



US007423710B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Lee et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,423,710 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Sep. 9, 2008**

(54) **COLOR FILTER PANEL AND ITS FABRICATION METHOD USING BACK EXPOSURE**

(75) Inventors: **Dong-Hoon Lee**, Gyung-sangbuk-Do (KR); **Jae-Seok Park**, Gyung-sangbuk-Do (KR)

(73) Assignee: **LG Display Co., Ltd.**, Seoul (KR)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/515,884**

(22) Filed: **Sep. 6, 2006**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2007/0002219 A1 Jan. 4, 2007

Related U.S. Application Data

(62) Division of application No. 10/825,414, filed on Apr. 16, 2004, now Pat. No. 7,123,333.

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Nov. 24, 2003 (KR) 10-2003-0083772

(51) **Int. Cl.**

G02F 1/1333 (2006.01)

G02F 1/1339 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **349/110; 349/156**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 349/110-111
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

- 5,712,065 A 1/1998 Chiang et al.
- 5,793,457 A 8/1998 Tamai et al.
- 5,828,434 A 10/1998 Kodan et al.
- 5,880,803 A 3/1999 Tamai et al.

- 5,925,484 A 7/1999 Shima et al.
- 6,147,729 A 11/2000 Kurauchi et al.
- 6,323,921 B1 11/2001 Kurauchi et al.
- 9,392,735 5/2002 Tani
- 6,577,374 B1 6/2003 Nakata et al.
- 6,897,920 B2 * 5/2005 Lee et al. 349/110
- 2001/0007733 A1 7/2001 Matsuyama et al.
- 2005/0099580 A1 5/2005 Lee et al.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

- JP 7-181316 A 7/1995
- JP 8-95021 A 4/1996
- JP 9-197120 A 7/1997
- JP 9-230124 A 9/1997
- JP 10-160927 A 6/1998

(Continued)

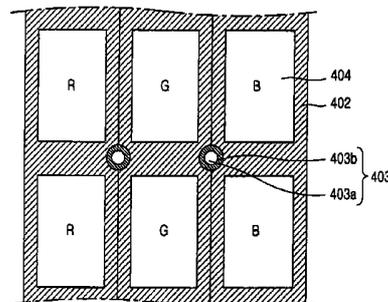
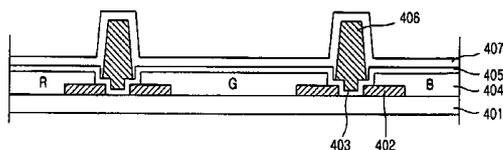
Primary Examiner—James A Dudek

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A color filter panel for a display device has a substrate, a black matrix layer on the substrate, a first opening, a color filter layer on the substrate, and a spacer in the first opening. Also, a display device has a thin film transistor (TFT) array panel, a color filter panel, and a liquid crystal between the TFT array panel and the color filter panel, where the color filter panel includes a substrate, a black matrix on the substrate, a first opening, a color filter layer on the substrate, and a spacer in the first opening.

12 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

JP	10-197713 A	7/1998	JP	2000-75305 A	3/2000
JP	10-221696 A	8/1998	JP	2001-108815 A	4/2001
JP	10-239513 A	9/1998	JP	2002-131902 A	5/2002
JP	11-212076 A	8/1999	JP	2002-236210 A	8/2002
JP	2000-29206 A	1/2000	JP	2003-15294 A	1/2003
			JP	2003-177228 A	6/2003

* cited by examiner

FIG. 1
RELATED ART

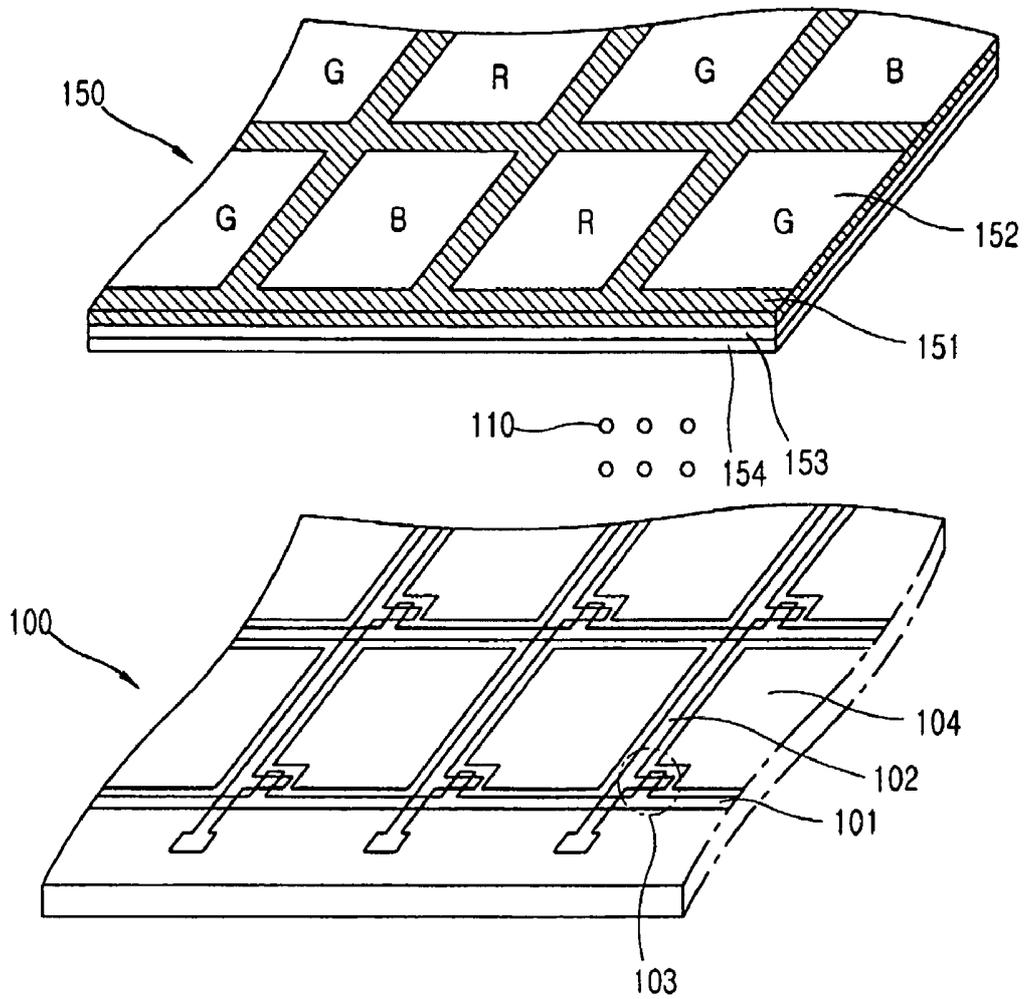


FIG. 2
RELATED ART

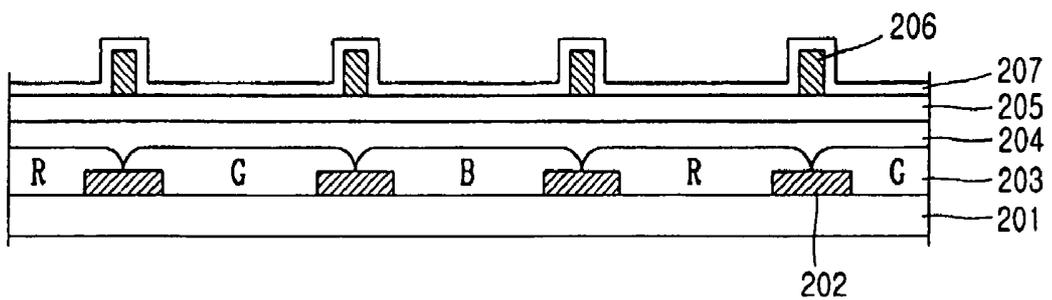


FIG. 3A
RELATED ART

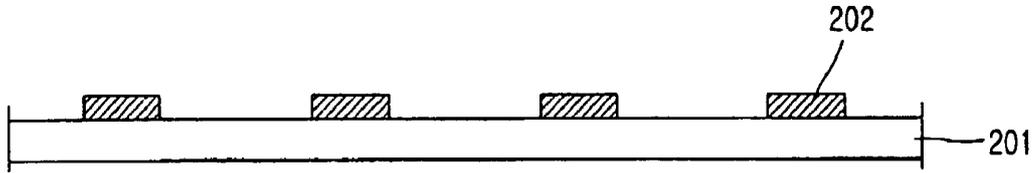


FIG. 3B
RELATED ART

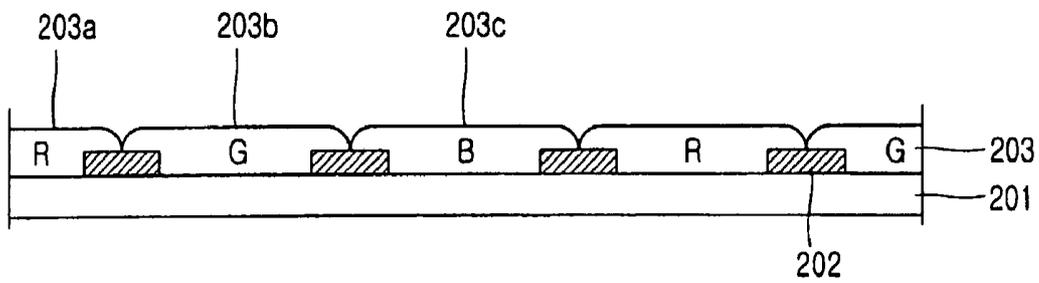


FIG. 3C
RELATED ART

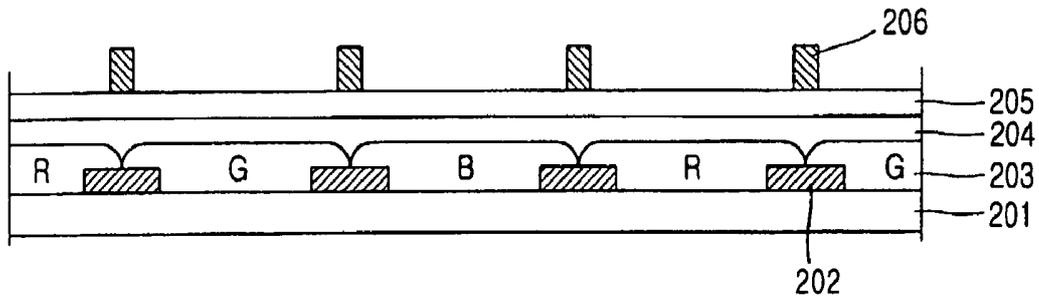


FIG. 3D
RELATED ART

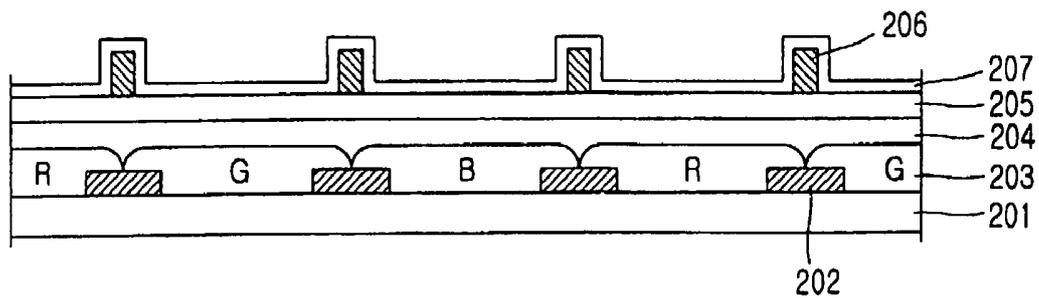


FIG. 4

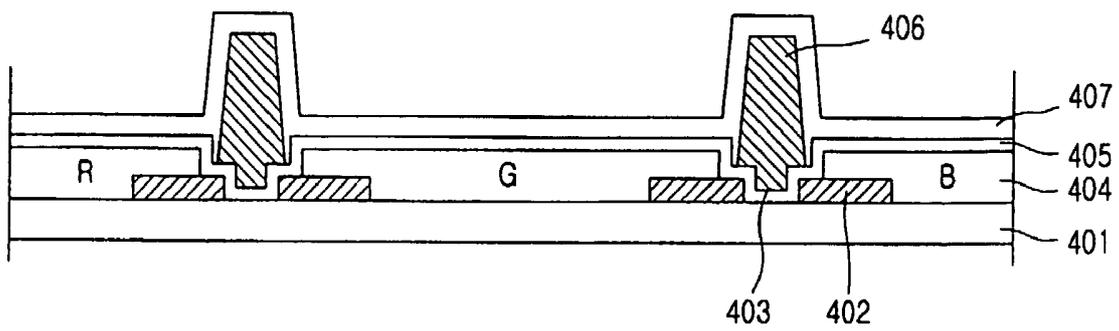


FIG. 5

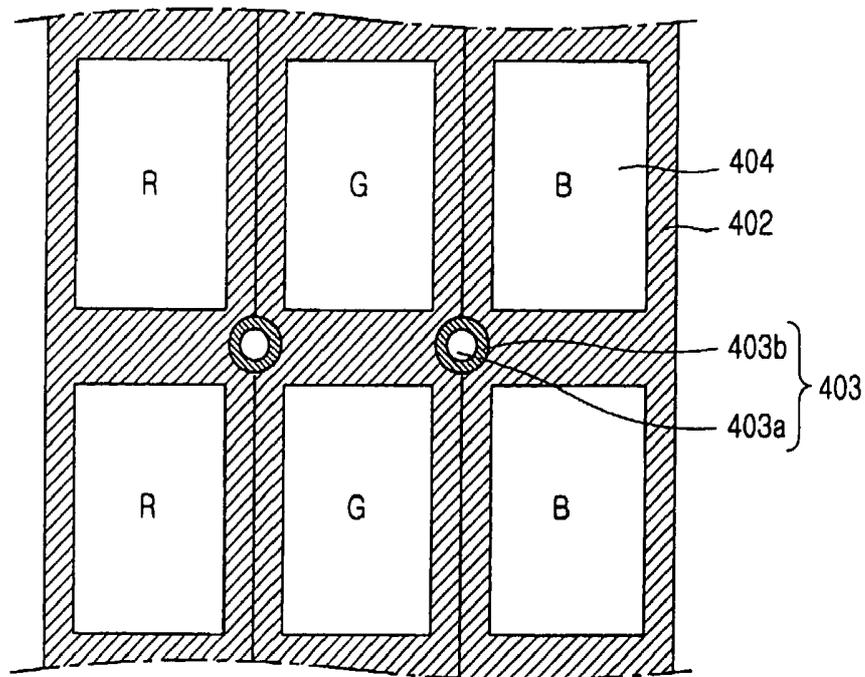


FIG. 6A

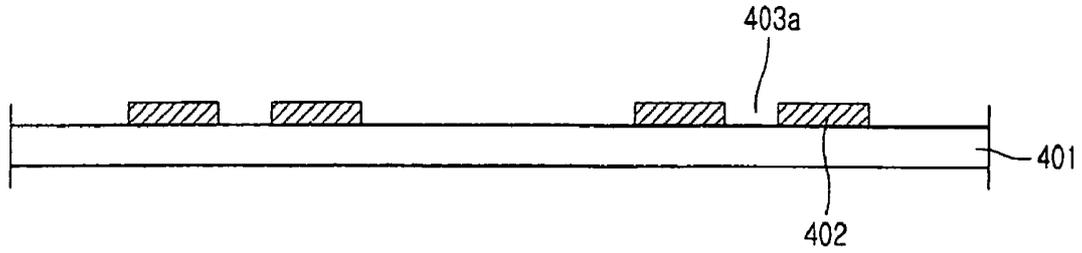


FIG. 6B

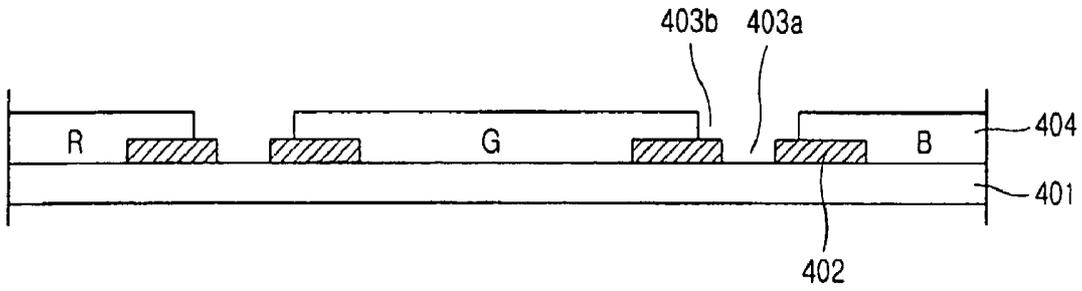


FIG. 6C

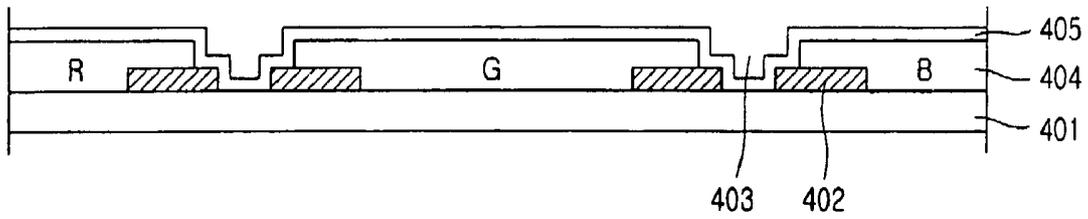


FIG. 6D

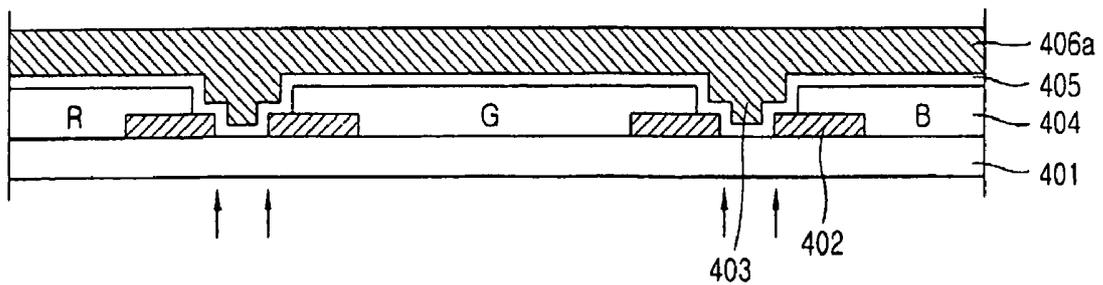


FIG. 6E

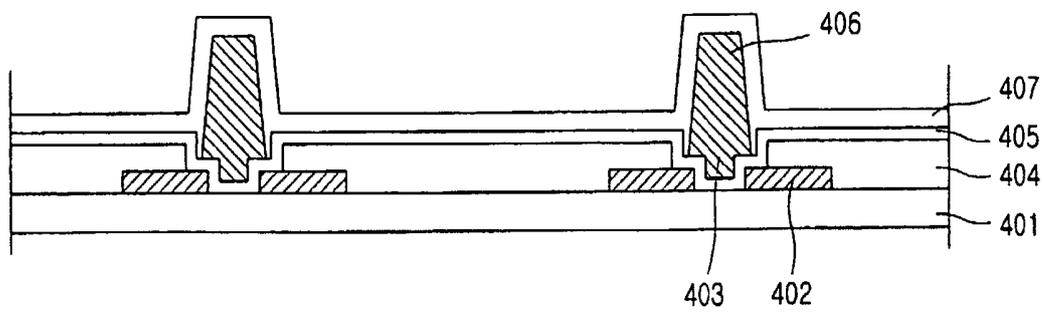
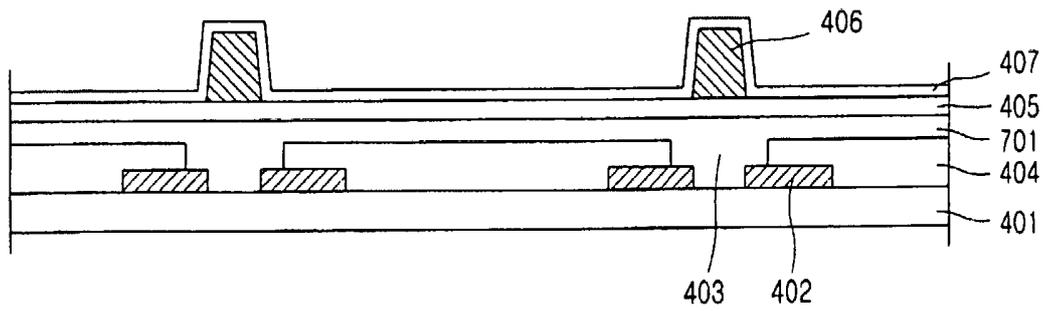


FIG. 7



COLOR FILTER PANEL AND ITS FABRICATION METHOD USING BACK EXPOSURE

This application is a Divisional of application Ser. No. 10/825,414 filed on Apr. 16, 2004 (now U.S. Pat. No. 7,123,333 B2 issued Oct. 17, 2006) and for which priority claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119, the priority benefit of Patent Application No. 2003-83772 filed in Republic of Korea on Nov. 24, 2003, the entire contents of which are herein fully incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a fabrication method of a liquid crystal display (LCD) device, and more particularly, to a fabrication method of an LCD device for forming a color filter panel with a reduced number of mask processes.

2. Description of the Related Art

Generally, an LCD device is for displaying an image by using a liquid crystal driven by an applied signal, and is largely composed of an upper plate, a lower plate, and a liquid crystal between the upper and lower plates.

The upper plate is generally known as a color filter substrate/panel for displaying an image in colors. The lower plate is generally known as a thin film transistor (TFT) array substrate/panel having unit pixels arranged in a matrix form and provided with TFTs at each unit pixel as a switching device.

The structure of an LCD panel constituted with an upper plate **200** and a lower plate **100** will be explained with reference to FIG. 1.

As shown in FIG. 1, in the lower plate (TFT array panel) **100**, a plurality of gate lines **101** arranged in parallel cross perpendicularly a plurality of data lines **102** arranged in parallel on a lower substrate **105**. Intersection regions between the gate lines **101** and the data lines **102** are defined as unit pixel regions, where the unit pixel regions are arranged in a matrix form on the lower substrate **105**. At each intersection region between the gate lines **101** and the data lines **102**, a switching device **103** for driving the corresponding unit pixel is formed. As the switching device, a TFT is generally used. The TFT includes a gate electrode, a source electrode, a drain electrode, and a channel layer. The gate electrode and the source/drain electrodes are respectively connected to the corresponding gate line **101** and the corresponding data line **102**.

For each unit pixel region, a pixel electrode **104** for applying an electric field to a liquid crystal **110** is formed at the lower substrate **105**. An alignment layer (not shown) for the initial alignment of the liquid crystal **110** is formed on the pixel electrodes **104** over the entire surface of the lower substrate **105**. As the alignment layer, a polyimide-based organic layer is used. The initial alignment of the liquid crystal **110** is performed by depositing the alignment layer and performing a rubbing process for rubbing the alignment layer with cotton.

A spacer (not shown) for evenly maintaining a gap between the lower plate **100** and the upper plate **200** is arranged on the alignment layer. A sealant for bonding the upper plate **200** and the lower plate **100** and preventing the liquid crystal **110** from being leaked is formed at the periphery of the pixel region of the lower plate **100**.

The structure of the upper plate **200** opposing the lower plate **100** and displaying information in colors will be explained.

In the upper plate **200**, a black matrix **202** for shielding unnecessary light among the light irradiated from the lower

plate **100** is provided in a matrix form. On the black matrix **202**, a color filter layer **203** for displaying an image in colors is provided. The color filter layer **203** is composed of R, G, and B sub color filter layers each corresponding to one of the unit pixel regions.

An overcoat layer **204** for compensating any step in the color filter layer **203** may be provided on the color filter layer **203**. A common electrode **205** for applying an electric field to the liquid crystal **110** with the pixel electrodes **104** formed at the lower plate **100** is provided on the overcoat layer **204**. On the common electrode **205**, an alignment layer (not shown) for the initial alignment of the liquid crystal **110** is provided. A spacer (not shown) for maintaining a cell gap between the upper plate **200** and the lower plate **100** may be provided on this alignment layer. As known, a spacer can be provided either at the upper plate **200** or at the lower plate **100**.

FIG. 2 shows the structure of the upper plate (color filter panel) **200** of the LCD device of FIG. 1 in more detail.

Referring to FIG. 2, on a substrate **201** of a transparent material, the black matrix **202** is provided. The black matrix **202** is formed of a metal thin film or a resin, and is arranged in a matrix form so as to correspond to the gate lines **101** and data lines **102** formed on the lower substrate **105**. A color resin as the color filter layer **203** for displaying an image in colors is formed in a pixel region defined by the black matrix **202**. The color resin is composed of R, G, and B colors, and is arranged to correspond to each unit pixel. On the color filter layer **203**, the transparent overcoat layer **204** for compensating steps in the color filter layer **203** and protecting the color filter layer **203** is provided. On the overcoat layer **204**, the common electrode **205** composed of a transparent material for applying an electric field to the liquid crystal **110** is provided. On the common electrode **205**, a spacer **206** for maintaining a cell gap of the LCD device is formed. On the spacer **206**, an alignment layer **207** for the initial alignment of the liquid crystal **110** injected between the color filter panel **200** and the TFT array panel **100** is provided.

The fabrication process of the color filter panel **200** of FIG. 2 will be explained in more detail with reference to FIGS. 3A to 3D.

Generally, a metal material or a resin for forming a black matrix is formed on a transparent substrate. The black matrix is formed between R, G, and B sub color filter layers and shields light passing through a reverse tilt domain formed at the periphery portion of a pixel electrode of a TFT array panel. As the material of the black matrix, a metal thin layer such as Cr having an optical density more than 3.5 or an organic material such as carbon are generally used. A double layer such as Cr/CrOx may be used for a low reflection. In case of using a metal thin layer, the black matrix may be formed in a certain pattern by a photolithography process applying an exposure process using a mask. On the other hand, in case of using a resin of an organic material, the black matrix may be formed in a certain pattern by an exposure process using a mask and a development process.

More specifically, FIG. 3A shows the black matrix **202** of a certain pattern formed on the substrate **201**. In order to form the black matrix **202** on the substrate **201**, a first mask including a black matrix pattern is needed and used.

After forming the black matrix **202**, as shown in FIG. 3B, the color filter layer **203** composed of R, G, and B colors for displaying an image in colors is formed. The color filter layer **203** composed of R, G, and B sub color filter layers is formed such that each sub color filter layer corresponds to one of the unit pixels. The color filter layer **203** can be fabricated by using one of several methods such as a dyeing method, an electrodeposition method, a pigment dispersing method, a

printing method, etc. Herein, the fabrication method of the color filter layer **203** by using the pigment dispersing method will be explained.

According to the pigment dispersing method, first, one of R, G, and B color resins is deposited on the substrate **201** where the black matrix **202** is formed. Here the color resins are deposited in the order of R, G, and B colors. Then, a selective exposure is performed on the resulting structure thereby to form a red sub color filter layer **203a**. Then, a green color resin is deposited on the substrate **201** having the red sub color filter layer **203a**, and a selective etching is performed thus to pattern and form a green sub color filter layer **203b** at a corresponding region. Then a blue color resin is deposited and selectively etched to form a blue sub color filter layer **203c**.

Alternatively, the color filter layer **203** may be formed by applying a second mask and repeating the exposure process. That is, in order to form the R, G, and B sub color filter layers **203a**, **203b**, **203c**, the mask process composed of an exposure, a development, and a cleaning is performed three times.

After forming the color filter layer **203** by performing the mask process three times, as shown in FIG. 3C, the transparent overcoat layer **204** of an organic layer for compensating the steps in the color filter layer **203** is formed. If an organic layer is used as the black matrix **202**, the overcoat layer **204** is absolutely necessary since the steps in the color filter layer **203** are greatly generated. But if a metal thin film is used as the black matrix **202**, the overcoat layer **204** may not be needed since the black matrix **202** is formed as a thin film.

After forming the overcoat layer **204**, a transparent electrode as an indium tin oxide (ITO) layer for applying an electric field to the liquid crystal **110** is formed. This ITO layer serves as the common electrode **205**.

Then, the spacer **206** for maintaining a cell gap of the LCD device is formed on the common electrode **205**. The spacer **206** is formed by using a dispersion method for dispersing balls on the substrate or by using a patterning method which can be used to vary the size, height and position of the spacer parts.

The dispersion method is divided into a wet dispersion method for dispersing a spacer by mixing with alcohol, and a dry dispersion method for dispersing only the spacer. The dry dispersion method includes a static dispersion method using static electricity and an antistatic dispersion method using gas pressure. The antistatic dispersion method is mainly used in the liquid crystal cell structure susceptible to static electricity. By the dispersion method, the size, the height, and the position of the dispersed spacer balls may not be varied, but a column spacer or a patterned spacer for increasing an opening ratio is used.

According to the patterning method for the spacer **206**, a photosensitive resin is deposited on the common electrode **205** and an exposure process using a mask, a development process, and a cleaning process are performed thereto to form the spacer **206** of a certain pattern. Thus, to form the spacer **206**, additional mask processes are required.

After forming the spacer **206** on the common electrode **205**, an organic layer such as polyimide is deposited thereon for the initial alignment of the liquid crystal, and a rubbing is performed in a certain direction thus to form the alignment layer **207**. This completes the fabrication of the color filter panel of the LCD device.

However, as aforementioned, since a large number of mask processes are required at the time of fabricating the related art color filter panel, the processes are delayed and the productivity of the LCD device is reduced. One mask process includes a series of processes such as a deposition process of

a photosensitive resin, an exposure process, a cleaning process, etc. Therefore, it is advantageous to reduce the number of mask processes needed, so as to reduce the fabrication cost of the LCD device and to enhance the productivity of the LCD device.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, the present invention provides a fabrication method for a color filter panel of an LCD device which overcomes the problems and limitations of the related art fabrication methods.

Further, an object of the present invention is to provide a fabrication method of a color filter panel capable of simplifying the process by reducing the number of masks used and capable of reducing the fabrication cost.

To achieve these and other advantages and in accordance with the purpose of the present invention, as embodied and broadly described herein, there is provided a fabrication method for a color filter panel of a display device, the method comprising: forming a black matrix layer having a first opening on a substrate; forming a color filter layer on the substrate; forming an organic layer on the color filter layer and in the first opening; and forming a spacer by back-exposing the organic layer through the first opening.

To achieve these and other advantages and in accordance with the purpose of the present invention, as embodied and broadly described herein, there is also provided a color filter panel for a display device, the color filter panel comprising: a substrate; a black matrix layer on the substrate and having a first opening; a color filter layer on the substrate; and a spacer in the first opening.

To achieve these and other advantages and in accordance with the purpose of the present invention, as embodied and broadly described herein, there is also provided a display device comprising: a thin film transistor (TFT) array panel; a color filter panel; and a liquid crystal layer between the TFT array panel and the color filter panel, wherein the color filter panel includes a substrate, a black matrix on the substrate and having a first opening, a color filter layer on the substrate, and a spacer in the first opening.

The foregoing and other objects, features, aspects and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description of the present invention when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings, which are included to provide a further understanding of the invention and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate embodiments of the invention and together with the description serve to explain the principles of the invention.

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view showing a schematic construction of a liquid crystal display (LCD) device in accordance with the related art;

FIG. 2 is a sectional view showing the structure of the color filter panel of the LCD device of FIG. 1;

FIGS. 3A to 3D are views showing the fabrication process of the color filter panel of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a sectional view showing a structure of a color filter panel of an LCD device according to one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 5 is a top plane view showing the structure of the color filter panel of FIG. 4 according to the one embodiment of the present invention;

FIGS. 6A to 6E are views showing a fabrication process of the color filter panel of FIG. 4 according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 7 is a sectional view of the color filter panel including an overcoat layer according to one embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Reference will now be made in detail to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

Hereinafter, the structure of a color filter panel of a display device such as an LCD device according to one embodiment of the present invention will be explained with reference to FIGS. 4 to 5.

FIG. 4 is a sectional view showing the structure of a color filter panel of an LCD device according to one embodiment of the present invention. As shown, an opaque black matrix 402 of a matrix arrangement is formed on a transparent substrate 401. Through the parts of the black matrix 402, a plurality of first openings 403a for passing the light irradiated from the TFT array panel are formed. As the material for the black matrix 402, Cr, CrOx, or polymer resin may be used.

On the substrate 401 including the black matrix 402 having the first openings 403a, a color filter layer 404 constituted with R, G, and B sub color filter layers is provided. These R, G, and B sub color filter layers correspond to unit pixels. The color filter layer 404 is formed between the strips of the black matrix 402 and on parts of the black matrix 402, or only between the strips of the black matrix 402. Through the parts of the color filter layer 404, a plurality of second openings 403b each connected directly to the corresponding first opening 403a are formed. The second openings 403b are formed to have a size equal to or larger than the first openings 403a.

A common electrode 405 for applying an electric field to a liquid crystal is formed over the color filter layer 404 and in the first and second openings 403a and 403b. The common electrode 405 may be composed of an indium tin oxide (ITO) or an indium zinc oxide (IZO) which are transparent electrodes.

A spacer 406 for maintaining a cell gap of the LCD device is formed on the common electrode 405 in the openings 403 (403a and 403b). The spacer 406 may be formed with various area densities according to the size of the liquid crystal display panel, and can have various patterns, shapes and sizes. For instance, the spacer 406 can be composed of a plurality of spacer parts such as projections, ball-shaped parts, etc. An alignment layer 407 for the initial alignment of the liquid crystal is formed on the spacer 406.

The spacer 406 may be formed over the black matrix 402 and at the same time at common corner regions between the sub color filter layers of the color filter layer 404. Therefore, the openings 403 may be formed at the common corner regions between the R, G, and B sub color filter layers. According to the position of the spacer parts of the spacer 406, the position of the openings 403 is determined. The spacer 406 is preferably opaque so that the light may not leak through the openings 403.

The color filter layer 404 may be an island type where the sub color filter layers are separated from one another, or a stripe type where the same sub color filter layers are formed in columns.

In case of forming the common electrode 405 on the color filter layer 404, the spacer 406 is in contact with the substrate 401 as the common electrode 405 is positioned between the spacer parts of the spacer 406. Therefore, the spacer 406 is formed of an opaque material so as not to pass the light irradiated from the lower substrate of the TFT array panel.

FIG. 5 is a top plane view showing the structure of the color filter panel of FIG. 4. Here, certain parts (such as the spacer 406) of the color filter panel in FIG. 4 are not shown to better illustrate the openings 403. Each element 403 is composed of the first opening 403a formed at the black matrix 402 and the second opening 403b formed at the color filter layer 404. As shown, the first openings 403a are preferably formed in the black matrix 402, especially at each common corner region 403c of the sub color filter layers. However, the position of the openings 403 is not limited to such common corner regions.

The fabrication process of the color filter panel in FIGS. 4 and 5 will be explained in more detail with reference to FIGS. 6A to 6E according to the present invention.

As shown in FIG. 6A, the black matrix 402 including the first openings 403a is formed on the transparent substrate 401. The black matrix 402 including the first openings 403a may be formed through a step of forming a thin film of a black matrix material on the substrate, a step of depositing a photoresist (not shown) on the thin film of the black matrix material, and a step of photo-etching by applying a mask including an opening pattern corresponding to the first openings 403a. In case that a metal such as Cr or CrOx is used as the black matrix material, the photo-etching effective to form a metal pattern may be applied. In case that a carbon black resin of a photosensitive organic layer is used as the black matrix material, an exposure process using a mask including the opening pattern corresponding to the first openings 403a, and a development process are performed thus to form the black matrix 402 including the first openings 403a.

Then, as shown in FIG. 6B, the color filter layer 404 including the second openings 403b is formed. The color filter layer 404 constituted with the R, G, and B sub color filter layers is formed to correspond to the unit pixel regions. The color filter layer 404 is fabricated by one of several methods such as a dyeing method, an electrodepositioning method, a pigment dispersing method, a printing method, etc. Herein, the fabrication method of the color filter layer 404 by the pigment dispersing method will be explained.

According to the pigment dispersing method, first, the R color resin is deposited on the entire substrate 401 where the black matrix 402 has been formed. Then, a selective exposure is performed on the resulting structure thereby to form a red sub color filter layer. Then, a green color resin is deposited on the substrate where the red sub color filter layer has been formed, and a selective etching is performed thus to pattern and form a green sub color filter layer at a corresponding region. This process is repeated for the blue color to form a blue sub color filter layer. In this example, the color resins are deposited and formed in the order of R, G, B colors, but can be formed in other order if desired. Also, the sub color filter layer may be an island type such that the sub color filter layers are separated from one another, or may be a stripe type such that the same sub color filter layers are formed as a series.

During one process among the processes for forming the R, G, and B sub color filter layers, the second openings 403b are simultaneously formed. For instance, in case that the sub color filter layers of a stripe type are used, the second openings 403b above the first openings 403a can be formed by arranging the sub color filter layers to define the second openings 403b therebetween. Also, in case that adjacent sub color filter layers are overlapped, the second openings 403b

may be formed at the overlapped sub color filter layer regions. FIGS. 5 and 6B show the second openings 403b formed by arranging the adjacent sub color filter layers to define the openings 403b.

On the contrary, if the sub color filter layers are formed as an island type, the color filter layer 404 may not be formed on the black matrix 402, but only between the strips of the black matrix 402. In this case, only the first openings 403a are formed through the black matrix 402, no second openings 403b exist, and only the first openings 403a may be used as a spacer forming hole.

As shown in FIG. 6C, the common electrode 405 for applying an electric field to the liquid crystal is further formed on the color filter layer 404 including the openings 403. The common electrode 405 is formed of a transparent electrode such as an ITO or an IZO. The common electrode 405 in the color filter panel may be provided at an LCD device operated by a twisted nematic (TN) mode. However, the common electrode may not be formed in the color filter panel if the LCD device is operated in an in-plane switching mode where a common electrode is formed on the TFT array panel. In order to prevent external static electricity from damaging the LCD device, it is also possible to form an ITO layer at the back surface or the upper surface of the color filter panel and then to perform a color filter process.

As shown in FIG. 6D, an organic layer 406a is formed on the common electrode 405. The organic layer 406a is for forming the spacer 406, and is photosensitized by a back exposure through the openings 403a and 403b.

Particularly, after forming the organic layer 406a, ultraviolet rays are irradiated from the back surface of the substrate 401 onto the organic layer 406a, thus to perform a back exposure. In this example, the organic layer 406a is a negative type such that an exposed region of the organic layer 406a is hardened, but a positive type can also be used. The color filter layer 404 includes an ultraviolet ray absorbent material or layer to prevent the ultraviolet light from reaching portions of the organic layer 406a above the color filter layer 404 at the time of the back exposure.

In another example, the back-exposure may be performed by using a glass filter for passing only a certain wavelength and without the use of the ultraviolet ray absorbent material in the color filter layer 404. For instance, a glass filter is placed below the substrate 401 and is back-exposed. The glass filter passes the rays having a wavelength of less than 360 nm in the ultraviolet ray region so as to shield or block out the near blue wavelength of 360 nm or above in the ultraviolet ray region. Since the organic layer 406a for forming the spacer 406 includes initiators that react to the light having a wavelength in the range of, e.g., 320 nm~360 nm, the filter glass is used to shield the light of at least 360 nm in the ultraviolet ray region to prevent certain portions of the organic layer 406a from reacting to the ultraviolet rays, so as to pattern the spacer 406.

After the back-exposure, the organic layer 406a is developed and cleaned to remove certain portions of the organic layer 406a and thereby form the spacer 406. A predetermined number of spacer parts of the spacer 406 may be formed at each unit pixel with various forms according to a model. In order to prevent unnecessary light from being leaked from the back surface through the openings 403, the spacer 406 may be formed of an opaque organic layer for shielding the light.

As a result, as shown in FIG. 6E, the spacer 406 is formed in the openings 403. In the present invention, the first openings 403a in the black matrix 402 and/or the second openings 403b at the color filter layer are formed so that the back exposure may be used to form the spacer 406.

Next, the alignment layer 407 for the initial alignment of the liquid crystal is formed on the spacer 406 and the common electrode 405. As a material for the alignment layer 407, a polyimide-based resin may be used. This completes the fabrication of the color filter panel according to the present invention.

By the present fabrication method, the spacer 406 is formed by using the back exposure and without the use of an additional mask and the mask process.

Furthermore, the first openings 403a formed in the black matrix 402 and the second openings 403b formed in the color filter layer 404 may be formed only by further forming the opening pattern at the mask without an additional process, thereby simplifying the entire fabrication method of the color filter panel.

FIG. 7 is a sectional view showing the structure of the color filter panel according to another embodiment of the invention. The color filter panel of FIG. 7 is identical to that of FIG. 6, except that the step of forming an overcoat layer 701 is added. As shown in FIG. 7, to compensate for a severe step in the color filter layer 404, the transparent overcoat layer 701 is formed over the color filter layer 404, over the black matrix 402, and in the openings 403, so as to planarize the resultant color filter panel structure. Then the common electrode 405, the spacer 406, and the alignment layer 407 are formed as discussed above in connection with FIGS. 6C-6E.

It is understood that the present LCD devices mentioned in connection with FIGS. 4-7 include elements generally present in related art LCD devices. For example, the present LCD device includes the related art TFT array panel such as one shown in FIG. 1, a liquid crystal layer between the TFT array panel and the present color filter panel, driving circuits, etc.

In the present invention, the first openings are 403a formed at predetermined portions of the black matrix 402 where the spacer 406 is to be formed, and the second openings 403b are, optionally, formed between the portions of the color filter layer 404 and directly above the first openings. These first and second openings, or just the first openings if no second openings are formed because, e.g., the color filter layer does not overlap the black matrix, are then used to effectively fabricate the spacer by using the back-exposure without the use of an additional spacer-forming mask. By reducing the number of masks used, the entire process for the color filter panel fabrication is simplified, the fabrication cost is reduced, and thereby the productivity of the color filter panel is increased. Where the spacer can be formed by the back exposure through the openings, the present invention may be applied regardless of whether or not the color filter panel includes the common electrode and regardless of whether or not the color filter panel is provided with the overcoat layer.

As the present invention may be embodied in several forms without departing from the spirit or essential characteristics thereof, it should also be understood that the above-described embodiments are not limited by any of the details of the foregoing description, unless otherwise specified, but rather should be construed broadly within its spirit and scope as defined in the appended claims, and therefore all changes and modifications that fall within the metes and bounds of the claims, or equivalence of such metes and bounds are therefore intended to be embraced by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A color filter panel for a display device, the color filter panel comprising:
 - a substrate;
 - a black matrix layer on the substrate and having a first opening;

9

a color filter layer on the substrate;
 a common electrode on the color filter layer and contacting
 the substrate through the first opening; and
 a spacer in the first opening and on the common electrode.
 2. The color filter panel of claim 1, further comprising: 5
 a second opening above the first opening and between parts
 of the color filter layer, wherein the spacer is in the first
 and second openings.
 3. The color filter panel of claim 2, wherein a size of the
 second opening is equal to a size of the first opening. 10
 4. The color filter panel of claim 1, further comprising:
 an alignment layer on the common electrode and the
 spacer.
 5. The color filter panel of claim 1, wherein the color filter
 layer includes an ultraviolet ray absorbent material. 15
 6. A display device comprising:
 a thin film transistor (TFT) array panel;
 a color filter panel; and
 a liquid crystal layer between the TFT array panel and the 20
 color filter panel, wherein the color filter panel includes:
 a substrate,
 a black matrix on the substrate and having a first opening,
 and

10

a color filter layer on the substrate,
 a common electrode on the color filter layer and contact-
 ing the substrate through the first opening, and
 a spacer in the first opening and on the common elec-
 trode.
 7. The display device of claim 6, wherein the color filter
 panel further includes:
 a second opening on the first opening and between parts of
 the color filter layer, wherein the spacer is in the first and
 second openings.
 8. The display device of claim 7, wherein a size of the
 second opening is equal a size of the first opening.
 9. The display device of claim 6, wherein the color filter
 panel further includes:
 an alignment layer on the common electrode and the
 spacer.
 10. The display device of claim 6, wherein the color filter
 layer includes an ultraviolet ray absorbent material.
 11. The color filter panel of claim 2, wherein a size of the
 second opening is greater than a size of the first opening.
 12. The display device of claim 7, wherein a size of the
 second opening is greater than a size of the first opening.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	滤色器面板及其制造方法，使用背面曝光		
公开(公告)号	US7423710	公开(公告)日	2008-09-09
申请号	US11/515884	申请日	2006-09-06
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	李东熏 朴宰SEOK		
申请(专利权)人(译)	李东勋 朴宰硕		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	LG DISPLAY CO. , LTD.		
[标]发明人	LEE DONG HOON PARK JAE SEOK		
发明人	LEE, DONG-HOON PARK, JAE-SEOK		
IPC分类号	G02F1/1333 G02F1/1339 G02F1/1335		
CPC分类号	G02F1/13394 G02F1/133512		
优先权	1020030083772 2003-11-24 KR		
其他公开文献	US20070002219A1		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

一种用于显示装置的滤色器面板，具有基板，基板上的黑矩阵层，第一开口，基板上的滤色器层，以及第一开口中的间隔物。此外，显示装置在TFT阵列面板和滤色器面板之间具有薄膜晶体管（TFT）阵列面板，滤色器面板和液晶，其中滤色器面板包括基板，黑色矩阵基板，第一开口，基板上的滤色器层，以及第一开口中的间隔物。

