} , R_n , T_n , R_a , and T_a , respectively; and the time for removing the doped silicon layer and the island-shaped sacrifice layer in the channel ($T_{IS}/R_{IS}+T_n/R_n$) is not less than the time for removing the doped silicon layer and the semiconductor layer in the non-TFT region ($T_n/R_n+T_a/R_a$).

24. The method of claim **23**, wherein the thickness of the insulating layer in the non-TFT is reduced by controlling the thickness of the island-shaped sacrifice layer so that a portion of the insulating layer is removed in the non-TFT region when the doped silicon layer and the island-shaped sacrifice layer in the channel is etched away.

25. The method of claim **24**, wherein the etching rate and the thickness of the removed insulating layer are R_{INS} and T_{INS} , and the time for removing the doped silicon layer and the island-shaped sacrifice layer in the channel ($T_{IS}/R_{IS}+T_n/R_n$) is equal to the time for removing the doped silicon layer, the semiconductor layer, and the removed insulating layer in the non-TFT region ($T_n/R_n+T_a/R_a+T_{INS}/R_{INS}$).

26. The method of claim **22** further comprising the following steps:

forming a hole in the passivation layer to expose one of the source and drain electrodes; and

depositing a transparent conductive layer above the passivation layer so as to electrically connect to one of the source and drain electrodes through the hole.

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27. A method of manufacturing a thin film transistor (TFT), comprising the steps of:

providing a substrate;

depositing a conductive layer adjacent the substrate to form a gate electrode of the thin film transistor;

forming an insulating layer adjacent the conductive layer;

forming a semiconductor layer on the insulating layer;

depositing a sacrificial layer with an island shape and a doped silicon layer on the semiconductor layer;

forming a metal layer covering the sacrificial layer and the doped silicon layer;

patterning the metal layer to form a source electrode and a drain electrode, a channel being defined between the source electrode and the drain electrode, a non-TFT region being defined as a portion of the substrate not covered by the source electrode, the drain electrode, and the channel, and the island-shaped sacrificial layer being exposed in the channel and the doped silicon layer being exposed in the non-TFT region after the metal layer being patterned;

using the source and the drain electrodes as a mask to perform the following etching processes:

(a) removing the island-shaped sacrifice layer in the channel so that the semiconductor layer being exposed in the channel; and

(b) removing the semiconductor layer in the non-TFT region to expose the insulating layer; and

forming a passivation layer to cover the source electrode, the drain electrode, the channel, and the substrate.

28. The method according to claim **27**, wherein the sacrificial layer is positioned directly over the gate electrode.

29. The method of claim **27**, wherein the sacrifice layer has an area smaller than that of the doped silicon layer in a predetermined TFT region.

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专利名称(译)	制造薄膜晶体管液晶显示器的方法		
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[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	达碁科技股份有限公司		
申请(专利权)人(译)	ACER显示技术, INC.		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	友达光电.		
[标]发明人	WONG JIA FAM		
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摘要(译)

公开了一种制造方法和薄膜晶体管液晶显示器 (TFT-LCD) 的结构。
TFT-LCD使用金属电极作为掩模, 以在用于形成源极和漏极的蚀刻工艺期间彻底去除不需要的半导体层。该制造方法可以减少由不需要的半导体层引起的问题, 从而提高TFT的质量。

