



US007929096B2

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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,929,096 B2**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Apr. 19, 2011**

(54) **LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY**

(56) **References Cited**

(75) Inventors: **Joo-seok Yeom**, Gwacheon-si (KR);  
**Kyu-wan Ryu**, Seoul (KR)

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

|              |      |        |                 |         |
|--------------|------|--------|-----------------|---------|
| 5,418,635    | A *  | 5/1995 | Mitsui et al.   | 349/113 |
| 6,441,878    | B1 * | 8/2002 | Wong            | 349/143 |
| 2002/0076845 | A1 * | 6/2002 | Noritake et al. | 438/30  |
| 2009/0207359 | A1 * | 8/2009 | Shin et al.     | 349/129 |

(73) Assignee: **Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.**,  
Suwon-si (KR)

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 226 days.

|    |               |         |
|----|---------------|---------|
| JP | 08262445      | 10/1996 |
| JP | 2006337697    | 12/2006 |
| KR | 1020050070380 | 7/2005  |

\* cited by examiner

(21) Appl. No.: **12/274,875**

*Primary Examiner* — Sarah Hahm

(22) Filed: **Nov. 20, 2008**

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — H.C. Park & Associates, PLC

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2009/0147162 A1 Jun. 11, 2009

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A liquid crystal display includes a first insulating substrate, pixel electrodes disposed on the first insulating substrate and divided into a plurality of domains, each domain including micro-concave stripes and micro-convex stripes arranged in a specific direction, a second insulating substrate facing the first insulating substrate, a common electrode, which is not patterned, disposed on the second insulating substrate, and a liquid crystal layer interposed between the first and second insulating substrates and including liquid crystal molecules. The liquid crystal molecules are aligned perpendicular to the first and second insulating substrates when an electric field is not applied to the liquid crystal layer, and the liquid crystal molecules are inclined in an extension direction of the micro-concave stripes and the micro-convex stripes when an electric field is applied to the liquid crystal layer.

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Dec. 7, 2007 (KR) ..... 10-2007-0127065

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**G02F 1/1343** (2006.01)

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

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... 349/139,  
349/143, 144, 146

See application file for complete search history.

**20 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets**

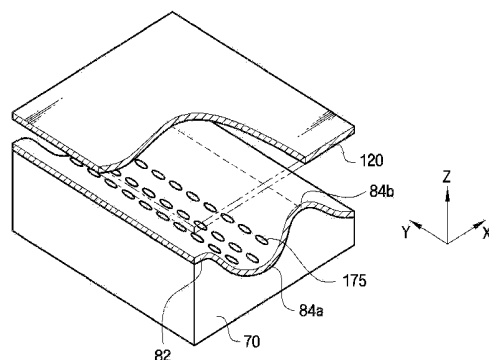
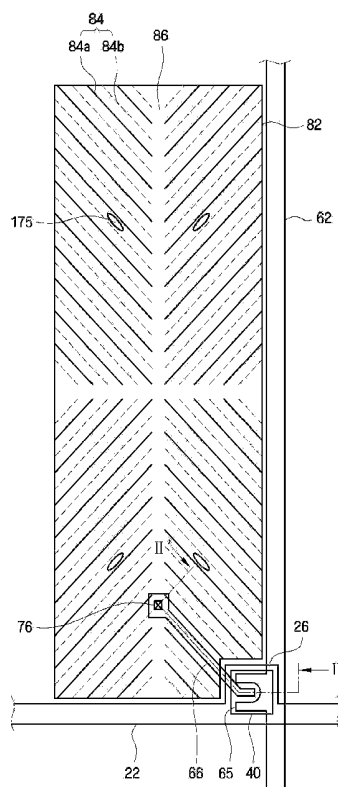


FIG. 1

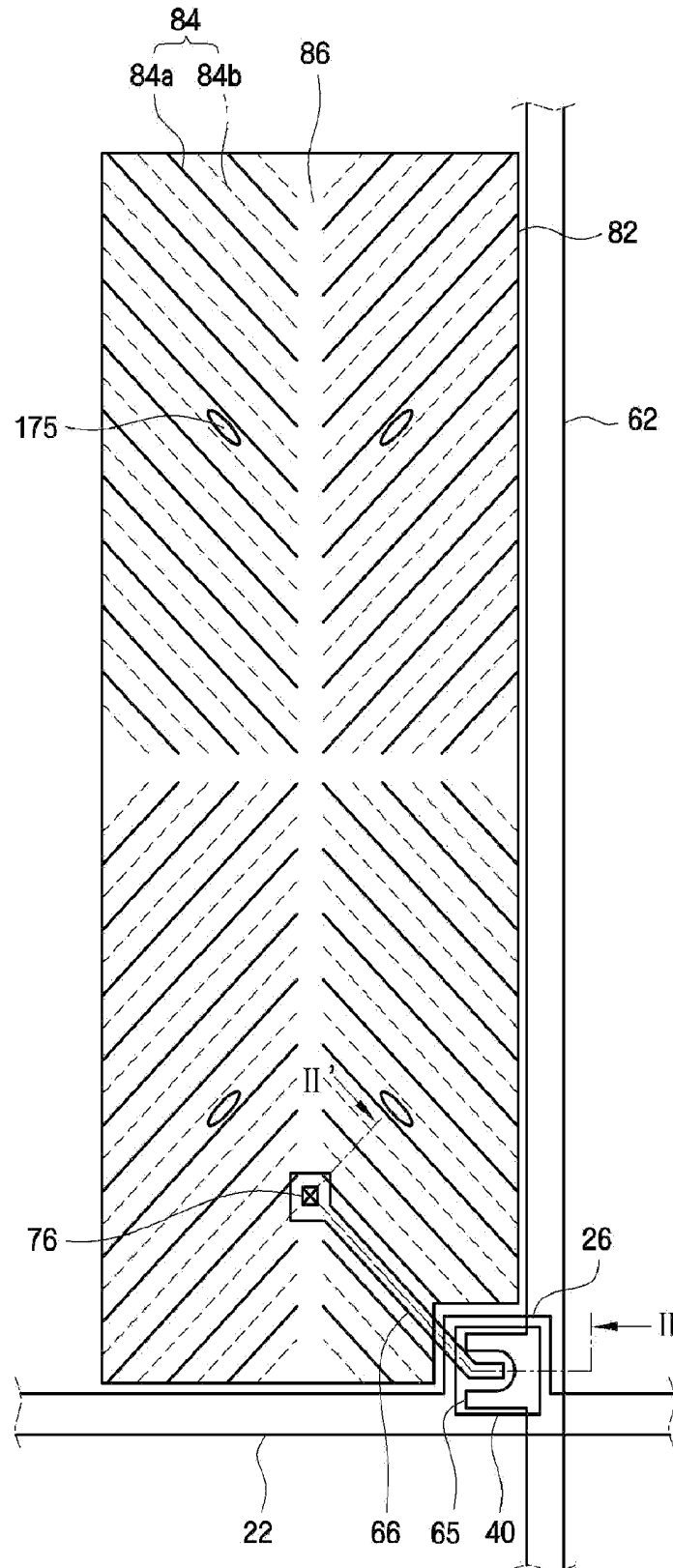
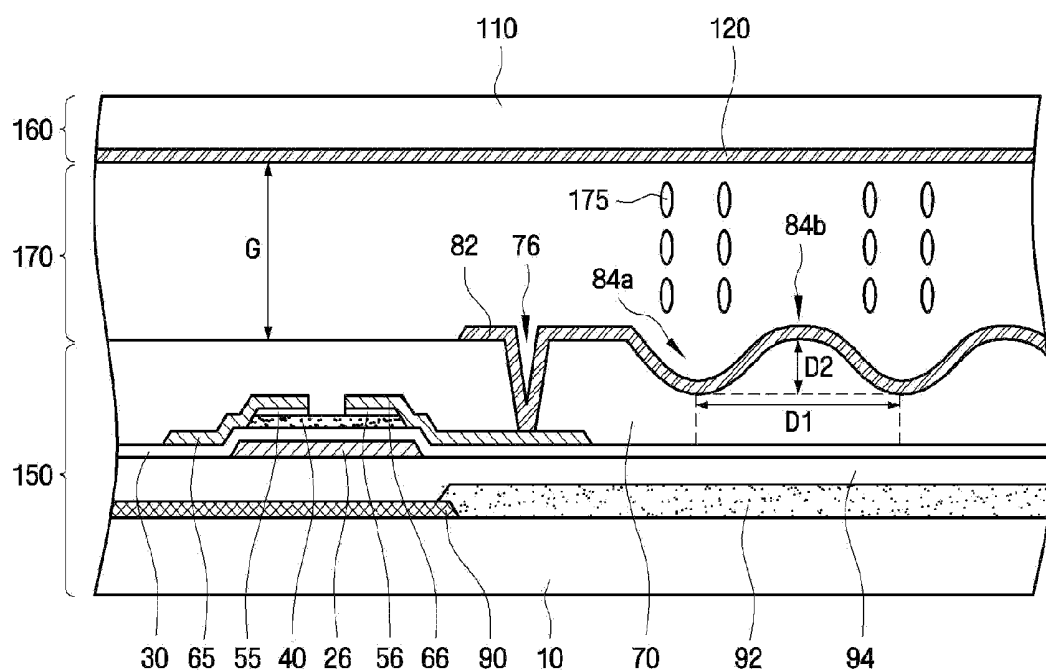


FIG. 2



**FIG. 3**

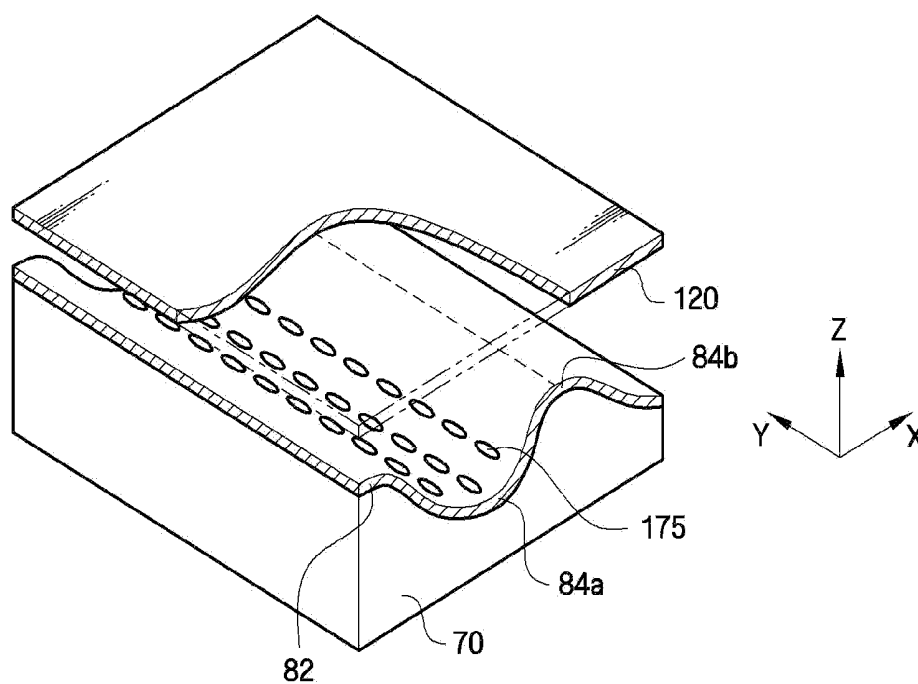


FIG. 4A

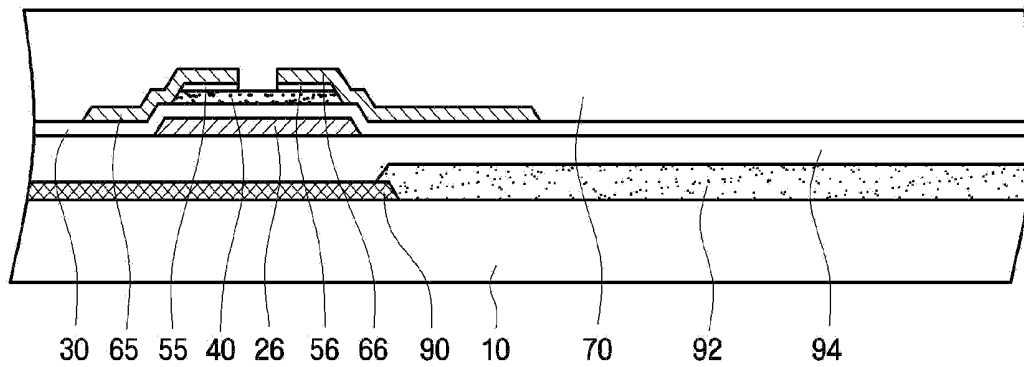


FIG. 4B

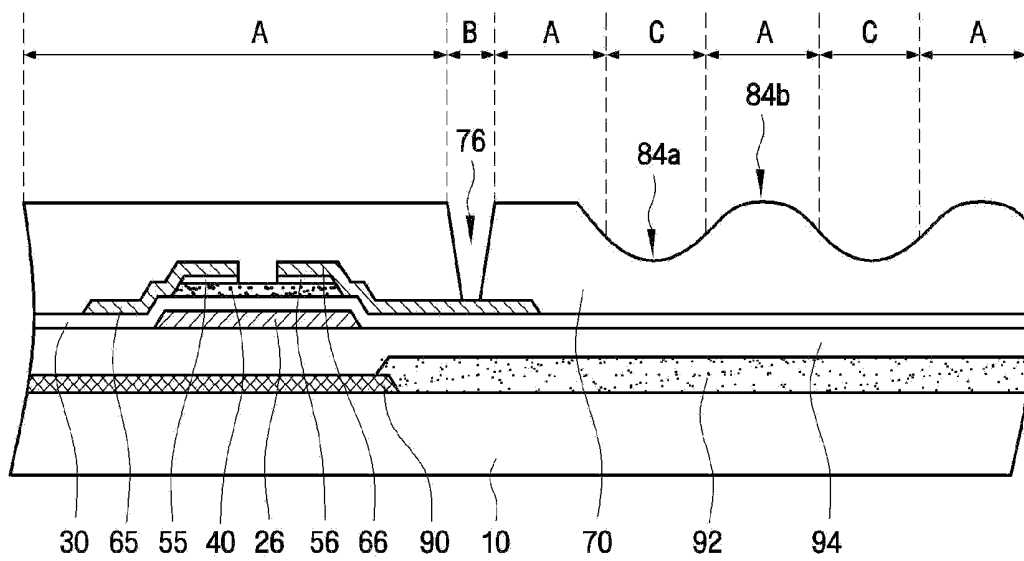


FIG. 4C

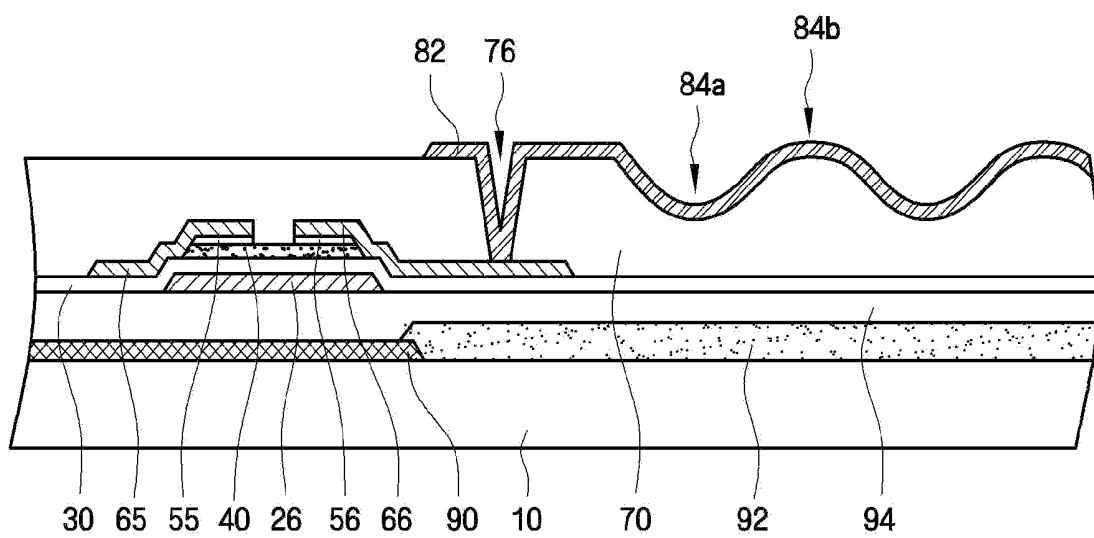
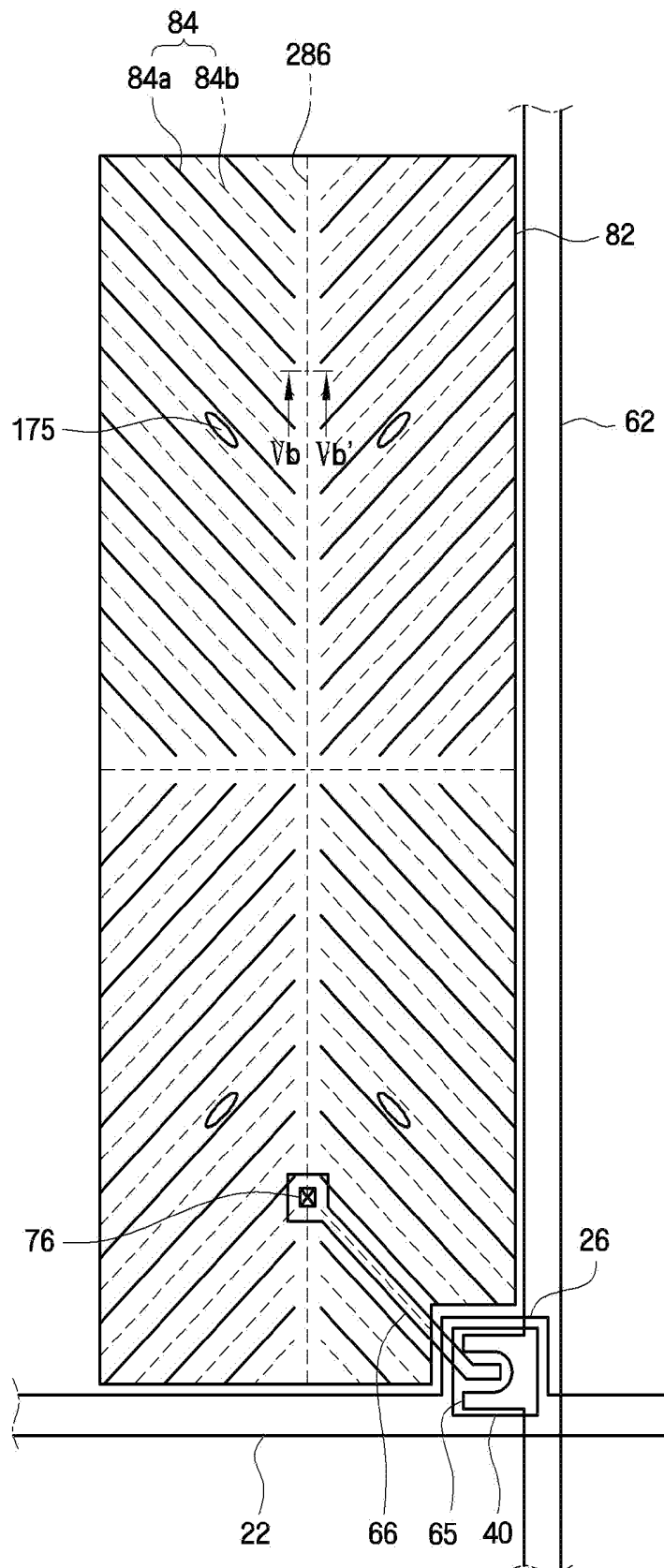


FIG. 5A



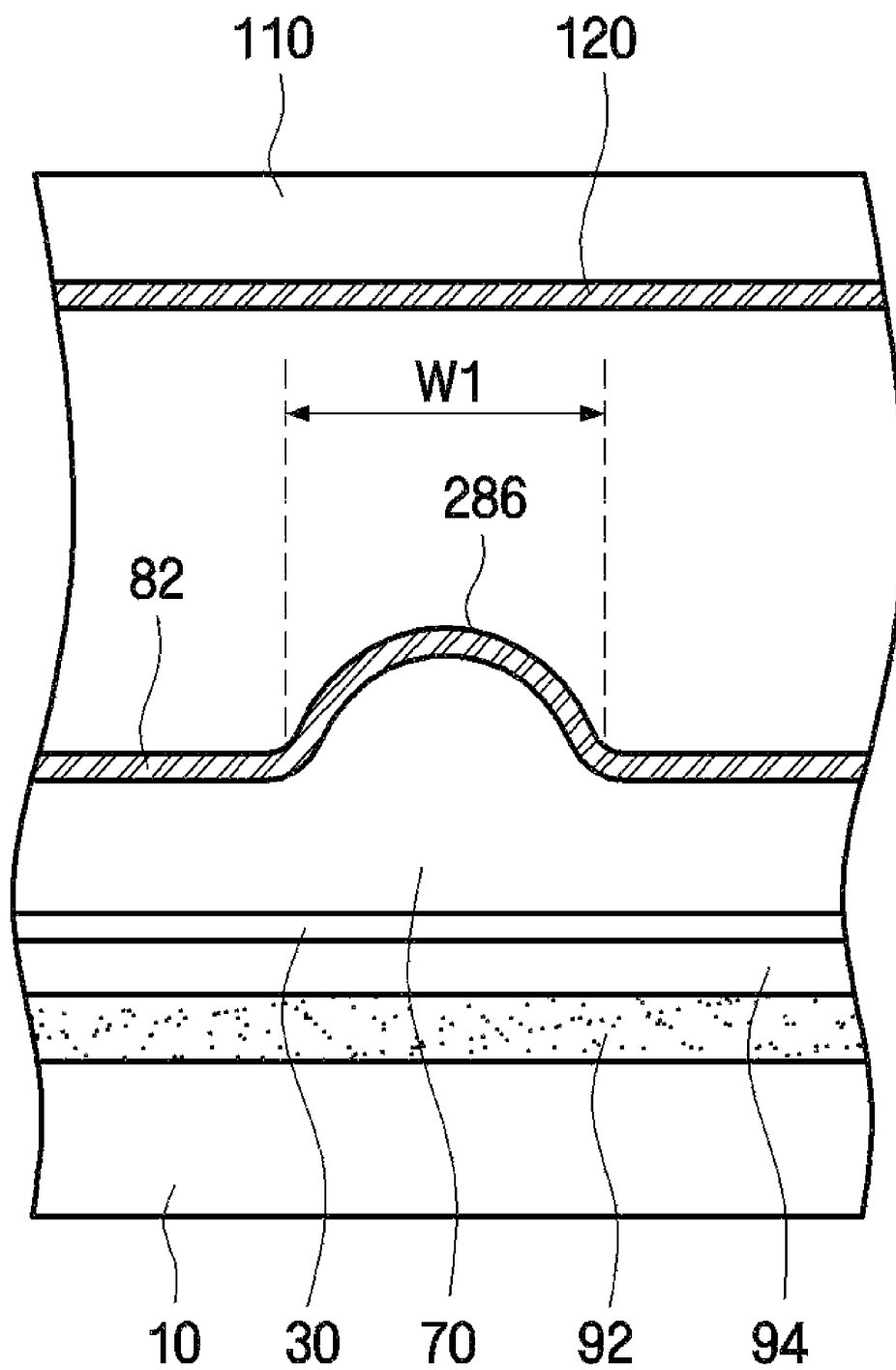
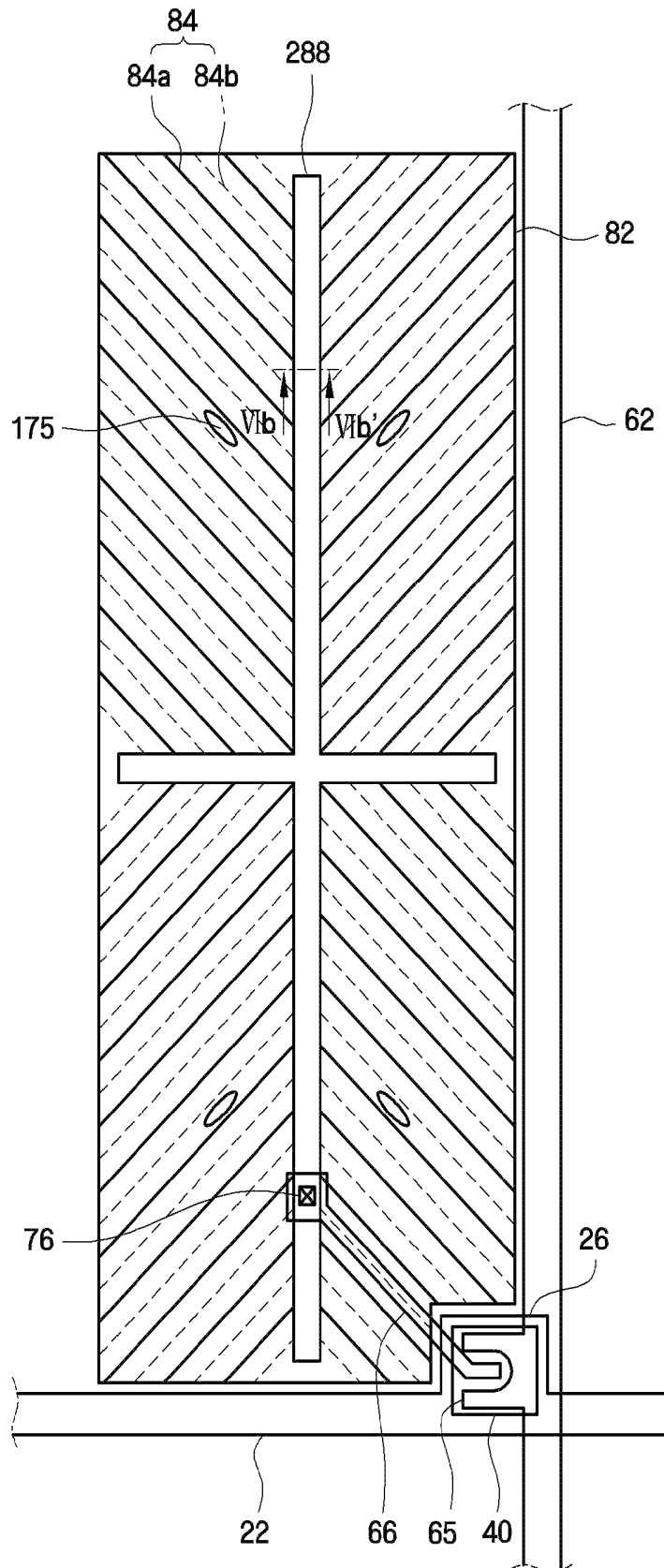
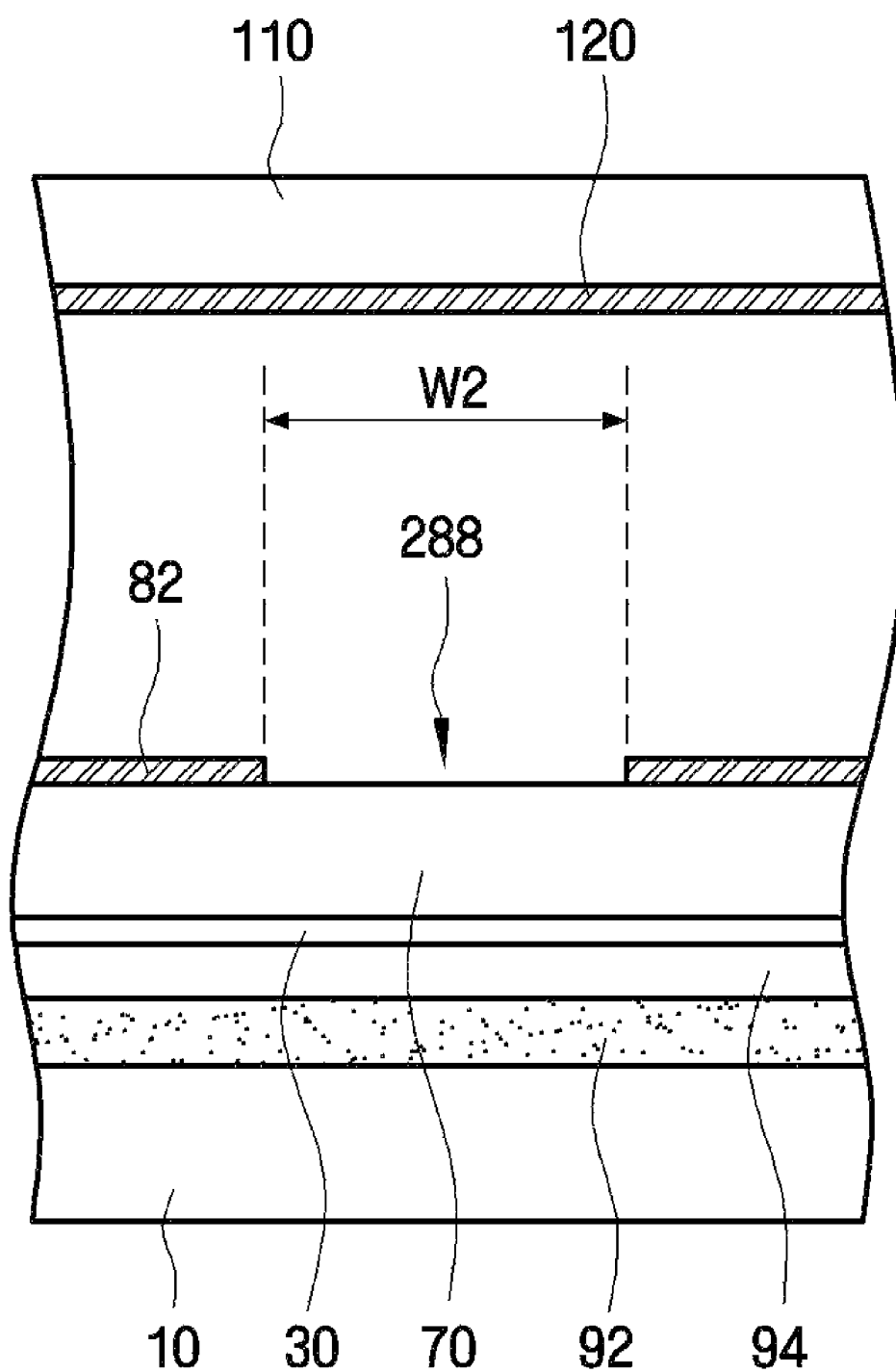
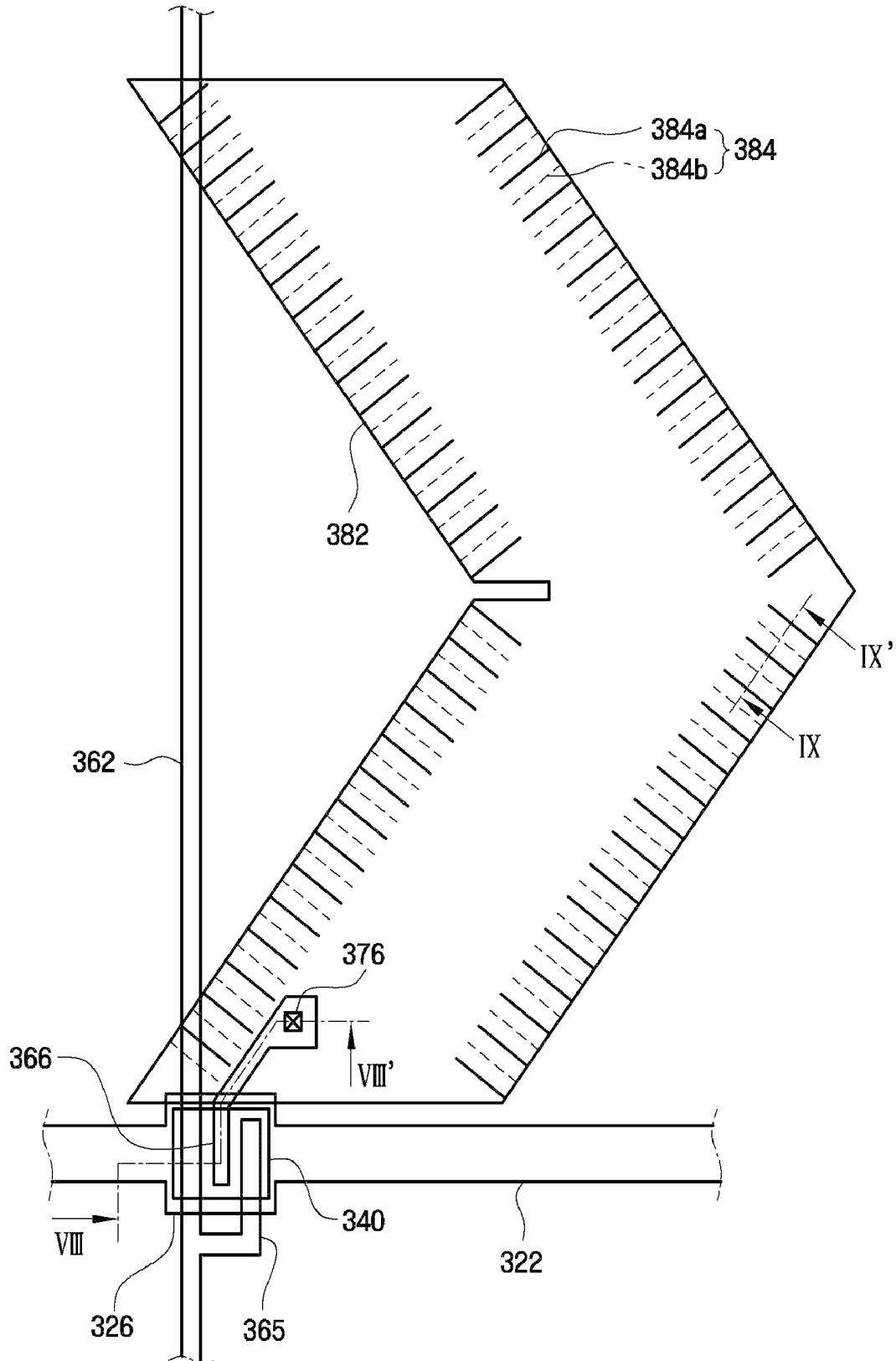
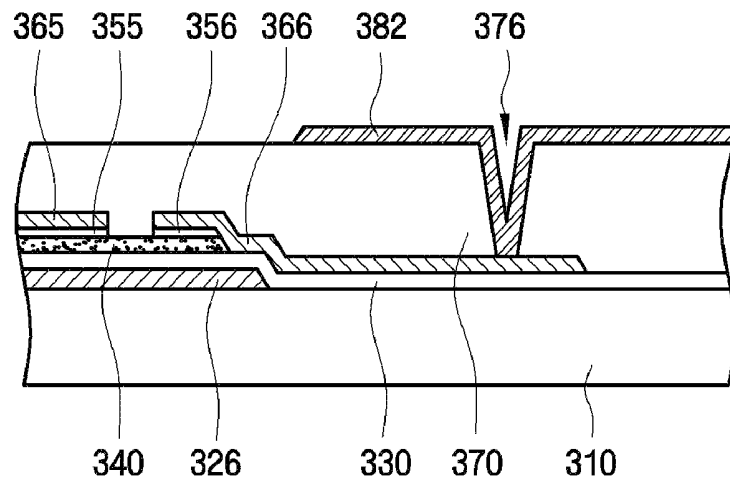
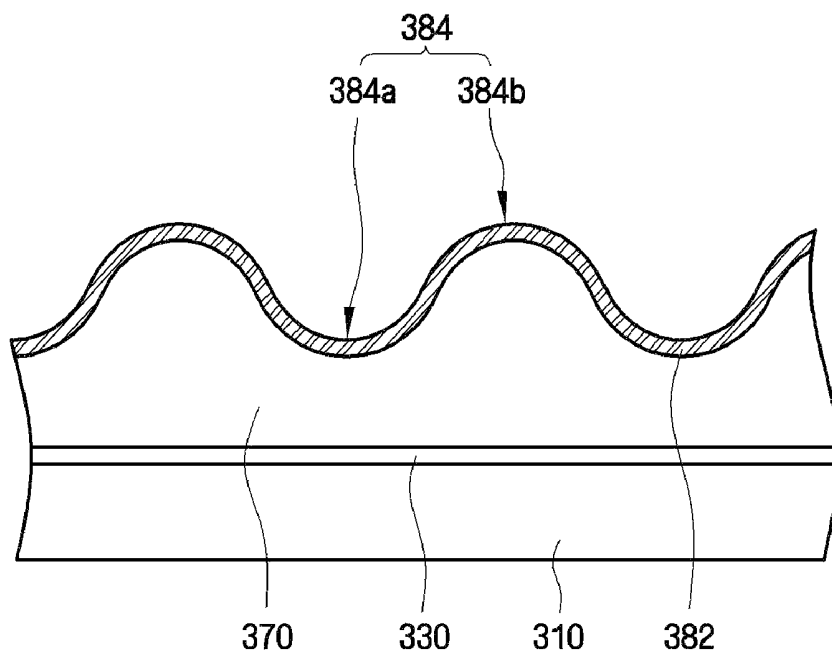
**FIG. 5B**

FIG. 6A



**FIG. 6B**

**FIG. 7**

**FIG. 8****FIG. 9**

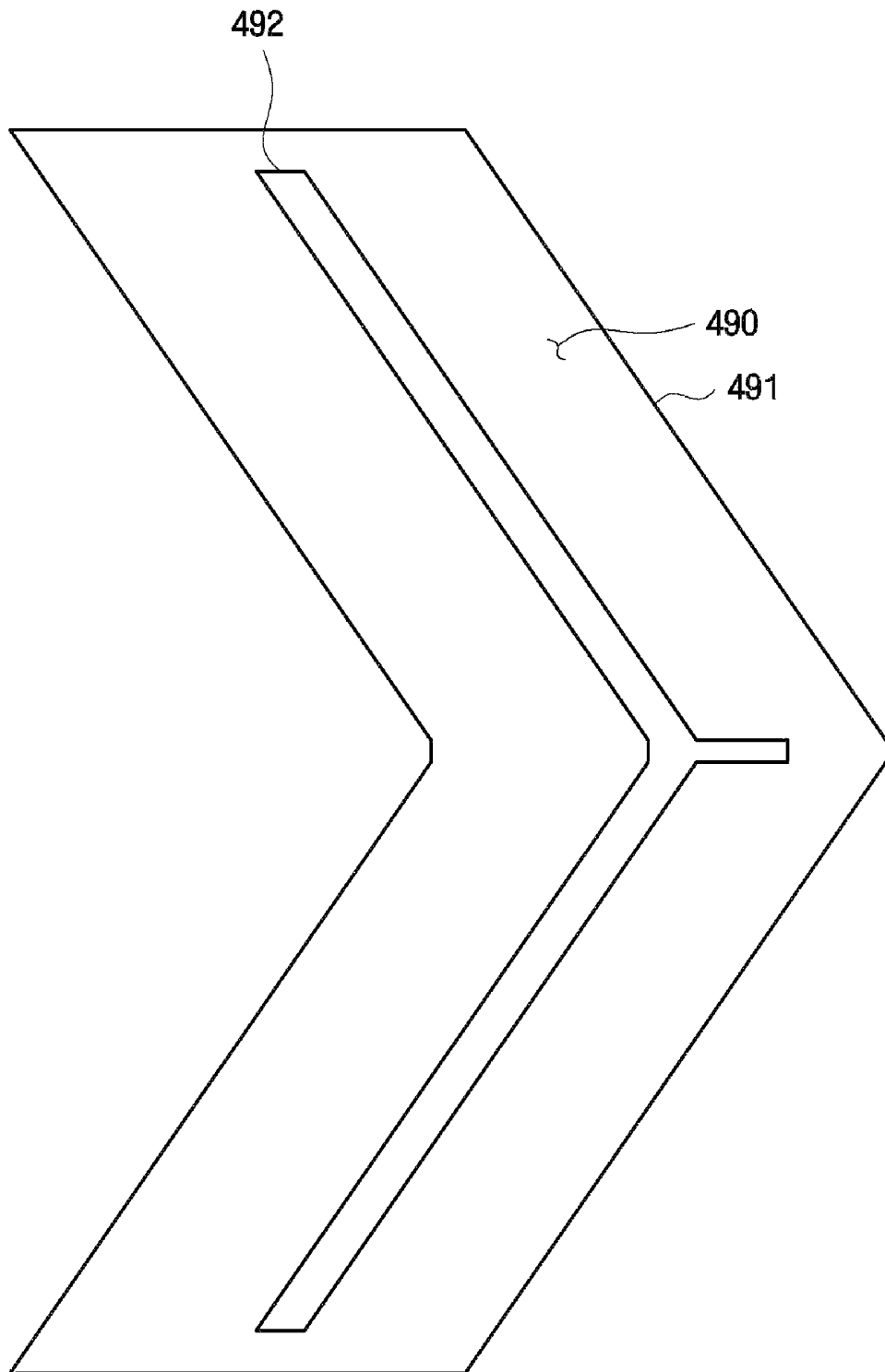
**FIG. 10**

FIG. 11

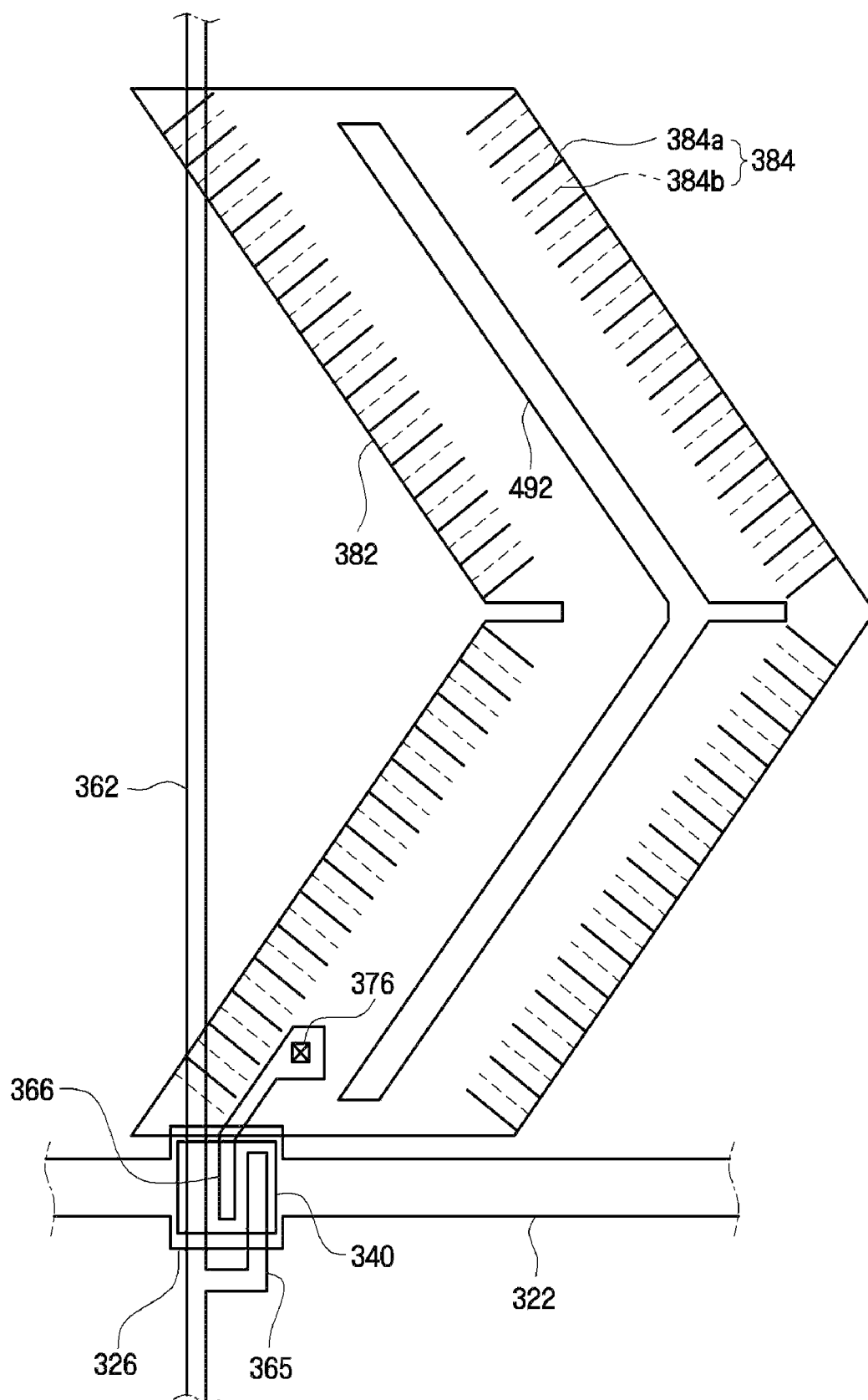
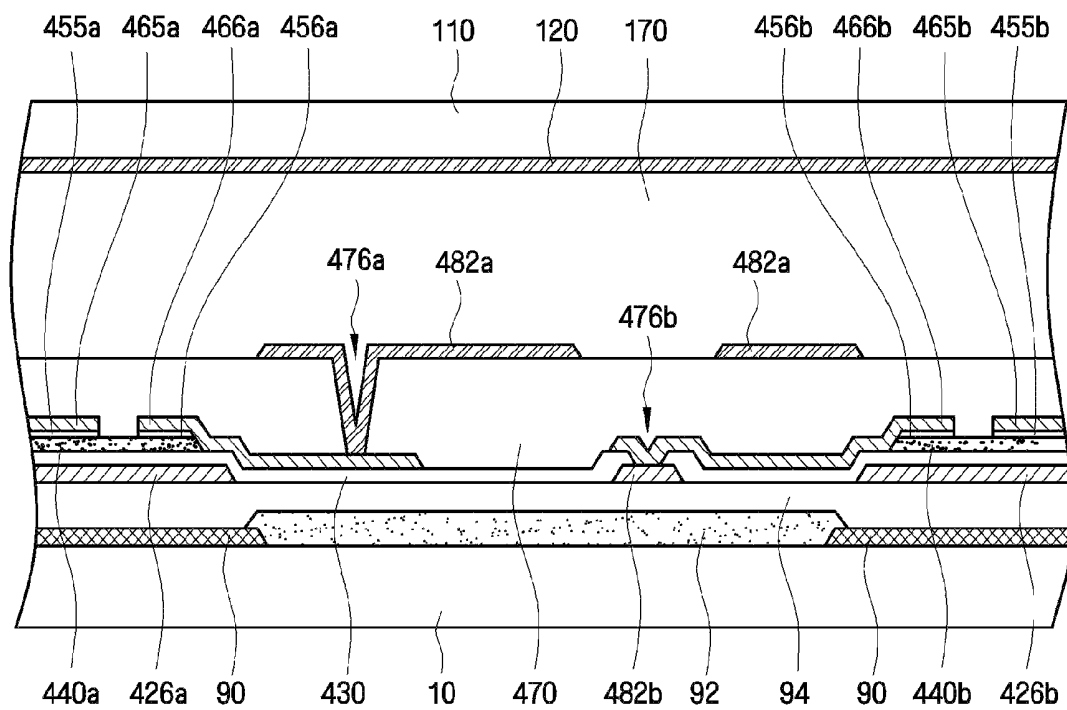




FIG. 13



## LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY

## CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority from and the benefit of Korean Patent Application No. 10-2007-0127065, filed on Dec. 7, 2007, which is hereby incorporated by reference for all purposes as if fully set forth herein.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

## 1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a display and more particularly, to a liquid crystal display.

## 2. Discussion of the Background

Liquid crystal displays are widely used flat panel displays. A liquid crystal display includes two display panels on which field-generating electrodes, such as pixel electrodes and a common electrode, are disposed, and a liquid crystal layer that is disposed between the panels. In the liquid crystal display, voltages are applied to the field-generating electrodes to generate an electric field in the liquid crystal layer. The alignment of liquid crystal molecules of the liquid crystal layer is determined by the electric field, and the polarization of incident light is controlled, so that images are displayed.

Among liquid crystal displays, vertical alignment (VA) mode liquid crystal displays have been focused on recently because they have high contrast ratios and wide viewing angles, in which major axes of liquid crystal molecules are perpendicular to the upper and lower display panels when no electric field is applied. In order to achieve a wide viewing angle in such a liquid crystal display, gaps may be formed in a field-generating electrode, or protrusions may be formed above or below the field-generating electrode.

Patterned Vertical Alignment (PVA) mode liquid crystal displays and patternless VA mode liquid crystal displays have gaps. In the PVA mode liquid crystal display, gaps are formed on both upper and lower substrates. In the patternless VA mode liquid crystal display, micro-patterns are formed on a lower substrate, but not on an upper substrate.

In the case of a liquid crystal display having a large area, since the size of a pixel is increased, it may be difficult to effectively control the movement of the liquid crystal molecules and therefore the directionality of liquid crystal molecules may be unstable. As a result, the response speed may be decreased.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a liquid crystal display that may simultaneously improve response speed and luminance.

Additional features of the invention will be set forth in the description which follows, and in part will be apparent from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention.

The present invention discloses a liquid crystal display including a first insulating substrate, pixel electrodes disposed on the first insulating substrate and divided into a plurality of domains, each domain including micro-concave stripes and micro-convex stripes arranged in a specific direction, a second insulating substrate facing the first insulating substrate, a common electrode, which is not patterned, disposed on the second insulating substrate, and a liquid crystal layer disposed between the first and second insulating substrates and including liquid crystal molecules. The liquid crystal molecules are aligned perpendicular to the first and

second insulating substrates when an electric field is not applied to the liquid crystal layer, and the liquid crystal molecules are inclined in an extension direction of the micro-concave stripes and the micro-convex stripes when an electric field is applied to the liquid crystal layer.

The present invention also discloses a liquid crystal display including a first insulating substrate, pixel electrodes disposed on the first insulating substrate, having a bent structure, and including micro-concave stripes and micro-convex stripes that extend along edges of the pixel electrode to be orthogonal to the edges of the pixel electrode, a second insulating substrate facing the first insulating substrate, a common electrode disposed on the second insulating substrate and including a domain-dividing portion, and a liquid crystal layer disposed between the first and second insulating substrates and including liquid crystal molecules. The liquid crystal molecules are aligned perpendicular to the first and second insulating substrates when an electric field is not applied to the liquid crystal layer, and the liquid crystal molecules are inclined in an extension direction of the micro-concave stripes and the micro-convex stripes when an electric field is applied to the liquid crystal layer.

The present invention also discloses a liquid crystal display including a first insulating substrate, pixel electrodes disposed on the first insulating substrate, having a bent structure, and including micro-concave stripes and micro-convex stripes that extend along edges of the pixel electrode to be orthogonal to the edges of the pixel electrode, control electrodes overlapping with cut-out portions in the pixel electrodes, the control electrodes receiving a voltage higher than that applied to the pixel electrodes, a second insulating substrate facing the first insulating substrate, a common electrode, which is not patterned, disposed on the second insulating substrate, and a liquid crystal layer disposed between the first and second insulating substrates and including liquid crystal molecules. The liquid crystal molecules are aligned perpendicular to the first and second insulating substrates when an electric field is not applied to the liquid crystal layer, and the liquid crystal molecules are inclined in an extension direction of the micro-concave stripes and the micro-convex stripes when an electric field is applied to the liquid crystal layer.

It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory and are intended to provide further explanation of the invention as claimed.

## 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.

FIG. 1 is a layout of a liquid crystal display according to a first exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of the liquid crystal display taken along line II-II' of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a partially sectioned perspective view of the liquid crystal display shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 4A, FIG. 4B, and FIG. 4C are cross-sectional views showing processes of a method of manufacturing the liquid crystal display according to the first exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5A is a layout of a liquid crystal display according to a second exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5B is a cross-sectional view of the liquid crystal display taken along line Vb-Vb' of FIG. 5A.

FIG. 6A is a layout of a liquid crystal display according to a third exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 6B is a cross-sectional view of the liquid crystal display taken along line VIb-VIb' of FIG. 6A.

FIG. 7 is a layout of a lower display panel of a liquid crystal display according to a fourth exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view of the lower display panel taken along line VIII-VIII' of FIG. 7.

FIG. 9 is a cross-sectional view of the lower display panel taken along line IX-IX' of FIG. 7.

FIG. 10 is a layout of an upper display panel included in the liquid crystal display according to the fourth exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 11 is a layout of the liquid crystal display that includes the lower display panel of FIG. 7 and the upper display panel of FIG. 10.

FIG. 12 is a layout of a liquid crystal display according to a fifth exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 13 is a cross-sectional view of the liquid crystal display taken along line XIII-XIII' of FIG. 12.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATED EMBODIMENTS

The invention is described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which embodiments of the invention are shown. This invention may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein. Rather, these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure is thorough, and will fully convey the scope of the invention to those skilled in the art. In the drawings, the size and relative sizes of layers and regions may be exaggerated for clarity. Like reference numerals in the drawings denote like elements

It will be understood that when an element or layer is referred to as being "on", "connected to," or "coupled to" another element or layer, it can be directly on, connected, or coupled to the other element or layer or intervening elements or layers may be present. In contrast, when an element is referred to as being "directly on", "directly connected to," or "directly coupled to" another element or layer, there are no intervening elements or layers present. As used herein, the term "and/or" includes any and all combinations of one or more of the associated listed items.

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

Embodiments described herein will be described referring to plan views and/or cross-sectional views by way of ideal schematic views of the invention. Accordingly, the exemplary views may be modified depending on manufacturing technologies and/or tolerances. Therefore, the embodiments of the invention are not limited to those shown in the views, but include modifications in configuration formed on the basis of manufacturing processes. Therefore, regions exemplified in figures have schematic properties and shapes of regions shown in figures exemplify specific shapes of regions of elements and not limit aspects of the invention.

A liquid crystal display according to a first exemplary embodiment of the present invention will be described below with reference to FIG. 1, FIG. 2, and FIG. 3. FIG. 1 is a layout of a liquid crystal display according to a first exemplary embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of the liquid crystal display taken along line II-II' of FIG. 1. FIG. 3 is a partially sectioned perspective view of the liquid crystal display shown in FIG. 1.

Referring to FIG. 1 and FIG. 2, the liquid crystal display according to the first exemplary embodiment of the present invention includes a lower display panel 150, an upper display panel 160, and a liquid crystal layer 170. The lower display panel 150 includes thin film transistors that are connected to gate lines 22 and data lines 62 and that apply data voltages to pixel electrodes 82. The upper display panel 160 faces the lower display panel 150, and includes a common electrode 120. The liquid crystal layer 170 is interposed between the lower display panel 150 and the upper display panel 160. According to the present exemplary embodiment, color filters 92 and a thin film transistor array are disposed on the lower display panel 150. The present exemplary embodiment is described by using an Array On Color filter (AOC) structure where the thin film transistor array is disposed on the color filters 92. However, the present invention is not limited thereto. That is, exemplary embodiments of the present invention also may employ Color filter On Array (COA) structure where color filters and a thin film transistor array are disposed on a lower display panel and the color filters are disposed on the thin film transistor array. In this case, the color filter may be used as a passivation layer that is provided between the thin film transistor array and pixel electrodes. Furthermore, the color filters may be disposed on the upper display panel 160. For explanatory convenience, exemplary embodiments of the present invention will be described below by using a liquid crystal display having the AOC structure.

The lower display panel 150 is described in detail below.

Black matrices 90, which prevent light from leaking and define pixel regions, are disposed on a first insulating substrate 10 that may be made of a transparent insulating material, such as glass. Each black matrix 90 may be made of a metal or a metal oxide, such as chromium or chromium oxide, or an organic black resist.

Red, green, and blue color filters 92 are sequentially arranged on the pixel region between the black matrices 90.

An overcoat layer 94, which planarizes the color filters 92 and the black matrices 90, may be disposed on the color filters 92.

The gate line 22 is disposed on the overcoat layer 94 in a first direction, for example, in a horizontal direction. A gate electrode 26 extends from the gate line 22. The gate line 22 and the gate electrode 26 are referred to as gate wires.

A storage line (not shown) is disposed on the overcoat layer 94 in the horizontal direction. The storage line (not shown) overlaps the pixel electrode 82 to form a storage capacitor. The shape and arrangement of the storage line (not shown) may be modified in various ways. A common voltage Vcom may be applied to the storage line (not shown).

Each gate wire 22 and 26 and the storage line (not shown) may be made of an aluminum-based metal, such as aluminum (Al) or an aluminum alloy, a silver-based metal, such as silver (Ag) or a silver alloy, a copper-based metal, such as copper (Cu) or a copper alloy, a molybdenum-based metal, such as molybdenum (Mo) or a molybdenum alloy, chromium (Cr), titanium (Ti), or tantalum (Ta). In addition, each gate wire 22 and 26 and the storage line (not shown) may have a multilayer structure that includes two conductive films (not shown) having different physical properties. One of the two conductive

films may be made of a metal having low resistivity, for example, an aluminum-based metal, a silver-based metal, or a copper-based metal, to reduce signal delay or voltage drop in each of the gate wires **22** and **26** and the storage line (not shown). The other conductive film may be made of a material having excellent contact characteristics with respect to indium tin oxide (ITO) and indium zinc oxide (IZO), for example, a molybdenum-based metal, chromium, titanium, or tantalum. A structure that has a chromium lower film and an aluminum upper film, and a structure that has an aluminum lower film and a molybdenum upper film may be used as an example of the combination of the two conductive films. However, each gate wire **22** and **26** and the storage line (not shown) may be made of various metallic materials or conductors other than the above metallic materials.

A gate insulating film **30**, which may be made of silicon nitride ( $\text{SiN}_x$ ) or the like, is disposed on the gate wires **22** and **26** and the storage line (not shown).

A semiconductor layer **40**, which may be made of hydrogenated amorphous silicon or polysilicon, is disposed on the gate insulating film **30**. The semiconductor layer **40** may have various shapes, such as an island shape or a stripe shape. For example, like in this exemplary embodiment, the semiconductor layer **40** may be disposed on the gate electrode **26** and may have an island shape. Further, the semiconductor layer may be provided below the data line **62** and may extend to the upper portion of the gate electrode **26** in a stripe shape. If the semiconductor layer has a stripe shape, the semiconductor layer may be formed by substantially the same patterning process as the data line **62**.

Ohmic contact layers **55** and **56** are disposed on the semiconductor layer **40**, and may be made of silicide or n+ hydrogenated amorphous silicon in which n-type impurities are doped at high concentration. Each ohmic contact layer **55** and **56** may have any of various shapes, such as an island shape or stripe shape. For example, when each ohmic contact layer **55** and **56** has an island shape like in the present exemplary embodiment, the ohmic contact layers **55** and **56** may be provided below a drain electrode **66** and a source electrode **65**. When each ohmic contact layer has a stripe shape, the ohmic contact layers **55** and **56** may extend to the lower portion of the data line **62**.

The data line **62**, the source electrode **65**, and the drain electrode **66** are disposed on the ohmic contact layers **55** and **56** and the gate insulating layer **30**. The data line **62** extends in a second direction, for example, in a vertical direction, and crosses the gate line **22** to define a pixel. The source electrode **65** extends from the data line **62** to the upper portion of the semiconductor layer **40** in a branch shape. The drain electrode **66** is spaced apart from the source electrode **65** and is provided above the semiconductor layer **40** to face the source electrode **65** with the gate electrode **26** therebetween. The thin film transistor is a three-terminal element that includes the gate electrode **26**, the source electrode **65**, and the drain electrode **66**. Further, the thin film transistor is a switching element that allows current to flow between the source electrode **65** and the drain electrode **66** when a voltage is applied to the gate electrode **26**.

The drain electrode **66** includes a bar-shaped pattern, which is provided above the semiconductor layer **40**, and an extension portion. The extension portion extends from the bar-shaped pattern to form a wide area, a portion of which is exposed by a contact hole **76**.

The data line **62**, the source electrode **65**, and the drain electrode **66** are referred to as data wires.

Each data wire **62**, **65**, and **66** may be a single film or a multilayer film that is made of one or more of aluminum,

chromium, molybdenum, tantalum, and titanium. For example, each data wire **62**, **65**, and **66** may be made of a refractory metal, such as chromium, molybdenum-based metal, tantalum, or titanium. Further, each data wire **62**, **65**, and **66** may have a multilayer structure in which an upper film (not shown) made of a low-resistance material is disposed on a lower film (not shown) made of a refractory metal or the like. A three-layer structure that has a molybdenum film, an aluminum film, and a molybdenum film may be used as an example of the multilayer structure other than the above-mentioned dual-layer structures that have a chromium lower film and an aluminum upper film, or the above mentioned dual-layer structure that has an aluminum lower film and a molybdenum upper film.

At least a part of the source electrode **65** overlaps the semiconductor layer **40**. Further, the drain electrode **66** faces the source electrode **65** with the gate electrode **26** therebetween, and at least a part of the drain electrode **66** overlaps the semiconductor layer **40**. In this case, the ohmic contact layers **55** and **56** are disposed between the semiconductor layer **40** and the source electrode **65**, and between the semiconductor layer **40** and the drain electrode **66**, respectively, to reduce the contact resistance therebetween.

A passivation layer **70**, which may be made of an insulating film, is disposed on the data wires **62**, **65**, and **66** and the semiconductor layer **40** exposed through the data wires. In this case, the passivation layer **70** may be made of an inorganic material such as silicon nitride or silicon oxide, an organic material that has a good planarizing characteristics and photosensitivity, or an insulating material having a low dielectric constant, such as a-Si:C:O or a-Si:O:F, that is formed by plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD). In addition, the passivation layer **70** may have a dual-layer structure, which includes a lower inorganic layer and an upper organic layer, to improve characteristics of the organic film and to protect the exposed semiconductor layer **40**. In addition, red, green, and blue color filter layers may be used as the passivation layer **70**.

The contact hole **76**, which exposes the drain electrode **66**, is formed in the passivation layer **70**.

Micro-concave and convex portions are formed on the passivation layer **70** by a mask that has patterns formed in a slit or lattice shape, or a mask having a translucent film.

The pixel electrode **82**, which is connected to the drain electrode **66** through the contact hole **76**, is disposed on the passivation layer **70** to correspond to the shape of the pixel. The pixel electrode **82**, to which a data voltage is applied, generates an electric field together with the common electrode **120** of the upper display panel **160**, thereby determining the alignment of the liquid crystal molecules **175** that are provided between the pixel electrode **82** and the common electrode **120**. In this case, the pixel electrode **82** may be made of a transparent electric conductor such as ITO or IZO, or a reflective electric conductor such as aluminum.

The pixel electrode **82** includes micro-concave and convex stripes **84** that correspond to the micro-concave and convex portions disposed on the passivation layer **70**. Specifically, the pixel electrode **82** includes a cross-shaped connection portion **86** and the micro-concave and convex stripes **84**. The cross-shaped connection portion **86** divides a pixel region into four domain regions, and the micro-concave and convex stripes **84** are arranged in a specific direction in each domain. In this case, a domain is a region including a group of liquid crystal molecules **175** that are inclined in a specific direction due to an electric field generated between the pixel electrode **82** and the common electrode **120**. Further, the micro-con-

cave and convex stripes **84** have a structure in which micro-concave portions **84a** and micro-convex portions **84b** are alternately arranged.

The micro-concave and convex stripes **84** are arranged in a diagonal direction, and extend at an angle of about  $45^\circ$  or  $-45^\circ$  with respect to a polarization axis of a polarizer (not shown) or the gate line **22**. When driving power is applied to the liquid crystal display, the liquid crystal molecules **175** are inclined in an extension direction of the micro-concave and convex stripes **84**. Accordingly, the pixel region is divided into four domain regions.

A capping layer (not shown) may further be disposed between the passivation layer **70** and the pixel electrode **82**. In this case, the capping layer functions to separate the pixel electrode **82** from the passivation layer **70**. For example, silicon nitride ( $\text{SiN}_x$ ) may be used as a material of the capping layer.

An alignment film (not shown) to align the liquid crystal molecules **175** may be disposed on the pixel electrode **82**.

The upper display panel **160** facing the lower display panel **150** is described in detail below.

A second insulating substrate **110**, which may be made of a transparent insulating material such as glass, is disposed to face the first insulating substrate **10**. The common electrode **120**, which may be made of a transparent conductive material such as ITO or IZO, is disposed on the second insulating substrate **110**. An alignment layer (not shown) to align the liquid crystal molecules **175** may be disposed on the common electrode **120**. Since a separate patterning process is not added for the common electrode **120**, it may be possible to improve the transmittance of the liquid crystal display and to reduce the manufacturing costs.

The lower display panel **150** and the upper display panel **160** are aligned and combined with each other as described above and the liquid crystal layer **170** is disposed between the panels in the basic structure of the liquid crystal display according to the first exemplary embodiment of the present invention. The liquid crystal display is obtained by disposing elements, such as polarizers and a backlight, on the basic structure. In this case, the polarizers are disposed on both sides of the basic structure, respectively. The polarization axis of one polarizer may be parallel to the gate line **22**, and the polarization axis of the other polarizer may be orthogonal to the gate line.

When the electric field is not applied between the pixel electrodes **82** and the common electrode **120**, the liquid crystal molecules **175** included in the liquid crystal layer **170** are aligned so that directors of the liquid crystal molecules are perpendicular to the lower display panel **150** and the upper display panel **160**. Further, the liquid crystal molecules **175** may have negative dielectric anisotropy.

The movement of the liquid crystal molecules **175** of the liquid crystal display according to the present exemplary embodiment of the invention will be described below with reference to FIG. 2 and FIG. 3.

Referring to FIG. 2, the pitch **D1** of the micro-concave and convex stripes **84** should be as small as possible, for example, it may be 2.5 times the cell gap **G** between the lower display panel **150** and the upper display panel **160** or less, in order to effectively control the movement of the liquid crystal molecules **175**. In this case, the pitch **D1** of the micro-concave and convex stripes **84** is a gap between adjacent micro-concave portions **84a** or a gap between adjacent micro-convex portions **84b**. For example, if the cell gap **G** is in the range of  $3\ \mu\text{m}$  to  $4\ \mu\text{m}$ , the pitch **D1** of the micro-concave and convex stripes **84** may be in the range of  $7.5\ \mu\text{m}$  to  $10\ \mu\text{m}$ . In addition, if the pitch **D1** is  $2\ \mu\text{m}$  or more, it may be possible to obtain a

horizontal electric field that can control the movement of the liquid crystal molecules **175**. Further, the height difference **D2** of the micro-concave and convex stripes **84**, that is, the difference in height between the micro-concave portion **84a** and the micro-convex portion **84b** may be 0.5 to 1 times the pitch **D1**. If the height difference **D2** is larger than the pitch **D1**, the surface of the pixel electrode **82** would be excessively uneven. For this reason, it may be difficult to obtain uniform characteristics of a display. If the height difference **D2** is smaller than 0.5 times the pitch **D1**, the intensity of the electric field generated by the micro-concave and convex stripes **84** is small. For this reason, it may be difficult to accurately control the movement direction of the liquid crystal molecules **175**.

When an electric field is not applied between the pixel electrode **82** and the common electrode **120**, the liquid crystal molecules **175** are aligned in the Z-direction.

If an electric field is applied between the pixel electrode **82** and the common electrode **120**, a horizontal electric field and a vertical electric field are generated between the pixel electrodes **82** and the common electrode **120** by the micro-concave and convex stripes **84**. Accordingly, the liquid crystal molecules **175** are initially rotated in the X-Z plane to be aligned parallel to the inclined surfaces of the micro-concave and convex stripes **84**. Subsequently, the liquid crystal molecules **175** are arranged in the extension direction of the micro-concave and convex stripes **84**, that is, in the Y-direction due to the interference with peripheral liquid crystal molecules **175**, as shown in FIG. 3.

A method of manufacturing the liquid crystal display according to the first exemplary embodiment of the present invention will be described in detail below with reference to FIG. 4A, FIG. 4B, and FIG. 4C. FIG. 4A, FIG. 4B, and FIG. 4C are cross-sectional views showing processes of a method of manufacturing the liquid crystal display according to the first exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

First, referring to FIG. 4A, the black matrix **90**, the color filter **92**, and the overcoat layer **94** are formed on the first insulating substrate **10**. Subsequently, the thin film transistor, which includes the gate electrode **26**, the drain electrode **66**, the source electrode **65**, the semiconductor layer **40**, and the ohmic contact layers **55** and **56**, is formed. Then, the passivation layer **70** is formed on the thin film transistor.

Referring to FIG. 4B, light is radiated onto the passivation layer **70** through a mask and then developed to form the contact hole **76**, the micro-concave portions **84a**, and the micro-convex portions **84b** on the passivation layer **70**. In this case, the passivation layer **70** is completely removed from a region B corresponding to the contact hole **76** so that the drain electrode **66** is exposed. Further, the passivation layer **70** is partially removed from regions C corresponding to the micro-concave portions **84a**, so that the micro-concave portions **84a** and the micro-convex portions **84b** are formed. The passivation layer **70** remains in other regions A.

As described above, various methods may be used to make the thickness of the passivation layer **70** different in different regions. A mask that has the patterns formed in a slit or lattice shape, or a mask having a translucent film is generally used to adjust the amount of light transmitting through the C regions.

In this case, the line width of the pattern between slits or a gap between the patterns, that is, the width of the slit should be smaller than the resolution of an exposer used for exposure. When the translucent film is used, a thin film having a different transmittance or a thin film having a different thickness may be used during the manufacture of the mask in order to adjust the transmittance.

Referring to FIG. 4C, the pixel electrode **82**, which is connected to the drain electrode **66** through the contact hole **76**, is formed on the passivation layer **70**.

A capping layer (not shown) may further be formed between the passivation layer **70** and the pixel electrode **82**. In this case, the capping layer functions to separate the pixel electrode **82** from the passivation layer **70**. The capping layer may be formed after the passivation layer **70** is patterned. Alternatively, the capping layer and the passivation layer **70** may be patterned simultaneously.

Subsequently, the lower display panel **150** and the upper display panel **160** are aligned and combined with each other as shown in FIG. 2 and the liquid crystal layer **170** is disposed between the panels to complete the liquid crystal display.

A liquid crystal display according to a second exemplary embodiment of the present invention will be described below with reference to FIG. 5A and FIG. 5B. FIG. 5A is a layout of a liquid crystal display according to a second exemplary embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 5B is a cross-sectional view of the liquid crystal display taken along line Vb-Vb' of FIG. 5A. For explanatory convenience, components having the same functions as those shown in the drawings (FIG. 1, FIG. 2, FIG. 3, FIG. 4A, FIG. 4B, and FIG. 4C) of the first exemplary embodiment will be indicated by the same reference numerals, and the description thereof will be omitted. The difference between the first and second exemplary embodiments will be described below.

A pixel electrode **82** includes a cross-shaped connection portion **286** and micro-concave and convex stripes **84**. The cross-shaped connection portion **286** divides a pixel region into four domain regions, and the micro-concave and convex stripes **84** are arranged in a specific direction in each domain. In this case, the connection portion **286** protrudes toward a common electrode **120**, so that a horizontal electric field may be generated. As described above, liquid crystal molecules **175** are inclined in an extension direction of the micro-concave and convex stripes **84** due to the micro-concave and convex stripes **84**. A horizontal electric field generated by the connection portion **286** determines the alignment of the liquid crystal molecules **175**, that is, determines whether the liquid crystal molecules **175** are inclined toward one side of the micro-concave and convex stripes **84** or the other side of the micro-concave and convex stripes **84**.

The width W1 of the connection portion **286** should be 2.5 times the cell gap or more to effectively control the inclination direction of the liquid crystal molecules by the horizontal electric field generated by the connection portion **286**.

A liquid crystal display according to a third exemplary embodiment of the present invention will be described below with reference to FIG. 6A and FIG. 6B. FIG. 6A is a layout of a liquid crystal display according to a third exemplary embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 6B is a cross-sectional view of the liquid crystal display taken along line VIb-VIb' of FIG. 6A. For explanatory convenience, components having the same functions as those shown in the drawings (FIG. 5A and FIG. 5B) of the second exemplary embodiment will be indicated by the same reference numerals, and the description thereof will be omitted. The difference between the second and third exemplary embodiments will be mainly described below.

A pixel electrode **82** includes a cross-shaped cut-out portion **288** and micro-concave and convex stripes **84**. The cross-shaped cut-out portion **288** divides a pixel region into four domain regions, and the micro-concave and convex stripes **84** are arranged in a specific direction in each domain. In this case, the cut-out portion **288** is formed by partially removing a part of the pixel electrode from the pixel electrode **82**, and

generates a horizontal electric field. As described above, liquid crystal molecules **175** are inclined in an extension direction of the micro-concave and convex stripes **84** due to the micro-concave and convex stripes **84**. A horizontal electric field generated by the cut-out portion **288** determines the inclination direction of the liquid crystal molecules **175**, that is, determines whether the liquid crystal molecules **175** are inclined toward one side of the micro-concave and convex stripes **84** or the other side of the micro-concave and convex stripes **84**.

The width W2 of the cut-out portion **288** should be 2.5 times the cell gap or more in order to effectively control the inclination direction of the liquid crystal molecules **175** by the horizontal electric field generated by the cut-out portion **288**.

A liquid crystal display according to a fourth exemplary embodiment of the present invention will be described below with reference to FIG. 7, FIG. 8, FIG. 9, FIG. 10, and FIG. 11. FIG. 7 is a layout of a lower display panel that includes in a liquid crystal display according to a fourth exemplary embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view of the lower display panel taken along line VIII-VIII' of FIG. 7. FIG. 9 is a cross-sectional view of the lower display panel taken along line IX-IX' of FIG. 7. FIG. 10 is a layout of an upper display panel included in the liquid crystal display according to the fourth exemplary embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 11 is a layout of the liquid crystal display that includes the lower display panel of FIG. 7 and the upper display panel of FIG. 10.

A liquid crystal display according to a fourth exemplary embodiment of the present invention includes a lower display panel, an upper display panel, and a liquid crystal layer. The lower display panel includes thin film transistors that are connected to gate lines **322** and data lines **362** and apply data voltages to pixel electrodes **382**. The upper display panel faces the lower display panel and includes a common electrode **490**. The liquid crystal layer is disposed between the lower display panel and the upper display panel.

The lower display panel will be described in detail below with reference to FIG. 7, FIG. 8, and FIG. 9.

A gate line **322** and a gate electrode **326** are disposed on a first insulating substrate **310**, and a gate insulating layer **330** is disposed on the gate line **322** and the gate electrode **326**. A semiconductor layer **340** and ohmic contact layers **355** and **356** are disposed on the gate insulating layer **330**. A data line **362**, a source electrode **365**, and a drain electrode **366** are disposed on the ohmic contact layers **355** and **356** and the gate insulating layer **330**. A passivation layer **370** is disposed on the data line **362**, the source electrode **365**, and the drain electrode **366**, and the semiconductor layer **340** that is exposed between the source electrode **365** and the drain electrode **366**. A contact hole **376** through which the drain electrode **366** is exposed is formed in the passivation layer **370**.

The gate line **322**, the gate electrode **326**, the gate insulating layer **330**, the semiconductor layer **340**, the ohmic contact layers **355** and **356**, the data line **362**, the source electrode **365**, the drain electrode **366**, the passivation layer **370**, and the contact hole **376** of this exemplary embodiment may be substantially the same as the gate lines **22**, the gate electrode **26**, the gate insulating layer **30**, the semiconductor layer **40**, the ohmic contact layers **55** and **56**, the data line **62**, the source electrode **65**, the drain electrode **66**, the passivation layer **70**, and the contact hole **76** that are shown in FIG. 1, respectively, in terms of shape and materials thereof.

Micro-concave and convex portions **384** are formed on the regions of the passivation layer **370** that correspond to the edges of the pixel electrode **382**.

The pixel electrode **382**, which is connected to the drain electrode **366** through the contact hole **376** and positioned on a pixel region, is disposed on the passivation layer **370**. In this case, the pixel electrode **82** may be made of a transparent electric conductor such as ITO or IZO, or a reflective electric conductor such as aluminum. The pixel electrode **382** may have a V shape.

Micro-concave and convex stripes **384** are conformally formed at the edges of the pixel electrode **382** to correspond to the micro-concave and convex portions formed on the passivation layer **370**.

The pixel electrode **382** has a bent structure that has at least one bent portion. For example, the pixel electrode **382** of this exemplary embodiment has one bent portion, but the present invention is not limited by the number of the bent portions. The pixel electrode **382** is bent at an angle of about 45° or -45° with respect to a polarization axis of a polarizer or the gate line **322**.

The micro-concave and convex stripes **384** function to reinforce the horizontal electric field, thereby facilitating the inclination of the liquid crystal molecules of the liquid crystal layer. The micro-concave and convex stripes **384** have a structure in which micro-concave portions **384a** and micro-convex portions **384b** are alternately arranged. The micro-concave and convex stripes **384** are arranged in a diagonal direction, and extend at an angle of about 45° or -45° with respect to a polarization axis of a polarizer (not shown) or the gate line **322**. The micro-concave and convex stripes **384** may extend in a direction substantially orthogonal to the edges of the pixel electrode **382**. When driving power is applied to the liquid crystal display, the liquid crystal molecules are inclined in an extension direction of the micro-concave and convex stripes **384**. Accordingly, the pixel region is divided into four domain regions.

The micro-concave and convex stripes **384** of this exemplary embodiment may be substantially the same as the micro-concave and convex portions stripes **84** shown in FIG. 1 in terms of structure and functions thereof. That is, the pitch of the micro-concave and convex stripes **384** should be as small as possible and for example, may be 2.5 times the cell gap between the lower display panel and the upper display panel or less, in order to effectively control the movement of the liquid crystal molecules. In addition, if the pitch is 2 μm or more, it may be possible to obtain a horizontal electric field sufficient to control the movement of the liquid crystal molecules. Further, the height difference of the micro-concave and convex stripes **384**, that is, the difference in height between the micro-concave portions **384a** and the micro-convex portions **384b**, should be 0.5 to 1 times the pitch.

A capping layer (not shown) may further be disposed between the passivation layer **370** and the pixel electrode **382**. In this case, the capping layer functions to separate the pixel electrode **382** from the passivation layer **370**. For example, SiN<sub>x</sub> may be used as a material of the capping layer.

The upper display panel facing the lower display panel will be described in detail below with reference to FIG. 10 and FIG. 11.

Black matrices **491**, which prevent light from leaking and define pixel regions, are disposed on a second insulating substrate (not shown), which may be made of a transparent insulating material such as glass. Red, green, and blue color filters (not shown) are sequentially arranged on the pixel region between the black matrices **491**. An overcoat layer (not shown) may be disposed on the substrate to planarize the black matrices **491** and color. The common electrode **490**, which may be made of a transparent conductive material such as ITO or IZO, is disposed on the overcoat layer.

In this case, the common electrode **490** includes a domain-dividing portion **492**. The domain-dividing portion faces the pixel electrodes **382** and is inclined at an angle of about 45° or -45° with respect to a polarization axis of a polarizer or the gate line **322**. The domain-dividing portion **492** has a bent shape corresponding to the bent shape of the pixel. That is, the domain-dividing portion **492** has a V shape. The domain-dividing portion **492** may be a cut-out portion of the common electrode **490** or a protrusion formed on the common electrode **490**. After one pixel is divided into a plurality of domains by the domain-dividing portion **492**, the domain-dividing portion **492** may determine the inclination direction of the liquid crystal molecules. Accordingly, the inclination direction of the liquid crystal molecules is diversified by the domain-dividing portion **492**, so that it may be possible to increase a reference viewing angle.

In this way, the pixel is divided into a plurality of domains by the domain-dividing portion **492** of the common electrode **490** and the edges of the pixel electrode **382**. In this case, the domain of the pixel is divided into left and right pieces by the domain-dividing portion **492**, and divided into upper and lower pieces by the bent portion of the pixel electrode **382**. That is, the pixel is divided into four domains depending on a direction where main directors of the liquid crystal molecules included in the liquid crystal layer are arranged due to an electric field.

The domain-dividing portion **492** may include notches (not shown) that have the shape of a recessed chamfer. The notches may have a triangular, a rectangular, a trapezoid, or a semi-circular shape. The liquid crystal molecules arranged at domain boundaries may be stably and regularly arranged by the notches. Therefore, it may be possible to prevent display irregularities or residual images from occurring at the domain boundaries.

An alignment layer (not shown) to align the liquid crystal molecules may be disposed on the common electrode **490**.

The lower display panel and the upper display panel are aligned and combined with each other as described above and the liquid crystal layer is disposed between the panels to complete the basic structure of the liquid crystal display according to the first exemplary embodiment of the present invention. The liquid crystal display is obtained by disposing elements, such as polarizers and a backlight, on the basic structure. In this case, the polarizers are disposed on both sides of the basic structure, respectively. The polarization axis of one polarizer may be parallel to the gate line **322**, and the polarization axis of the other polarizer may be orthogonal to the gate line **322**.

When the electric field is not applied between the pixel electrodes **382** and the common electrode **490**, the liquid crystal molecules are aligned so that directors of the liquid crystal molecules are perpendicular to the lower display panel and the upper display panel. Further, the liquid crystal molecules may have negative dielectric anisotropy.

A liquid crystal display according to a fifth exemplary embodiment of the present invention will be described below with reference to FIG. 12 and FIG. 13. FIG. 12 is a layout of a liquid crystal display according to a fifth exemplary embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 13 is a cross-sectional view of the liquid crystal display taken along line XIII-XIII' of FIG. 12.

Referring to FIG. 12 and FIG. 13, the liquid crystal display according to the fifth exemplary embodiment of the present invention includes a lower display panel, an upper display panel, and a liquid crystal layer. The lower display panel includes thin film transistors that are connected to gate lines **422**, first data lines **462a**, and second data lines **462b** and

apply data voltages to pixel electrodes **482a**. The upper display panel faces the lower display panel and includes a common electrode **120**. The liquid crystal layer is interposed between the lower display panel and the upper display panel. According to the present exemplary embodiment, color filters **92** and a thin film transistor array are disposed in the lower display panel, and the present exemplary embodiment will be described by using AOC structure where the thin film transistor array is disposed on the color filters **92**. However, the present invention is not limited thereto. That is, exemplary embodiments of the present invention also may employ COA structure a thin film transistor array are disposed on a lower display panel and the color filters are disposed on the thin film transistor array. In this case, the color filter may be used as a passivation layer that is provided between the thin film transistor array and pixel electrodes. Furthermore, the color filters may be disposed on the upper display panel. For explanatory convenience, exemplary embodiments of the present invention will be described below using a liquid crystal display having the AOC structure.

The lower display panel is described in detail below.

Black matrices **90** are disposed on a first insulating substrate **10**, which may be made of a transparent insulating material such as glass. Red, green, and blue color filters **92** are sequentially arranged on the pixel region between the black matrices **90**. An overcoat layer **94** may be disposed on the substrate to planarize the black matrices **90** and the color filters **92**.

The gate line **422** through which a gate signal is transmitted is disposed on the overcoat layer **94** in a first direction, for example, in a horizontal direction. A pair of (first and second) gate electrodes **426a** and **426b** extends from the gate line **22**. The gate line **422** and the first and second gate electrodes **426a** and **426b** are referred to as gate wires.

Further, control electrodes **482b**, which divide the pixel region into a plurality of domains, are disposed on the overcoat layer **94**. The control electrode **482b** is positioned at the central portion of the pixel electrode **482a** and has a bent shape, for example, a V-shape. Although shown in FIG. **13** as being formed on the same layer as the gate wires, the control electrode **482b** may alternatively be disposed on the same layer as the pixel electrode **482a** or the data lines **462a** and **462b**, and may be made of the same material as the pixel electrode **482a** or the data lines **462a** and **462b**.

A storage line (not shown), which crosses the pixel region and extends in the horizontal direction so as to be substantially parallel to the gate line **422**, may be disposed on the overcoat layer **94**. The storage line overlaps the pixel electrode **482a**, thereby forming a storage capacitor that may store charge.

Each gate wire **422**, **426a**, and **426b** and the control electrodes **482b** may be made of an aluminum-based metal, such as aluminum (Al) or an aluminum alloy, a silver-based metal, such as silver (Ag) or a silver alloy, a copper-based metal, such as copper (Cu) or a copper alloy, a molybdenum-based metal, such as molybdenum (Mo) or a molybdenum alloy, chromium (Cr), titanium (Ti), or tantalum (Ta). In addition, each gate wires **422**, **426a**, and **426b** and the control electrodes **482b** may have a multilayer structure that includes two conductive films (not shown) having different physical properties. One conductive film of the two conductive films may be made of a metal having low resistivity, for example, an aluminum-based metal, a silver-based metal, or a copper-based metal, to reduce signal delay or voltage drop in each gate wire **422**, **426a**, and **426b** and the control electrode **482b**. The other conductive film may be made of a material having excellent contact characteristics with respect to ITO and IZO,

for example, a molybdenum-based metal, chromium, titanium, or tantalum. A structure that has a chromium lower film and an aluminum upper film, and a structure that has an aluminum lower film and a molybdenum upper film may be used as an example of the combination of the two conductive films. However, each gate wire **422**, **426a**, and **426b** and the control electrodes **482b** may be made of various metallic materials or conductors other than the above metallic materials.

A gate insulating layer **430** made of silicon nitride ( $\text{SiN}_x$ ) is disposed on the gate wires **422**, **426a**, and **426b**, and the control electrode **482b**.

A pair of (first and second) semiconductor layers **440a** and **440b**, which may be made of hydrogenated amorphous silicon or polysilicon, is disposed on the gate insulating film **430**. The first and second semiconductor layers **440a** and **440b** may have various shapes, such as an island shape and a stripe shape. For example, like in this exemplary embodiment, the semiconductor layers **440a** and **440b** may each have an island shape.

Ohmic contact layers **455a**, **455b**, **456a**, and **456b** are disposed on each semiconductor layer **440a** and **440b**, and may be made of silicide or n+hydrogenated amorphous silicon in which n-type impurities are doped at high concentration. The ohmic contact layers **455a**, **455b**, **456a**, and **456b** are positioned in pairs on the semiconductor layers **440a** and **440b**.

A pair of (first and second) data lines **462a** and **462b** and a pair of (first and second) drain electrodes **466a** and **466b** are disposed on the ohmic contact layers **455a**, **455b**, **456a**, and **456b** and the gate insulating layer **430**. The drain electrodes **466a** and **466b** correspond to the first and second data lines **462a** and **462b**, respectively.

The first and second data lines **462a** and **462b** extend in a vertical direction to cross the gate line **422**. The first and second data lines **462a** and **462b** transmit a data voltage and a control voltage. The first and second data lines **462a** and **462b** are provided with first and second source electrodes **465a** and **465b** that extend toward the first and second drain electrodes **466a** and **466b**, respectively. As shown in FIG. **12**, the first data line **462a** transmits a data signal to the pixel electrode **482a**, and the second data line **462b** transmits a control signal to the control electrode **482b**.

A contact hole **476b** is formed in the gate insulating layer **430**. The second drain electrode **466b** is connected to the control electrode **482b** through the contact hole **476b**, so that a control voltage may be applied to the control electrode **482b**.

The first and second data lines **462a** and **462b**, the first and second source electrodes **465a** and **465b**, and the first and second drain electrodes **466a** and **466b** are referred to as data wires.

Each data wire **462a**, **462b**, **465a**, **465b**, **466a**, and **466b** may be made of a refractory metal, such as chromium, molybdenum-based metal, tantalum, or titanium. Further, each data wire **462a**, **462b**, **465a**, **465b**, **466a**, and **466b** may have a multilayer structure in which an upper film (not shown), which may be made of a low-resistance material, is formed on a lower film (not shown), which may be made of a refractory metal or the like. A three-layer structure that has a molybdenum film, an aluminum film, and a molybdenum film may be used as an example of the multilayer structure other than the above-mentioned dual-layer structures that have a chromium lower film and an aluminum upper film, or the above mentioned dual-layer structure that has an aluminum lower film and a molybdenum upper film.

At least a part of the first and second source electrodes **465a** and **465b** overlap the semiconductor layers **440a** and **440b**, respectively. Further, the first and second drain electrodes **466a** and **466b** face the first and second source electrodes **465a** and **465b** with the gate electrodes **426a** and **426b** therebetween, and at least a part of the drain electrodes overlap the semiconductor layers **440a** and **440b**, respectively. In this case, the above-mentioned ohmic contact layers **455a**, **455b**, **456a**, and **456b** are disposed between the semiconductor layers **440a** and **440b** and the first and second source electrodes **465a** and **465b**, and between the semiconductor layers **440a** and **440b** and the first and second drain electrodes **466a** and **466b**, respectively, to reduce the contact resistance therebetween.

A passivation layer **470** is disposed on the data wires **462a**, **462b**, **465a**, **465b**, **466a**, and **466b** and the semiconductor layers **440a** and **440b** exposed through the data wires. In this case, the passivation layer **470**, which may be made of an inorganic material such as silicon nitride or silicon oxide, an organic material that has a good planarizing characteristic and photosensitivity, or an insulating material having a low dielectric constant such as a-Si:C:O or a-Si:O:F that is formed by plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD). In addition, the passivation layer **470** may have a dual-layer structure, which includes a lower inorganic layer and an upper organic layer, to improve characteristics of the organic film and to protect the exposed semiconductor layers **440a** and **440b**. In addition, red, green, and blue color filter layers may be used as the passivation layer **470**.

A contact hole **476a** is formed in the passivation layer **470**, and micro-concave and convex portions are formed on regions of the passivation layer **470** that correspond to the edges of the pixel electrode **482a**.

The pixel electrode **482a** disposed on the passivation layer **470** is connected to the first drain electrode **466a** through the contact hole **476a**, so that a data voltage may be applied to the pixel electrode **482a**. The micro-concave and convex stripes **384**, which are conformally formed to correspond to the micro-concave and convex portions formed on the passivation layer **470**, are arranged at the edges of the pixel electrode **482a**. In this case, the micro-concave and convex stripes **384** function to reinforce the horizontal electric field, thereby facilitating the inclination of the liquid crystal molecules of the liquid crystal layer. The micro-concave and convex stripes **384** have a structure where micro-concave portions **384a** and micro-convex portions **384b** are alternately arranged. The micro-concave and convex stripes **384** are arranged in a diagonal direction and extend at an angle of about 45° or -45° with respect to a polarization axis of a polarizer (not shown) or the gate line **422**. The micro-concave and convex stripes **384** may extend in a direction substantially orthogonal to the edges of the pixel electrode **482a**. When driving power is applied to the liquid crystal display, the liquid crystal molecules are inclined in an extension direction of the micro-concave and convex stripes **384**. Accordingly, the pixel region is divided into four domain regions.

The pixel electrode **482a**, to which a data voltage is applied, generates an electric field together with the common electrode **120** of the upper display panel, thereby determining the arrangement of the liquid crystal molecules that are provided between the pixel electrode **482a** and the common electrode **120**. The pixel electrode **482a** may be made of a transparent electric conductor such as ITO or IZO, or a reflective electric conductor such as aluminum.

The pixel electrode **482** includes a cut-out portion **486** that is inclined at an angle of about 45° or -45° with respect to the gate line **422** or a polarization axis of a polarizer. The cut-out

portion **486** may have a bent shape corresponding to the bent shape of the pixel. That is, the cut-out portion **486** may be V-shaped.

The control electrode **482b** is disposed to overlap with the cut-out portion **486**. The control electrode **482b** may be narrower than the cut-out portion **486**, and the control electrode **482b** may be disposed in the cut-out portion **486**.

A control voltage applied to the control electrode **482b** should be slightly higher than a data voltage applied to the pixel electrode **482a**. In this case, the level of the voltage means the magnitude of the voltage relative to the common voltage. If a control voltage higher than a data voltage is applied to the control electrode **482b**, an equipotential line of the liquid crystal layer is convex toward the common electrode **120** in the vicinity of the control electrode **482b**. Accordingly, the liquid crystal molecules are inclined in a direction perpendicular to the direction of the electric field. For this reason, the liquid crystal molecules provided on both sides of the control electrode **482b** are inclined toward the control electrode **482b**. Therefore, the domain of the pixel region is divided by the control electrode **482b**.

An alignment film (not shown) to align the liquid crystal layer may be disposed on the pixel electrode **482a** and the passivation layer **470**.

The upper display panel facing the lower display panel is described in detail below.

A second insulating substrate **110**, which may be made of a transparent insulating material such as glass, is disposed to face the first insulating substrate **10**. The common electrode **120**, which may be made of a transparent conductive material such as ITO or IZO, is disposed on the second insulating substrate **110**. An alignment layer (not shown) to align the liquid crystal layer **170** may be disposed on the common electrode **120**. Since a separate patterning process is not added for the common electrode **120**, it may be possible to improve the transmittance of the liquid crystal display and to reduce the manufacturing costs.

The lower display panel and the upper display panel are aligned and combined with each other as described above and the liquid crystal layer **170** is disposed between the panels to complete the basic structure of the liquid crystal display according to the fifth exemplary embodiment of the present invention. The liquid crystal display is obtained by disposing elements, such as polarizers and a backlight, on the basic structure. In this case, the polarizers are disposed on both sides of the basic structure, respectively. The polarization axis of one polarizer may be parallel to the gate line **422**, and the polarization axis of the other polarizer may be orthogonal to the gate line **422**.

When the electric field is not applied between the pixel electrodes **482a** and the common electrode **120**, the liquid crystal molecules included in the liquid crystal layer **170** are aligned so that directors of the liquid crystal molecules are perpendicular to the lower display panel and the upper display panel. Further, the liquid crystal molecules may have negative dielectric anisotropy.

In the liquid crystal display according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, micro-concave and convex stripes are formed on a pixel electrode as described above. Therefore, it may be possible to effectively control the movement of the liquid crystal molecules. As a result, it may be possible to improve the response speed and luminance of the liquid crystal display.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variation can be made in the present invention without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Thus, it is intended that the present invention cover the

modifications and variations of this invention provided they come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. A liquid crystal display, comprising:
  - a first insulating substrate;
  - pixel electrodes disposed on the first insulating substrate and divided into a plurality of domains, each domain comprising micro-concave stripes and micro-convex stripes arranged in a specific direction;
  - a second insulating substrate facing the first insulating substrate;
  - a common electrode, which is not patterned, disposed on the second insulating substrate; and
  - a liquid crystal layer disposed between the first insulating substrate and the second insulating substrate, the liquid crystal layer comprising liquid crystal molecules, the liquid crystal molecules being aligned perpendicular to the first insulating substrate and the second insulating substrates when an electric field is not applied to the liquid crystal layer,
- wherein the liquid crystal molecules are inclined in an extension direction of the micro-concave and convex stripes when an electric field is applied to the liquid crystal layer.
2. The liquid crystal display of claim 1, wherein the pitch of the micro-concave stripes and the micro-convex stripes is not greater than 2.5 times a cell gap between the first insulating substrate and the second insulating substrate.
3. The liquid crystal display of claim 2, wherein a difference in height between the micro-concave stripes and the micro-convex stripes is 0.5 to 1 times the pitch.
4. The liquid crystal display of claim 1, further comprising:
  - a first polarizer disposed on the first insulating substrate; and
  - a second polarizer disposed on the second insulating substrate,
- wherein the micro-concave stripes and the micro-convex stripes extend at an angle of 45° or -45° with respect to a polarization axis of the polarizers.
5. The liquid crystal display of claim 1, further comprising:
  - a capping layer disposed between the first insulating substrate and the pixel electrodes, the capping layer contacting the pixel electrodes.
6. The liquid crystal display of claim 1, wherein each pixel electrode further comprises a connection portion that divides the pixel electrode into a plurality of domains, and the connection portion protrudes toward the common electrode.
7. The liquid crystal display of claim 6, wherein a width of the connection portion is at least 2.5 times a cell gap between the first insulating substrate and the second insulating substrate.
8. The liquid crystal display of claim 1, wherein each pixel electrode further comprises a cut-out portion that divides the pixel electrode into the plurality of domains.
9. The liquid crystal display of claim 8, wherein a width of the cut-out portion is at least 2.5 times a cell gap between the first insulating substrate and the second insulating substrate.
10. A liquid crystal display, comprising:
  - a first insulating substrate;
  - pixel electrodes disposed on the first insulating substrate, having a bent structure, and comprising micro-concave stripes and micro-convex stripes that extend along edges of the pixel electrode to be orthogonal to the edges of the pixel electrode;

- a second insulating substrate facing the first insulating substrate;
  - a common electrode disposed on the second insulating substrate and comprising a domain-dividing portion; and
  - a liquid crystal layer disposed between the first insulating substrate and the second insulating substrate and comprising liquid crystal molecules, the liquid crystal molecules being aligned perpendicular to the first insulating substrate and the second insulating substrate when an electric field is not applied to the liquid crystal layer, wherein the liquid crystal molecules are inclined in an extension direction of the micro-concave stripes and the micro-convex stripes when an electric field is applied to the liquid crystal layer.
11. The liquid crystal display of claim 10 wherein a pitch of the micro-concave stripes and the micro-convex stripes is not greater than 2.5 times a cell gap between the first insulating substrate and the second insulating substrate.
  12. The liquid crystal display of claim 11, wherein a difference in height between the micro-concave stripes and the micro-convex stripes is 0.5 to 1 times the pitch.
  13. The liquid crystal display of claim 10, further comprising:
    - a first polarizer disposed on the first insulating substrate; and
    - a second polarizer disposed on the second insulating substrate,
  - wherein the micro-concave stripes and the micro-convex stripes extend at an angle of 45° or -45° with respect to a polarization axis of the polarizers.
  14. The liquid crystal display of claim 10, further comprising:
    - a capping layer disposed between the first insulating substrate and the pixel electrodes, the capping layer contacting the pixel electrodes.
  15. A liquid crystal display, comprising:
    - a first insulating substrate;
    - pixel electrodes disposed on the first insulating substrate, having a bent structure, and comprising micro-concave stripes and micro-convex stripes that extend along edges of the pixel electrode to be orthogonal to the edges of the pixel electrode;
    - control electrodes overlapping with cut-out portions in the pixel electrodes, the control electrodes receiving a voltage higher than that applied to the pixel electrodes;
    - a second insulating substrate facing the first insulating substrate;
    - a common electrode, which is not patterned, disposed on the second insulating substrate; and
    - a liquid crystal layer disposed between the first insulating substrate and the second insulating substrate, the liquid crystal layer comprising liquid crystal molecules, the liquid crystal molecules being aligned perpendicular to the first insulating substrate and the second insulating substrate when an electric field is not applied to the liquid crystal layer,
  - wherein the liquid crystal molecules are inclined in an extension direction of the micro-concave stripes and the micro-convex stripes when an electric field is applied to the liquid crystal layer.
  16. The liquid crystal display of claim 15, wherein a pitch of the micro-concave stripes and the micro-convex stripes is not greater than 2.5 times a cell gap between the first insulating substrate and the second insulating substrate.

## 19

17. The liquid crystal display of claim 16, wherein a difference in height between the micro-concave stripes and the micro-convex stripes is 0.5 to 1 times the pitch.

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

a first polarizer disposed on the first insulating substrate;  
and  
a second polarizer disposed on the second insulating substrate,

wherein the micro-concave stripes and the micro-convex stripes extend at an angle of  $45^\circ$  or  $-45^\circ$  with respect to a polarization axis of the polarizers.

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

## 20

a capping layer disposed between the first insulating substrate and the pixel electrodes, the capping layer contacting the pixel electrodes.

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

gate lines disposed on the first insulating substrate; and  
first data lines and second data lines crossing the gate lines,  
wherein data voltages are applied to the pixel electrodes from the first data lines, and  
control voltages are applied to the control electrodes from the second data lines.

\* \* \* \* \*

|                |                                                 |         |            |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------|------------|
| 专利名称(译)        | 液晶显示器                                           |         |            |
| 公开(公告)号        | <a href="#">US7929096</a>                       | 公开(公告)日 | 2011-04-19 |
| 申请号            | US12/274875                                     | 申请日     | 2008-11-20 |
| [标]申请(专利权)人(译) | 三星电子株式会社                                        |         |            |
| 申请(专利权)人(译)    | SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO. , LTD.                  |         |            |
| 当前申请(专利权)人(译)  | 三星DISPLAY CO. , LTD.                            |         |            |
| [标]发明人         | YEOM JOO SEOK<br>RYU KYU WAN                    |         |            |
| 发明人            | YEOM, JOO-SEOK<br>RYU, KYU-WAN                  |         |            |
| IPC分类号         | G02F1/1343                                      |         |            |
| CPC分类号         | G02F1/133707 G02F1/1362                         |         |            |
| 优先权            | 1020070127065 2007-12-07 KR                     |         |            |
| 其他公开文献         | US20090147162A1                                 |         |            |
| 外部链接           | <a href="#">Espacenet</a> <a href="#">USPTO</a> |         |            |

#### 摘要(译)

液晶显示器包括第一绝缘基板，设置在第一绝缘基板上并分成多个域的像素电极，每个域包括沿特定方向排列的微凹条和微凸条，第二绝缘基板面向第一绝缘基板，未图案化的公共电极，设置在第二绝缘基板上，以及插入在第一和第二绝缘基板之间并包括液晶分子的液晶层。当没有向液晶层施加电场时，液晶分子垂直于第一和第二绝缘基板排列，并且液晶分子在微凹条纹和微凸条纹的延伸方向上倾斜当电场施加到液晶层时。

