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Chen et al.

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(54) **WIDE-VIEWING ANGLE LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**
G02F 1/1337 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **349/129**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **349/129**
See application file for complete search history.

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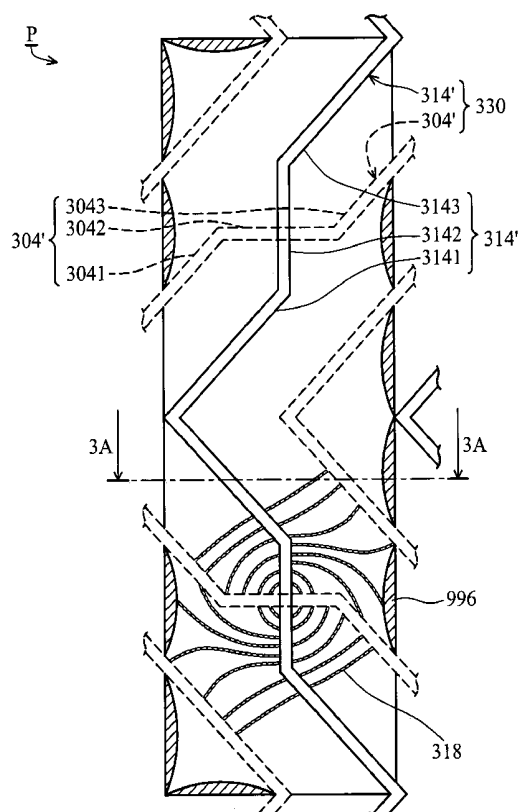
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A wide-viewing angle LCD comprises a first substrate and a second substrate disposed opposite each other with a liquid crystal layer disposed therebetween. A first electrode is disposed on the interior of the first substrate. A first protrusion or slit structure with a first pattern is formed on the first electrode. A second electrode is disposed on the interior of the second substrate. A second protrusion or slit structure with a second pattern is formed on the second electrode. The first and second patterns constitute a third pattern with at least one intersection.

21 Claims, 23 Drawing Sheets



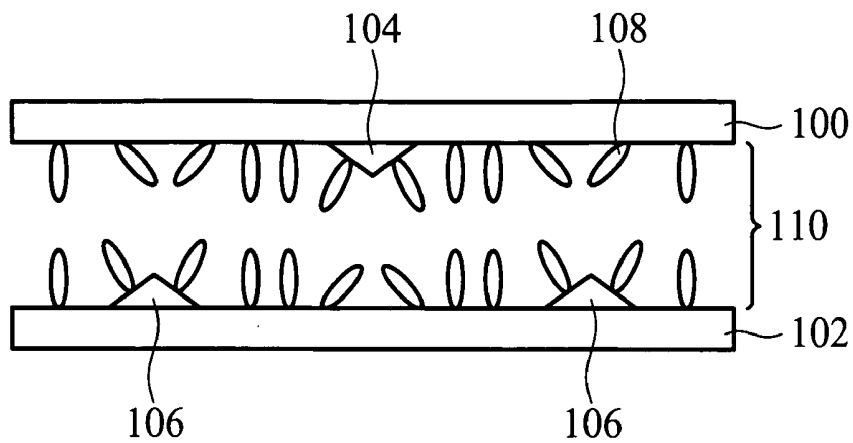


FIG. 1A (RELATED ART)

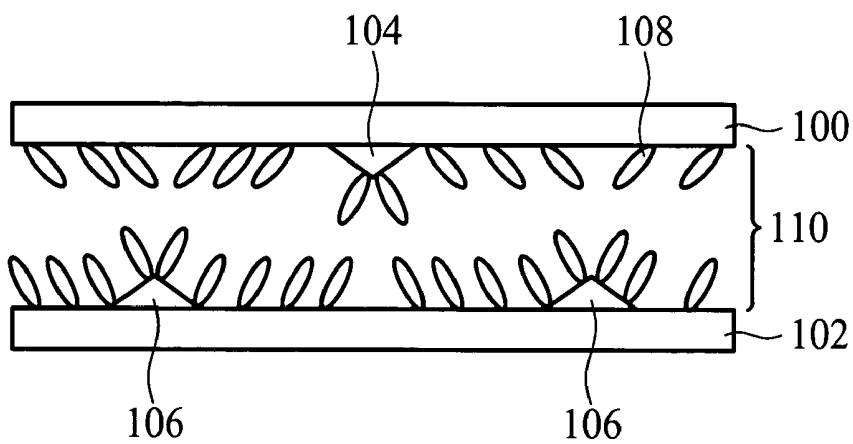


FIG. 1B (RELATED ART)

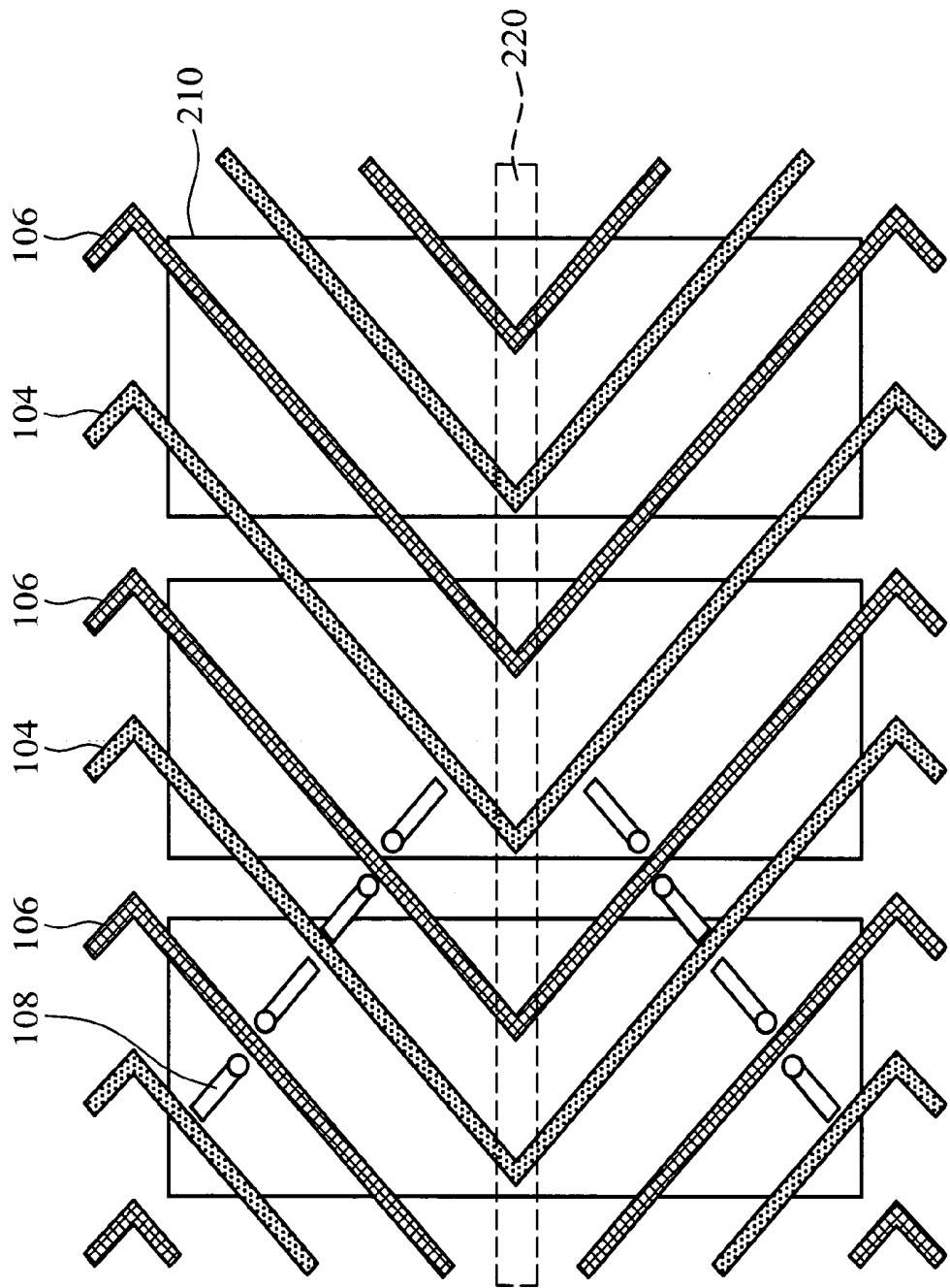


FIG. 2 (RELATED ART)

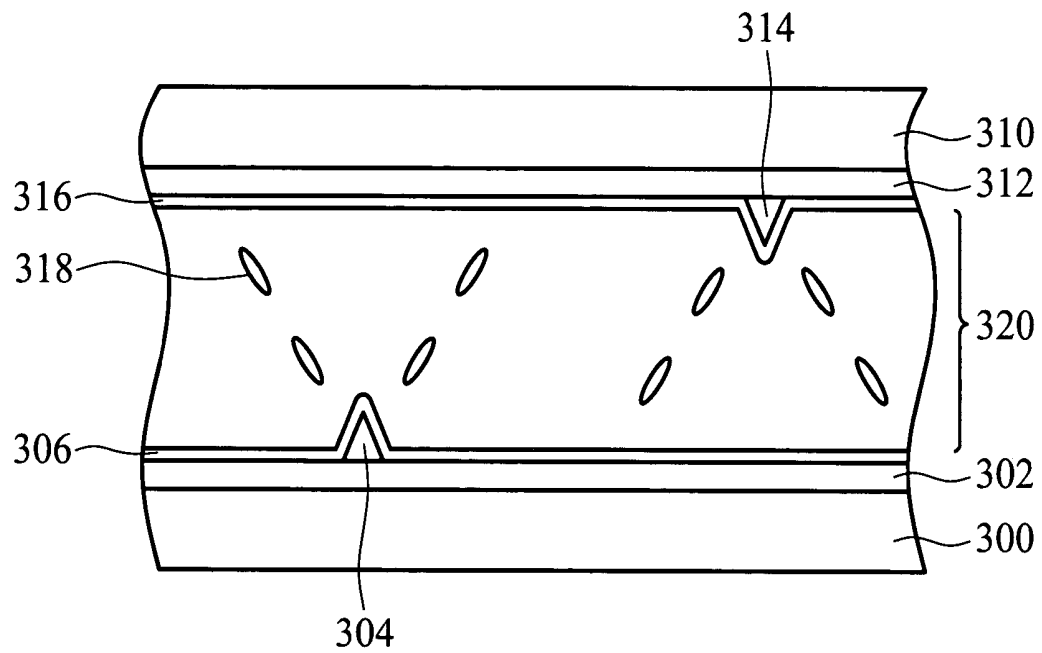


FIG. 3A

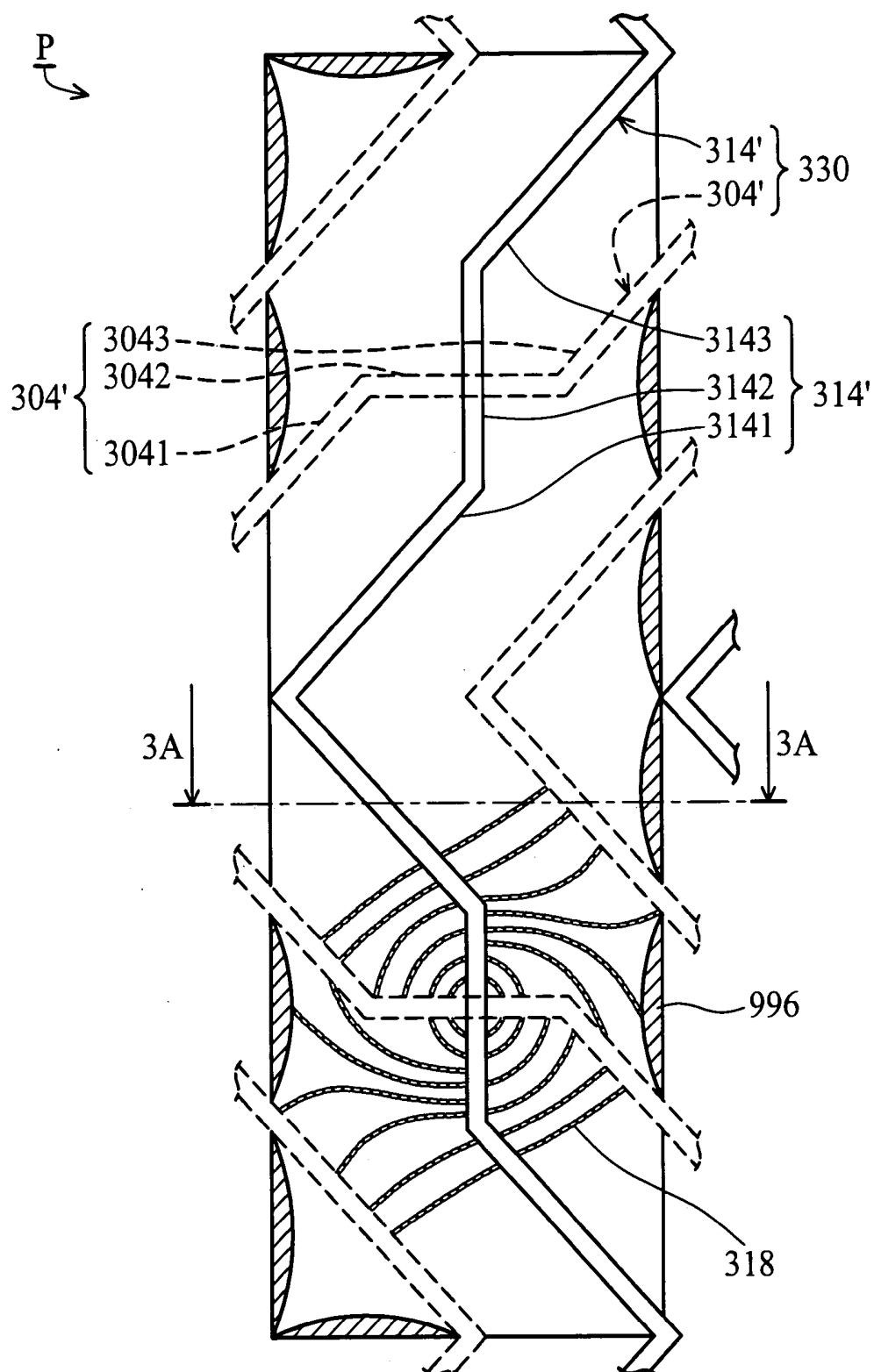


FIG. 3B

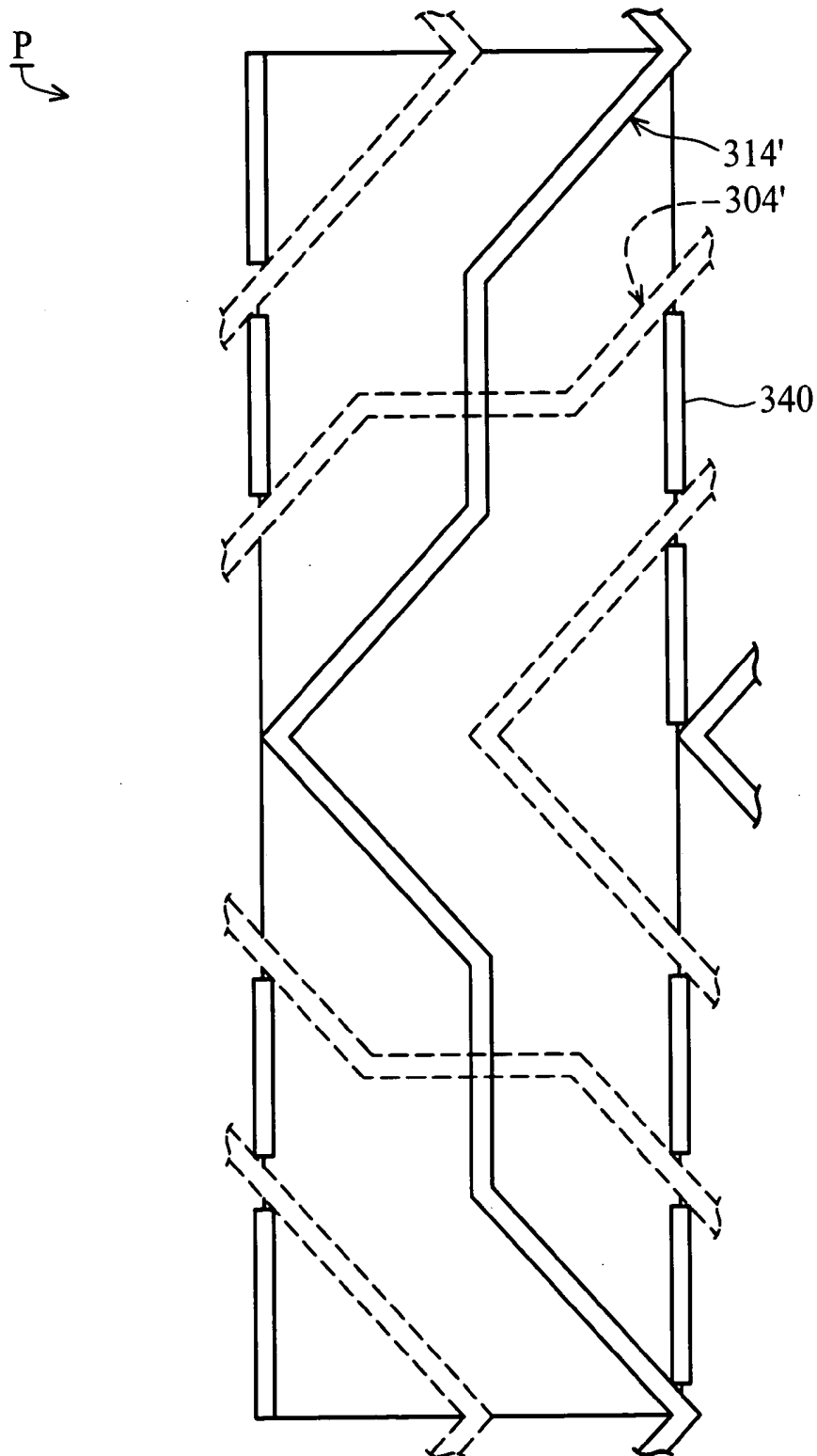


FIG. 3C

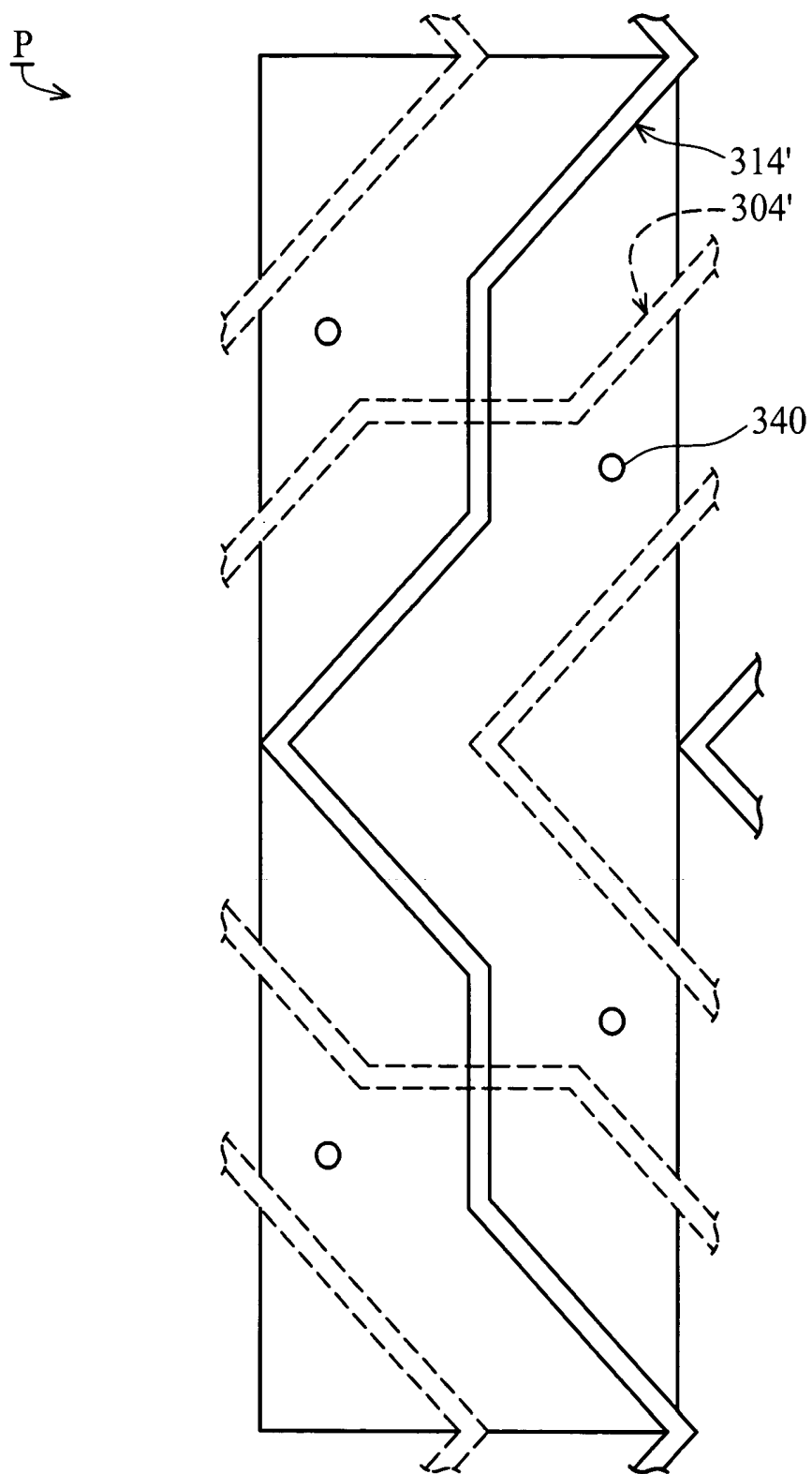


FIG. 3D

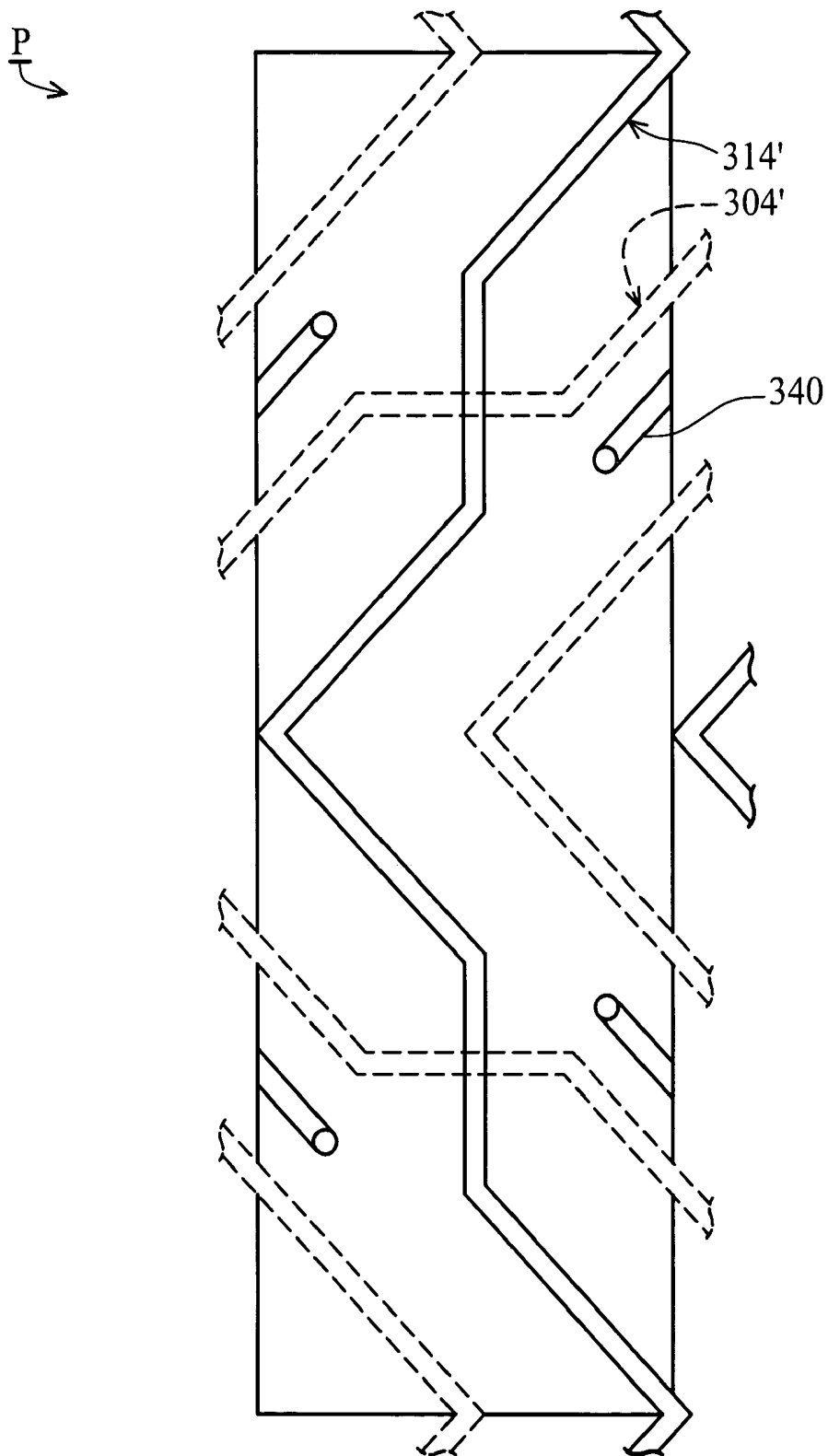


FIG. 3E

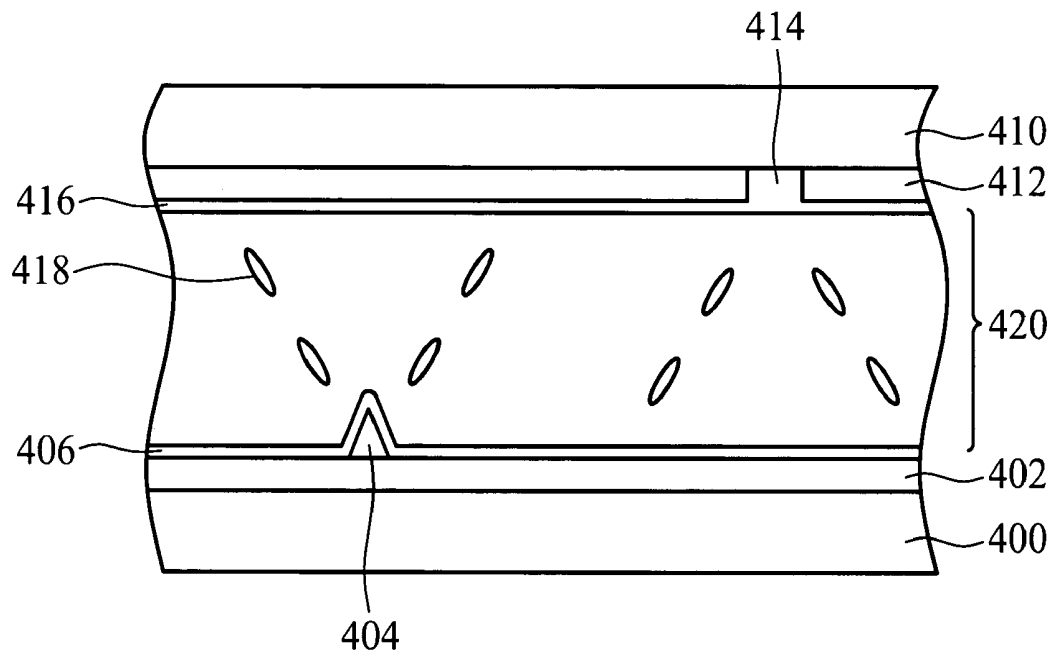


FIG. 4A

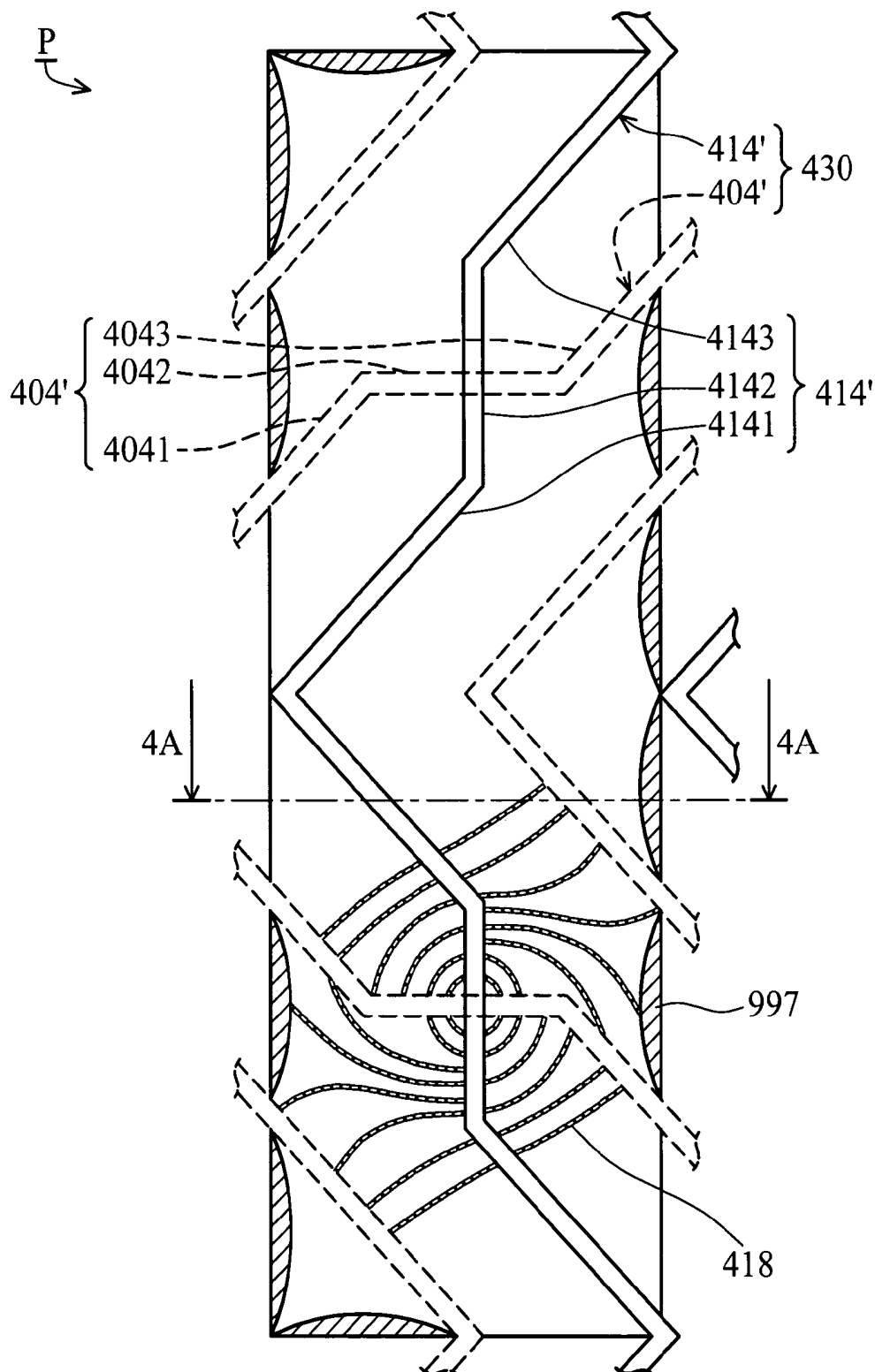


FIG. 4B

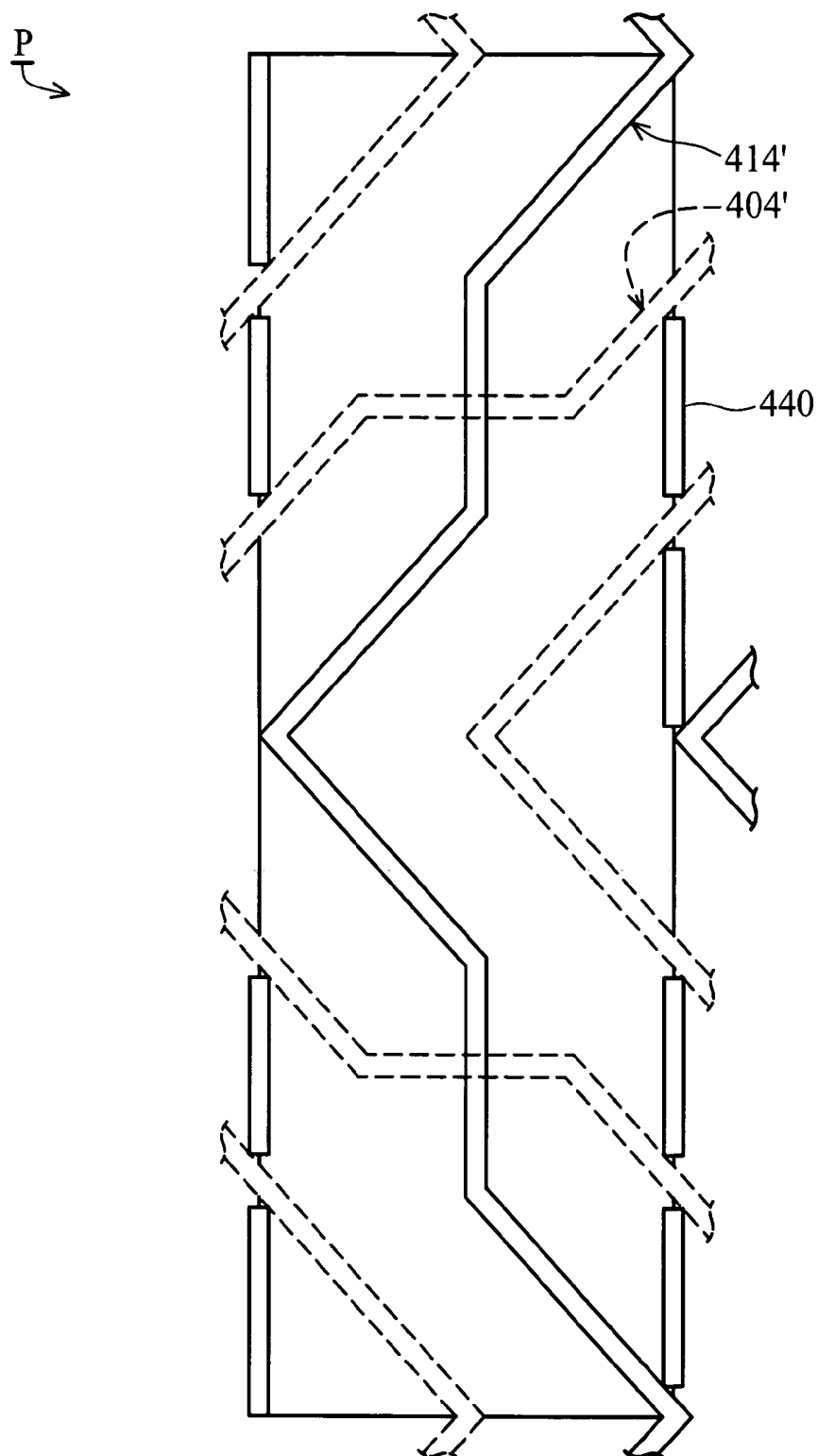


FIG. 4C

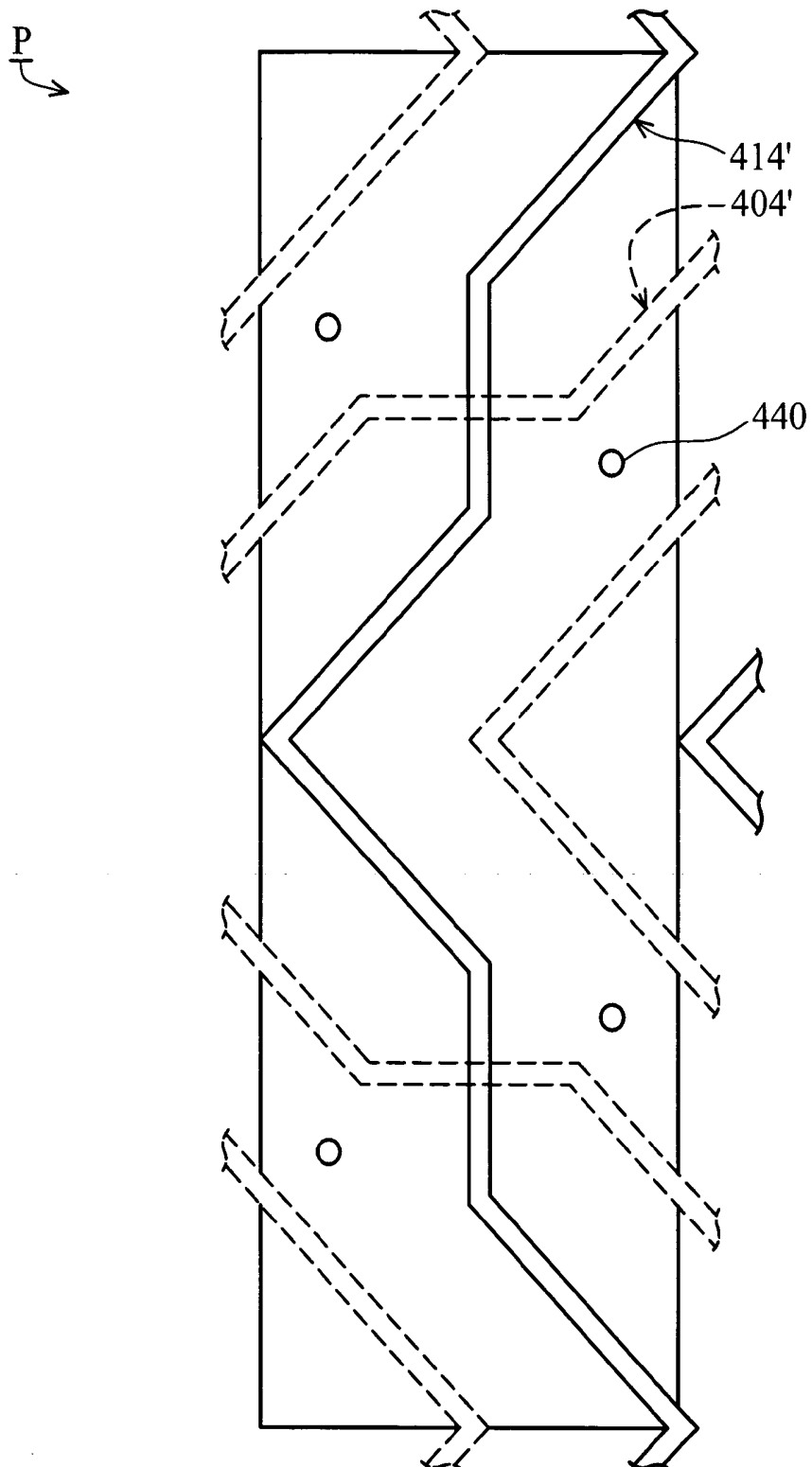


FIG. 4D

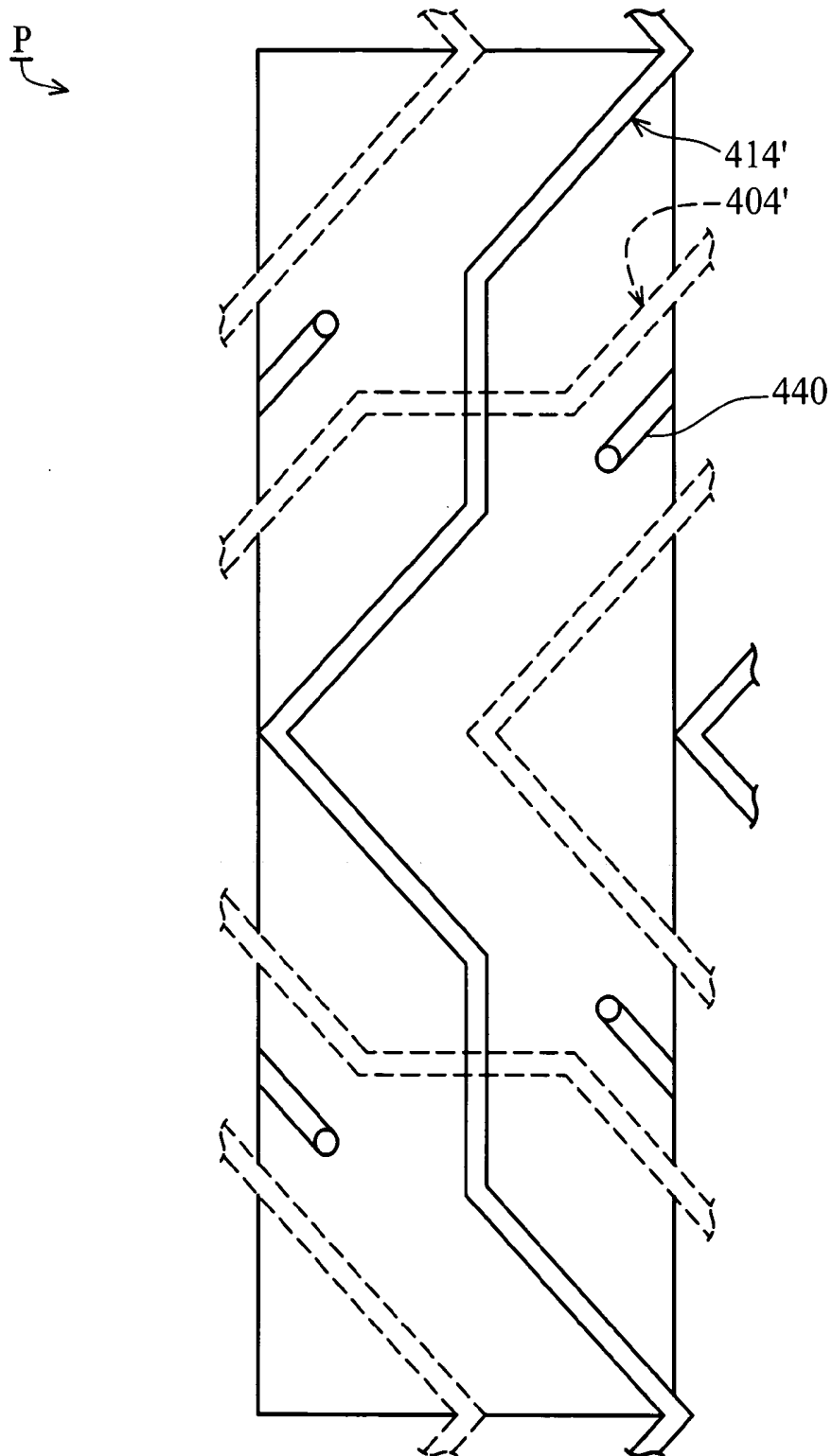


FIG. 4E

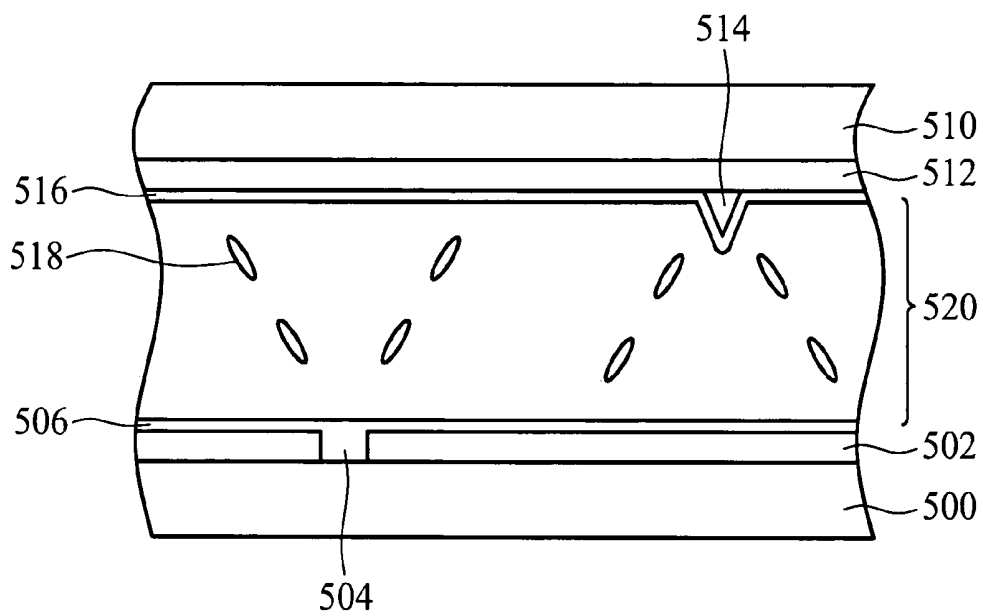


FIG. 5A

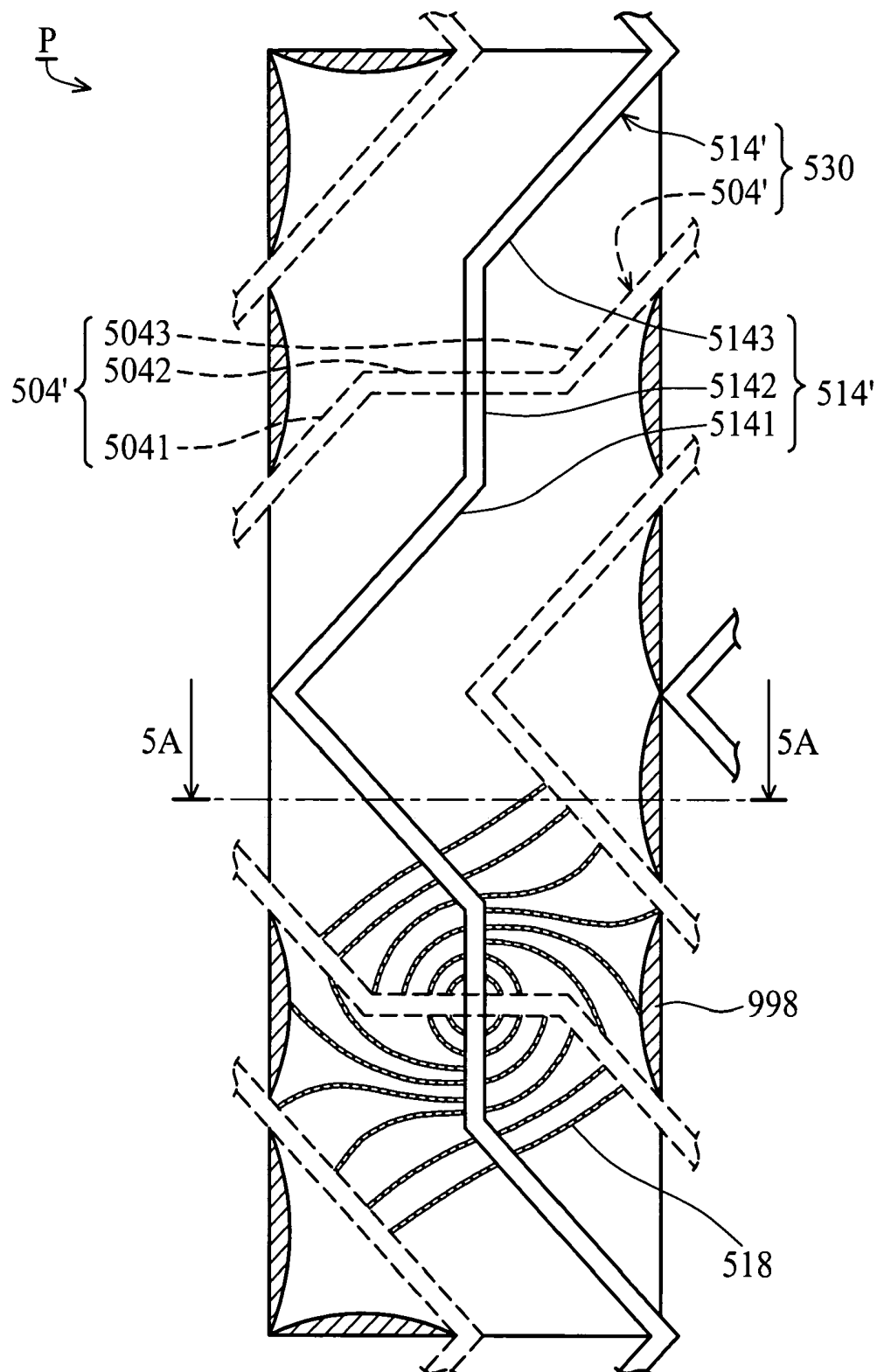


FIG. 5B

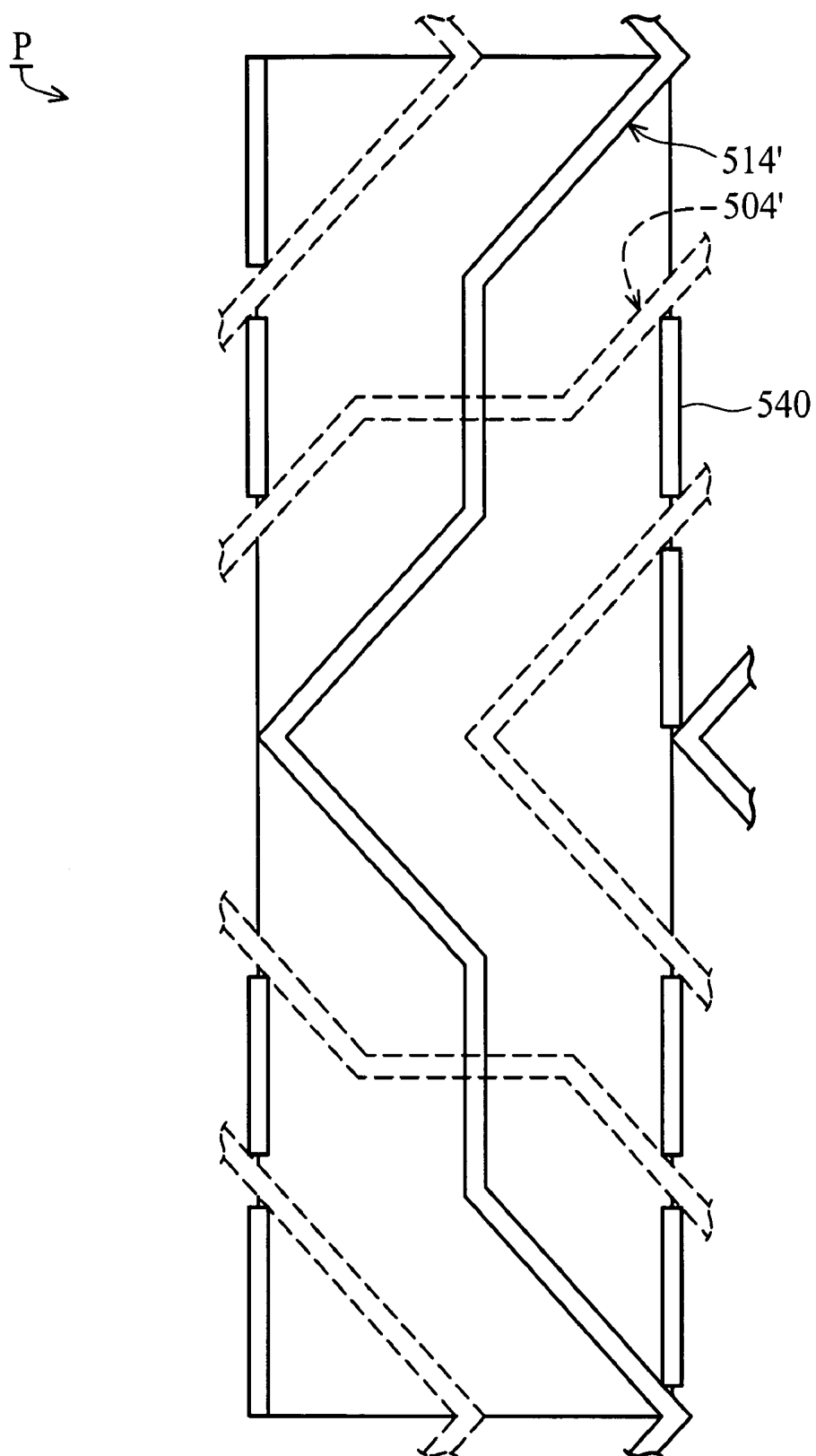


FIG. 5C

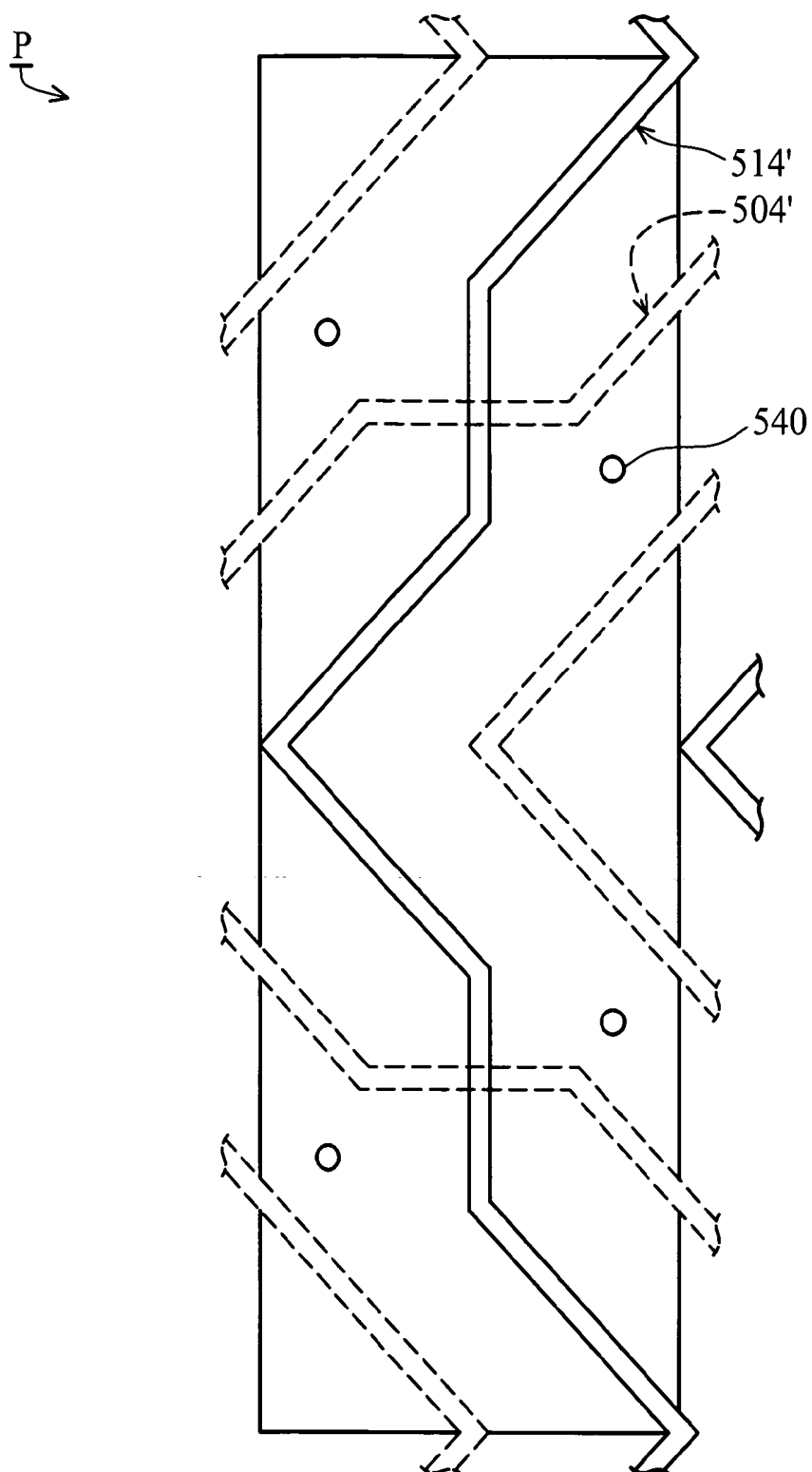


FIG. 5D

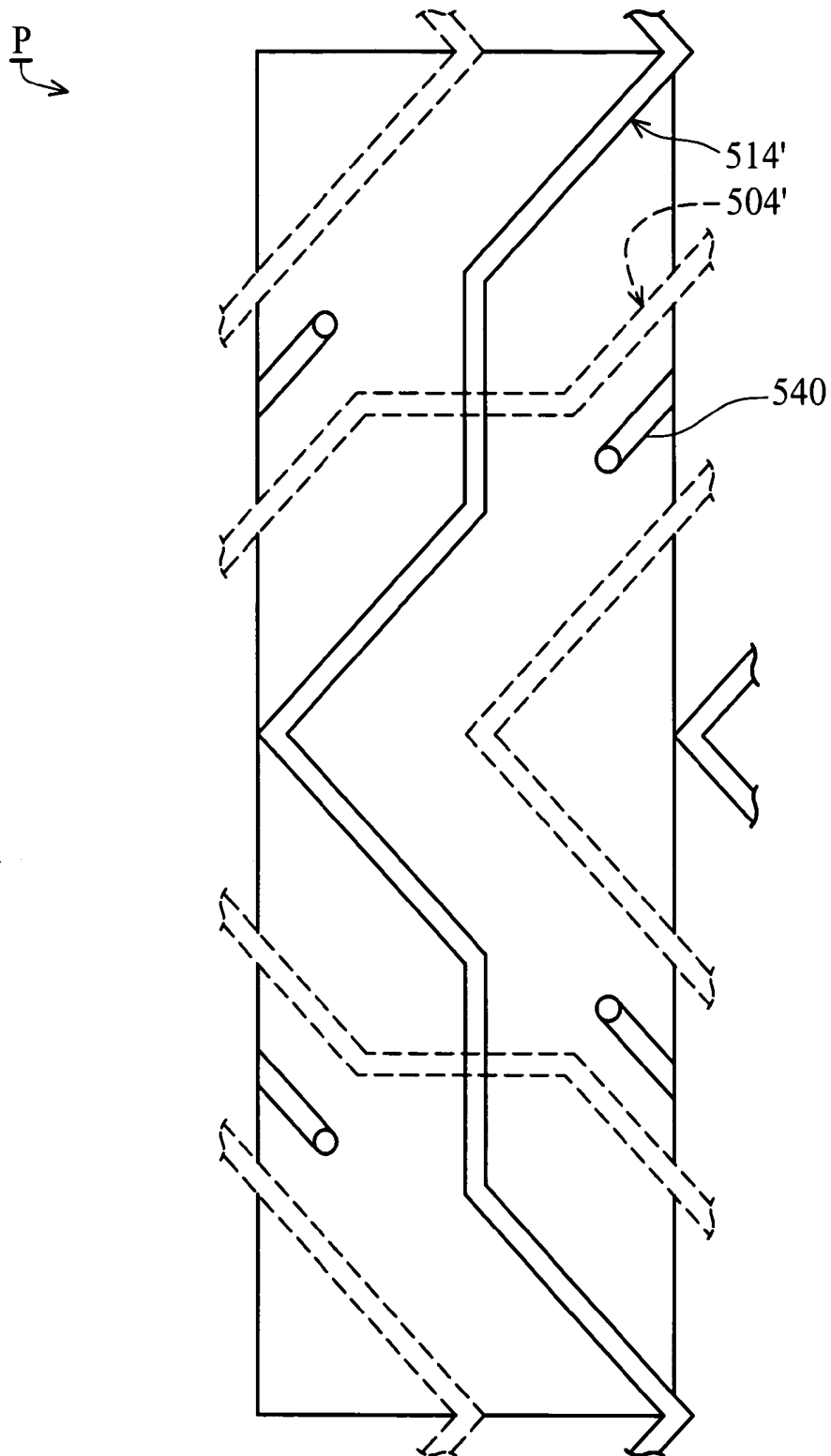


FIG. 5E

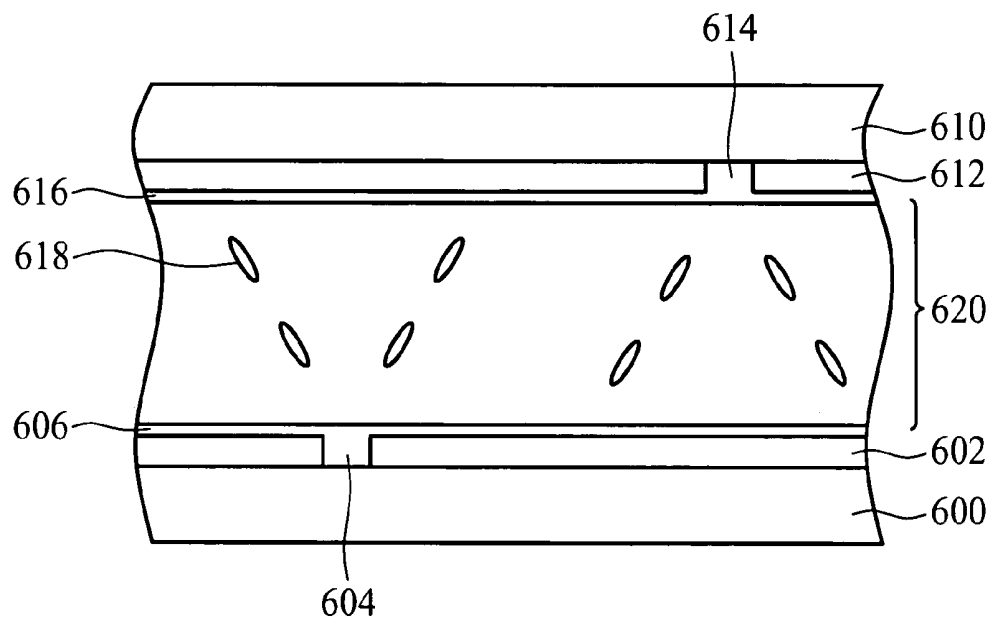


FIG. 6A

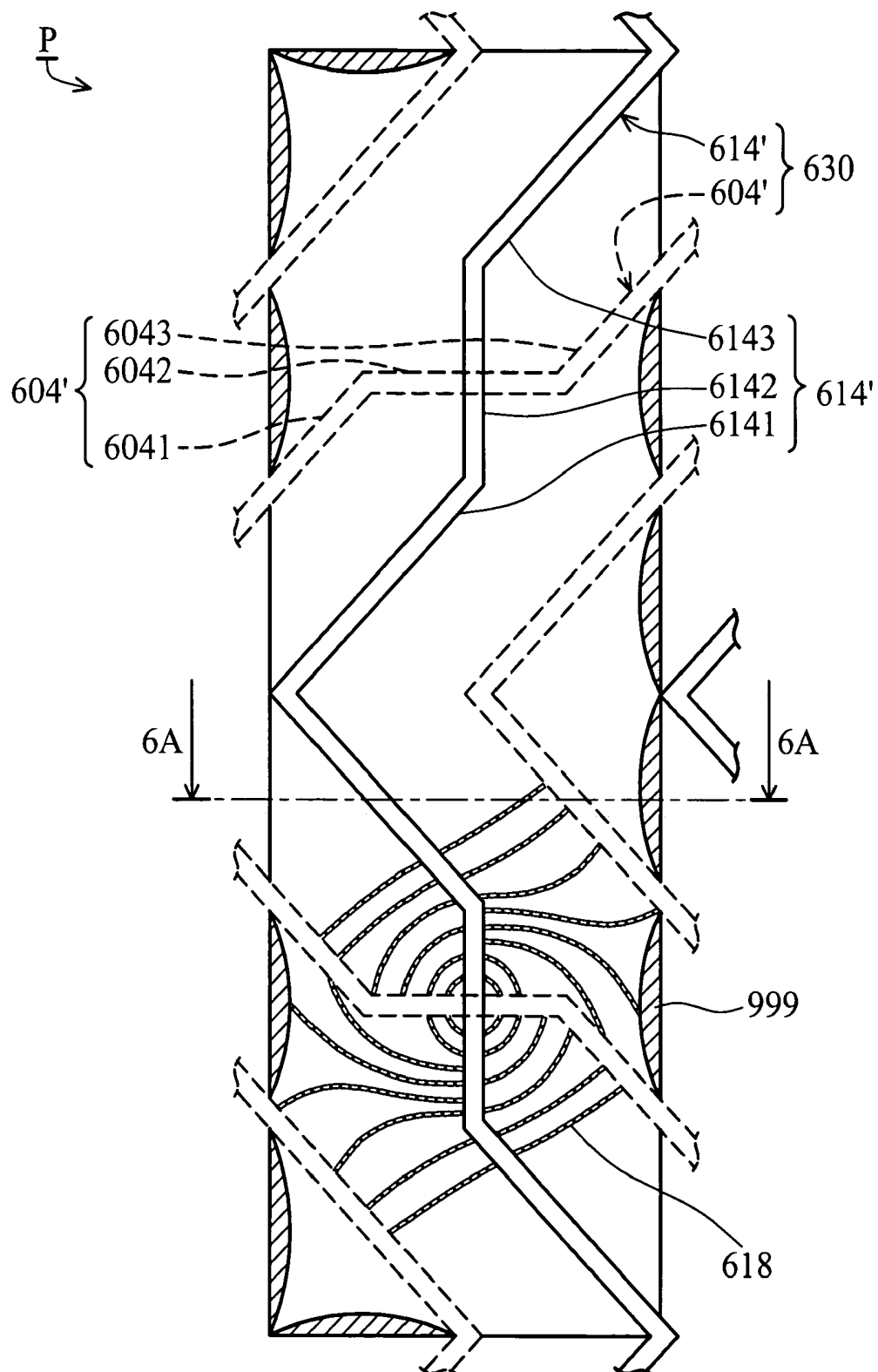


FIG. 6B

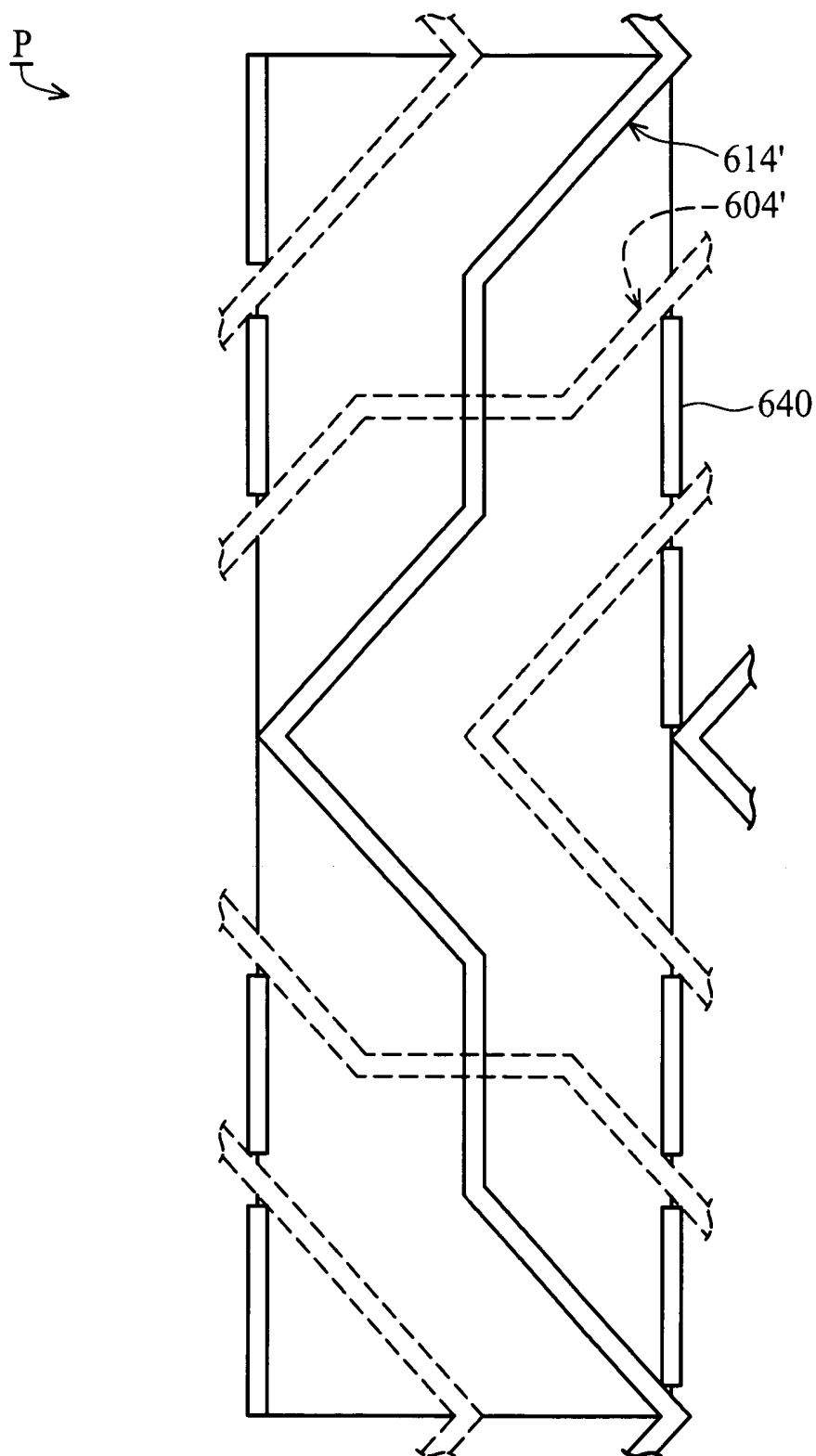


FIG. 6C

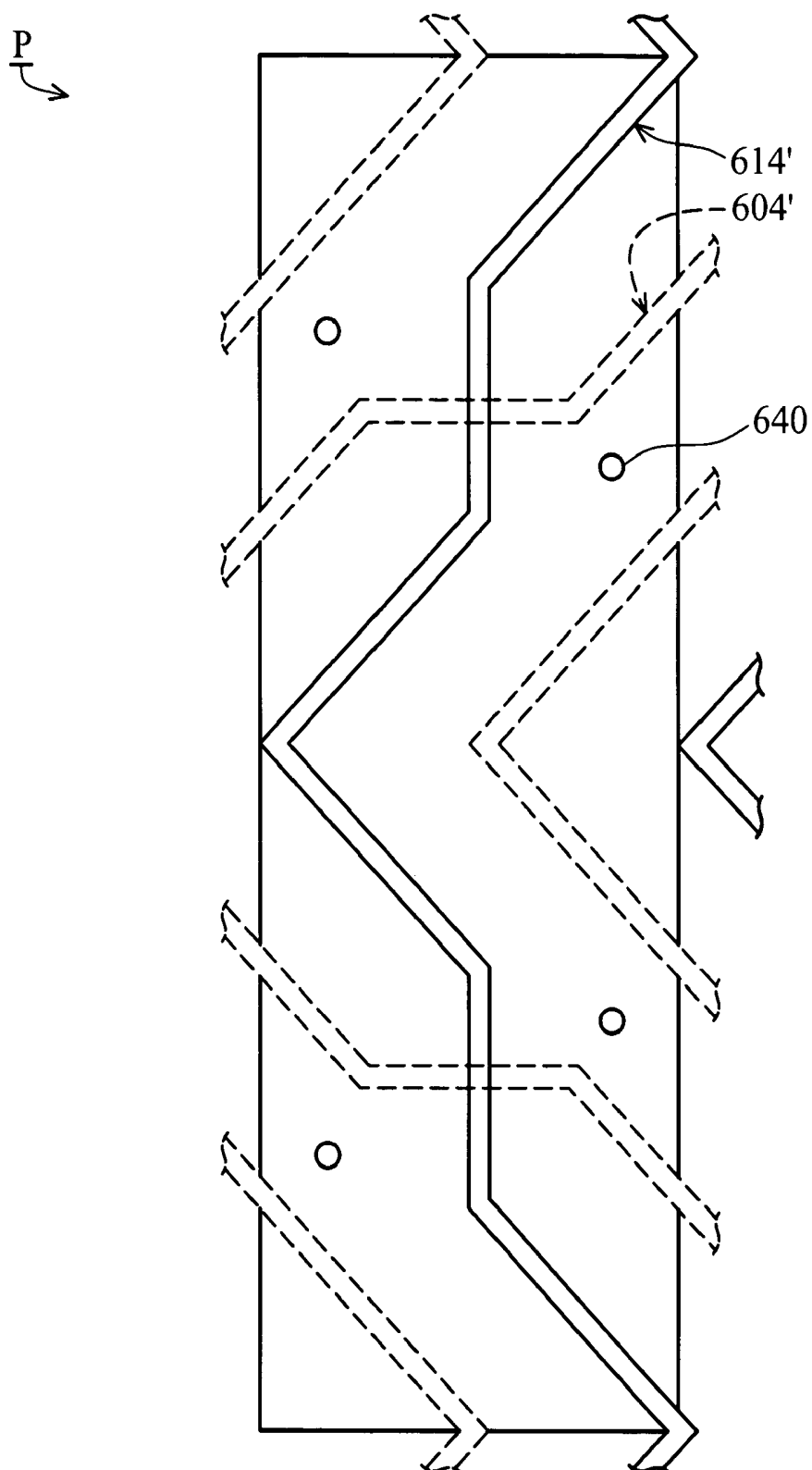


FIG. 6D

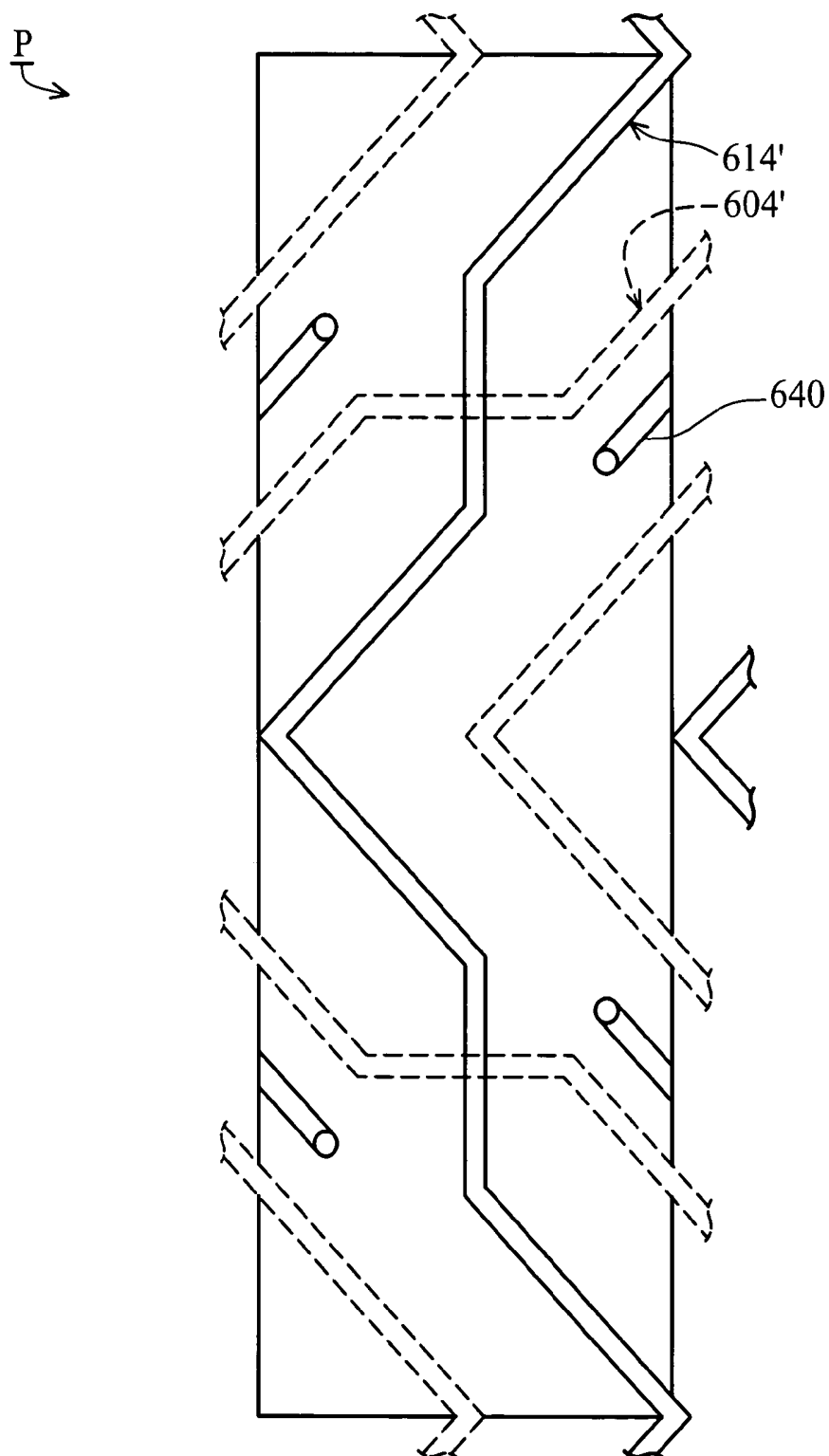


FIG. 6E

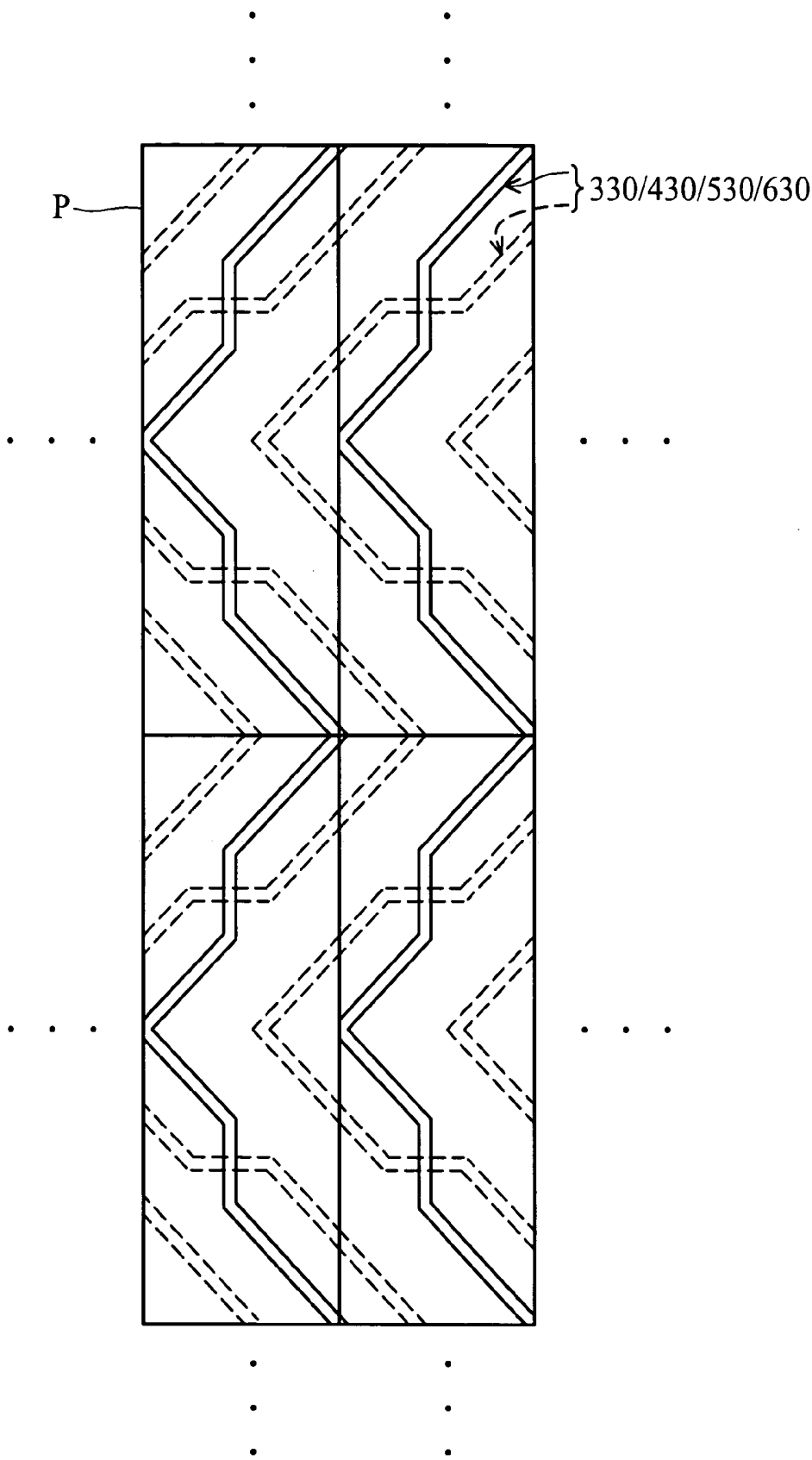


FIG. 7

WIDE-VIEWING ANGLE LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY

BACKGROUND

The invention relates to a wide-viewing angle liquid crystal display, and more particularly to a wide-viewing angle liquid crystal display providing omnidirectional viewing angle characteristics.

Liquid crystal displays (LCDs) have many advantages over other conventional types of displays including exceptional picture quality, small volume, light weight and lower power consumption. LCDs, for example, have been used for several years as displays in, personal digital assistants (PDAs), portable computers, mobile phones, and the like. Nevertheless, LCDs suffer from poor viewing angle characteristics.

In order to improve the viewing angle characteristics, various proposals have been made. Recently, an MVA (Multi-domain Vertical Alignment) type LCD was proposed by Fujitsu Co. Ltd. of Japan. FIGS. 1A and 1B are cross-section views showing the operation of a conventional MVA-LCD. FIG. 1A shows the state of liquid crystal molecules inside the LCD when no external electric field is present or the electric field presence is lower than a threshold value. The color filter (CF) glass substrate **100** and the thin film transistor (TFT) glass substrate **102** are parallel to each other. Protrusions **104** and **106** are formed on the inner surface of both the CF glass substrate **100** and the TFT glass substrate **102**. Liquid crystal molecules **108** having negative dielectric anisotropy (referred to in the following as negative type liquid crystal molecules **108**) are vertically aligned between the CF glass substrate **100** and the TFT glass substrate **102**, constituting a liquid crystal layer **110**. Liquid crystal molecules **108** close to the protrusions **104** and **106** tilt in specific direction due to local elects and resulting in pre-tilts.

FIG. 1B shows the state of liquid crystal molecules inside the LCD when an electric field above a threshold value is present. Due to the strong electric field, orientation of the negative type liquid crystal molecules **108** is changed such that directors of the liquid crystal molecules **108** are aligned in a direction vertical to the electric field. Hence, within the same pixel, liquid crystal molecules **108** on each side of the protrusion will tilt oppositely and have different molecular alignment. The protrusions **104** and **106** within a pixel divide the pixel into two or more domains. In other words, a multi-domain pixel is formed improving the viewing angle of LCD.

FIG. 2 is a schematic top view showing a conventional MVA-LCD with a W-shaped protrusion structure. The conventional MVA-LCD comprises a plurality of pixel units **210** defined by crossing bus lines. The protrusions **104** with a first W-shaped pattern are formed on the CF substrate **100**. The protrusions **106** with a second W-shaped pattern are formed on the TFT substrate **102**. The first and second W-shaped patterns are alternately positioned. A common line **220**, serving as an electrode for the storage capacitor Cs, passes through the middle portion of each pixel unit **210**. Through the alternately positioned protrusions **104** and **106** on the inner surfaces of different glass substrates of a pixel unit **210**, each pixel unit **210** is divided into four different domains. The liquid crystal molecules **108** inside the conventional MVA-LCD tilt in four specific directions, providing viewing angle characteristics that are not omnidirectional and are thus inferior, particularly in the direction which is about $\pm 45^\circ$ and $\pm 135^\circ$ to the bus lines.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,532,054 to Ohmuro et al., the entirety of which is hereby incorporated by reference, describes a liquid crystal display having excellent display characteristics. FIGS. **16** and **17** of the reference show protrusion patterns are not extended in one direction, whereby alignment directions of the liquid crystal molecules are approximately omnidirectional.

SUMMARY

Embodiments of the invention provide a wide-viewing liquid crystal display, providing omnidirectional viewing angle characteristics.

An embodiment of the wide-viewing angle LCD of the invention comprises a plurality of pixel units, each comprising: a first substrate and a second substrate disposed opposite each other with a liquid crystal layer interposed therebetween; a first electrode formed on the interior of the first substrate; a first protrusion structure with a first pattern formed on the first electrode; a second electrode formed on the interior of the second substrate; and a second protrusion structure with a second pattern formed on the second electrode, wherein the first and second patterns constitute a third pattern with at least one intersection.

Another embodiment of the wide-viewing angle LCD of the invention comprises a plurality of pixel units, each comprising: a first substrate and a second substrate disposed opposite each other with a liquid crystal layer interposed therebetween; a first electrode formed on the interior of the first substrate; a protrusion structure with a first pattern formed on the first electrode; a second electrode formed on the interior of the second substrate; and a slit structure with a second pattern formed on the second electrode, wherein the first and second patterns constitute a third pattern with at least one intersection.

Another embodiment of the wide-viewing angle LCD of the invention comprises a plurality of pixel units, each comprising: a first substrate and a second substrate disposed opposite each other with a liquid crystal layer interposed therebetween; a first electrode formed on the interior of the first substrate; a first slit structure with a first pattern formed on the first electrode; a second electrode formed on the interior of the second substrate; and a second slit structure with a second pattern formed on the second electrode, wherein the first and second patterns constitute a third pattern with at least one intersection.

Embodiments of the invention improve on the conventional technology in that the first protrusion or slit pattern on the first electrode and the second protrusion or slit pattern on the second electrode constitute a third pattern with at least one intersection. A liquid crystal molecule orientation area has a whirlwind arrangement surrounding the intersection, thereby improving display characteristics.

Further scope of applicability of embodiments of the invention will become apparent from the detailed description given hereinafter. It should be understood that the detailed description and specific examples are given by way of illustration only, since various changes and modifications within the spirit and scope of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from this detailed description.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Embodiments of the invention will become more fully understood from the detailed description given in the fol-

lowing and the accompanying drawings, given by way of illustration only and thus not intended to be limitative of the invention, and wherein

FIGS. 1A and 1B are cross-section views showing the operation of a conventional MVA-LCD;

FIG. 2 is a schematic top view showing a conventional MVA-LCD with a W-shaped protrusion structure;

FIG. 3A is a partial cross-section view of a wide-viewing angle LCD according to a first embodiment of the invention, taken along line 3A—3A of FIG. 3B;

FIG. 3B is a schematic top view showing one of the pixels of a wide-viewing angle LCD according to the first embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 3C, 3D and 3E are schematic top views showing one of the pixels of a wide-viewing angle LCD according to variations of the first embodiment;

FIG. 4A is a partial cross-section view of a wide-viewing angle LCD according to a second embodiment of the invention, taken along line 4A—4A of FIG. 4B;

FIG. 4B is a schematic top view showing one of the pixels of a wide-viewing angle LCD according to the second embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 4C, 4D and 4E are schematic top views showing one of the pixels of a wide-viewing angle LCD according to variations of the second embodiment;

FIG. 5A is a partial cross-section view of a wide-viewing angle LCD according to a third embodiment of the invention, taken along line 5A—5A of FIG. 5B;

FIG. 5B is a schematic top view showing one of the pixels of a wide-viewing angle LCD according to the third embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 5C, 5D and 5E are schematic top views showing one of the pixels of a wide-viewing angle LCD according to variations of the third embodiment;

FIG. 6A is a partial cross-section view of a wide-viewing angle LCD according to a fourth embodiment of the invention, taken along line 6A—6A of FIG. 6B;

FIG. 6B is a schematic top view showing one of the pixels of a wide-viewing angle LCD according to the fourth embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 6C, 6D and 6E are schematic top views showing one of the pixels of a wide-viewing angle LCD according to variations of the fourth embodiment; and

FIG. 7 is a schematic top view showing a protrusion or slit layout of an embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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

First Embodiment

FIG. 3A is a partial cross-section view of a wide-viewing angle LCD according to a first embodiment of the invention, taken along line 3A—3A of FIG. 3B. FIG. 3B is a schematic top view showing one of the pixels of a wide-viewing angle LCD according to the first embodiment of the invention. FIGS. 3C, 3D and 3E are schematic top views showing one of the pixels of a wide-viewing angle LCD according to variations of the first embodiment. As shown in FIGS. 3B–3E, crossing bus lines (i.e. gate and data lines) define a pixel unit P. Although a single pixel unit P is illustrated in FIGS. 3A–3E, a liquid crystal display typically has a plurality of pixel units P arranged in an array.

In FIGS. 3A and 3B, a first substrate 300 and a second substrate 310 are parallel to each other. The first substrate

300 can be a glass substrate comprising a thin film transistor (TFT, not shown). The second substrate 310 can be a glass substrate comprising a color filter (CF, not shown). A pixel electrode 302 is disposed on the interior of the first substrate 100. The pixel electrode 302 can be a transparent conductive layer, such as indium-tin-oxide (ITO) or indium-zinc-oxide (IZO), formed by deposition and patterning. The pixel electrode 302 is electrically connected to the TFT (not shown). A first protrusion structure 304 with a first pattern 304' is then disposed on the pixel electrode 302. The first protrusion structure 304 can be an insulating layer of photoresist formed by deposition and patterning. A first alignment film 306 is next formed on the pixel electrode 302 to cover the first protrusion structure 304. Referring to FIG. 3B, the first pattern 304' comprises sequential combinations of a first line segment 3041, a second line segment 3042 and a third line segment 3043. The first and third line segments 3041 and 3043 are parallel but not opposite to each other. The second line segment 3042 is not parallel and not perpendicular to the first and third line segments 3041 and 3043.

A common electrode 312 is disposed on the interior of the second substrate 310. The common electrode 312 can be a transparent conductive layer, such as ITO or IZO, formed by deposition. A second protrusion structure 314 with a second pattern 314' is then disposed on the common electrode 312. The second protrusion structure 314 can be an insulating layer of photoresist formed by deposition and patterning. A second alignment film 316 is next formed on the common electrode 312 to cover the second protrusion structure 314. Referring to FIG. 3B, the second pattern 314' comprises sequential combinations of a fourth line segment 3141, a fifth line segment 3142 and a sixth line segment 3143. The fourth and sixth line segments 3141 and 3143 are parallel but not opposite to each other. The fifth line segment 3142 is not parallel and not perpendicular to the fourth and sixth line segments 3141 and 3143.

Negative type liquid crystal molecules 318 ($\Delta\epsilon < 0$) are then filled in a space between the first substrate 300 and the second substrate 310, constituting a liquid crystal layer 320.

Note that the first pattern 304' and the second pattern 314' constitute a third pattern 330 with at least one intersection. That is, the second line segment 3042 and the fifth line segment 3142 cross. According to the first embodiment, a liquid crystal molecule orientation area has a whirlwind arrangement surrounding the intersection (i.e. the cross). A liquid crystal display with omnidirectional viewing angle characteristics is thus obtained.

Although the cross-section views of the protrusion structures 304 and 314 shown in FIG. 3A are triangular, the protrusion structures 304 and 314 can be rectangular, oval, circular or similar.

Due to the transverse electric fields between bus lines (i.e. gate and data lines), disclination areas 996 occur in the regions as shaded in FIG. 3B. In order to prevent the occurrence of the disclination areas 996, variations of the first embodiment are provided. The occurrence of the disclination areas 996 is described in, for example, U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,532,054, 6,661,488 and other references, hence discussion thereof is omitted herein. In FIGS. 3C, 3D and 3E, a third protrusion structure 340 is formed on part of the common electrode 312. The location of the third protrusion structure 340 corresponds to a region near an interior side of the pixel electrode 302 (or the pixel unit P). The third protrusion structure 340 results in orderly alignment of liquid crystal molecules to prevent occurrence of disclination areas 996. The protrusion structure 340 can be a linear

protrusion structure shown in FIG. 3C, a circular protrusion structure shown in FIG. 3D or combinations of linear and circular protrusion structures shown in FIG. 3E. Note that a slit structure can replace the third protrusion structure 340, and achieves the same effect of preventing occurrence of disclination areas 996.

Second Embodiment

FIG. 4A is a partial cross-section view of a wide-viewing angle LCD according to a second embodiment of the invention, taken along line 4A—4A of FIG. 4B. FIG. 4B is a schematic top view showing one of the pixels of a wide-viewing angle LCD according to the second embodiment of the invention. FIGS. 4C, 4D and 4E are schematic top views showing one of the pixels of a wide-viewing angle LCD according to variations of the second embodiment. As shown in FIGS. 4B–4E, crossing bus lines (i.e. gate and data lines) define a pixel unit P. Although a single pixel unit P is illustrated in FIGS. 4A–4E, a liquid crystal display typically has a plurality of pixel units P arranged in an array.

In FIGS. 4A and 4B, a first substrate 400 and a second substrate 410 are parallel to each other. The first substrate 400 can be a glass substrate comprising a thin film transistor (TFT, not shown). The second substrate 410 can be a glass substrate comprising a color filter (CF, not shown). A pixel electrode 402 is disposed on the interior of the first substrate 400. The pixel electrode 402 can be a transparent conductive layer, such as indium-tin-oxide (ITO) or indium-zinc-oxide (IZO), formed by deposition and patterning. The pixel electrode 402 is electrically connected to the TFT (not shown). A protrusion structure 404 with a first pattern 404' is then disposed on the pixel electrode 402. The protrusion structure 404 can be an insulating layer of photoresist formed by deposition and patterning. A first alignment film 406 is next formed on the pixel electrode 402 to cover the protrusion structure 404. Referring to FIG. 4B, the first pattern 404' comprises sequential combinations of a first line segment 4041, a second line segment 4042 and a third line segment 4043. The first and third line segments 4041 and 4043 are parallel but not opposite to each other. The second line segment 4042 is not parallel and not perpendicular to the first and third line segments 4041 and 4043.

A common electrode 412 is disposed on the interior of the second substrate 410. The common electrode 412 can be a transparent conductive layer, such as ITO or IZO, formed by deposition. A first slit structure 414 with a second pattern 414' is then formed in the common electrode 412. A second alignment film 416 is next formed on the common electrode 412 to cover the first slit structure 414. Referring to FIG. 4B, the second pattern 414' comprises sequential combinations of a fourth line segment 4141, a fifth line segment 4142 and a sixth line segment 4143. The fourth and sixth line segments 4141 and 4143 are parallel but not opposite to each other. The fifth line segment 4142 is not parallel and not perpendicular to the fourth and sixth line segments 4141 and 4143.

Negative type liquid crystal molecules 418 ($\Delta\epsilon < 0$) are then filled in a space between the first substrate 400 and the second substrate 410, constituting a liquid crystal layer 420.

Note that the first pattern 404' and the second pattern 414' constitute a third pattern 430 with at least one intersection. That is, the second line segment 4042 and the fifth line segment 4142 constitute a cross. According to the second embodiment, a liquid crystal molecule orientation area has a whirlwind arrangement surrounding the intersection (i.e. the cross). A liquid crystal display with omnidirectional viewing angle characteristics is thus obtained.

Due to the transverse electric fields between bus lines (i.e. gate and data lines), disclination areas 997 occur in the regions as shaded in FIG. 4B. In order to prevent occurrence of the disclination areas 997, variations of the second embodiment are provided. In FIGS. 4C, 4D and 4E, a second slit structure 440 is formed on part of the common electrode 412. The location of the second slit structure 440 corresponds to a region near an interior side of the pixel electrode 402 (or the pixel unit P). The second slit structure 440 results in orderly alignment of liquid crystal molecules, preventing the occurrence of disclination areas 997. The second slit structure 440 can be a linear slit structure shown in FIG. 4C, a circular slit structure shown in FIG. 4D or combinations of linear and circular slit structures shown in FIG. 4E. Note that a protrusion structure can replace the second slit structure 440, and achieves the same effect of preventing occurrence of disclination areas 997.

Third Embodiment

FIG. 5A is a partial cross-section view of a wide-viewing angle LCD according to a third embodiment of the invention, taken along line 5A—A of FIG. 5B. FIG. 5B is a schematic top view showing one of the pixels of a wide-viewing angle LCD according to the third embodiment of the invention. FIGS. 5C, 5D and 5E are schematic top views showing one of the pixels of a wide-viewing angle LCD according to variations of the third embodiment. As shown in FIGS. 5B–5E, crossing bus lines (i.e. gate and data lines) define a pixel unit P. Although a single pixel unit P is illustrated in FIGS. 5A–5E, a liquid crystal display typically has a plurality of pixel units P arranged in an array.

In FIGS. 5A and 5B, a first substrate 500 and a second substrate 510 opposite thereto are parallel to each other. The first substrate 500 can be a glass substrate comprising a thin film transistor (TFT, not shown). The second substrate 510 can be a glass substrate comprising a color filter (CF, not shown). A pixel electrode 502 is disposed on the interior of the first substrate 500. The pixel electrode 502 can be a transparent conductive layer, such as indium-tin-oxide (ITO) or indium-zinc-oxide (IZO), formed by deposition and patterning. The pixel electrode 502 is electrically connected to the TFT (not shown). A slit structure 504 with a first pattern 504' is then formed in the pixel electrode 502. A first alignment film 506 is next formed on the pixel electrode 502 to cover the slit structure 504. Referring to FIG. 5B, the first pattern 504' comprises sequential combinations of a first line segment 5041, a second line segment 5042 and a third line segment 5043. The first and third line segments 5041 and 5043 are parallel but not opposite to each other. The second line segment 5042 is not parallel and not perpendicular to the first and third line segments 5041 and 5043.

A common electrode 512 is disposed on the interior of the second substrate 510. The common electrode 512 can be a transparent conductive layer, such as ITO or IZO, formed by deposition. A first protrusion structure 514 with a second pattern 514' is then disposed on the common electrode 512. The first protrusion structure 514 can be an insulating layer of photoresist formed by deposition and patterning. A second alignment film 516 is next formed on the common electrode 512 to cover the second protrusion structure 514. Referring to FIG. 5B, the second pattern 514' comprises sequential combinations of a fourth line segment 5141, a fifth line segment 5142 and a sixth line segment 5143. The fourth and sixth line segments 5141 and 5143 are parallel but not opposite to each other. The fifth line segment 5142 is not parallel and not perpendicular to the fourth and sixth line segments 5141 and 5143.

Negative type liquid crystal molecules **518** ($\Delta\epsilon < 0$) are then filled in a space between the first substrate **500** and the second substrate **510**, constituting a liquid crystal layer **520**.

Note that the first pattern **504'** and the second pattern **514'** constitute a third pattern **530** with at least one intersection. That is, the second line segment **5042** and the fifth line segment **5142** constitute a cross. According to the third embodiment, a liquid crystal molecule orientation area has a whirlwind arrangement surrounding the intersection (i.e. the cross). A liquid crystal display with omnidirectional viewing angle characteristics is thus obtained.

Due to the transverse electric fields between bus lines (i.e. gate and data lines), disclination areas **998** occur in the regions as shaded in FIG. **5B**. In order to prevent occurrence of the disclination areas **998**, variations of the third embodiment are provided. In FIGS. **5C**, **5D** and **5E**, a second protrusion structure **540** is formed on part of the common electrode **512**. The location of the second protrusion structure **540** corresponds to a region near an interior side of the pixel electrode **502** (or the pixel unit **P**). The second protrusion structure **540** results in orderly alignment of liquid crystal molecules to prevent occurrence of disclination areas **998**. The second protrusion structure **540** can be a linear protrusion structure shown in FIG. **5C**, a circular protrusion structure shown in FIG. **5D** or combinations of linear and circular protrusion structures shown in FIG. **5E**. Note that a slit structure can replace the second protrusion structure **540**, and achieves the same effect of preventing occurrence of disclination areas **998**.

Fourth Embodiment

FIG. **6A** is a partial cross-section view of a wide-viewing angle LCD according to a fourth embodiment of the invention, taken along line **6A—6A** of FIG. **6B**. FIG. **6B** is a schematic top view showing one of the pixels of a wide-viewing angle LCD according to the fourth embodiment of the invention. FIGS. **6C**, **6D** and **6E** are schematic top views showing one of the pixels of a wide-viewing angle LCD according to variations of the fourth embodiment. As shown in FIGS. **6B—6E**, crossing bus lines (i.e. gate and data lines) define a pixel unit **P**. Although a single pixel unit **P** is illustrated in FIGS. **6A—6E**, a liquid crystal display generally has a plurality of pixel units **P** arranged in an array.

In FIGS. **6A** and **6B**, a first substrate **600** and a second substrate **610** are parallel to each other. The first substrate **600** can be a glass substrate comprising a thin film transistor (TFT, not shown). The second substrate **610** can be a glass substrate comprising a color filter (CF, not shown). A pixel electrode **602** is disposed on the interior of the first substrate **600**. The pixel electrode **602** can be a transparent conductive layer, such as indium-tin-oxide (ITO) or indium-zinc-oxide (IZO), formed by deposition and patterning. The pixel electrode **602** is electrically connected to the TFT (not shown). A first slit structure **604** with a first pattern **604'** is then formed in the pixel electrode **602**. A first alignment film **606** is next formed on the pixel electrode **602** to cover the first slit structure **604**. Referring to FIG. **6B**, the first pattern **604'** comprises sequential combinations of a first line segment **6041**, a second line segment **6042** and a third line segment **6043**. The first and third line segments **6041** and **6043** are parallel but not opposite to each other. The second line segment **6042** is not parallel and not perpendicular to the first and third line segments **6041** and **6043**.

A common electrode **612** is disposed on the interior of the second substrate **610**. The common electrode **612** can be a transparent conductive layer, such as ITO or IZO, formed by deposition. A second slit structure **614** with a second pattern

614' is then formed in the common electrode **612**. A second alignment film **616** is next formed on the common electrode **612** to cover the second slit structure **614**. Referring to FIG. **6B**, the second pattern **614'** comprises sequential combinations of a fourth line segment **6141**, a fifth line segment **6142** and a sixth line segment **6143**. The fourth and sixth line segments **6141** and **6143** are parallel but not opposite to each other. The fifth line segment **6142** is not parallel and not perpendicular to the fourth and sixth line segments **6141** and **6143**.

Negative type liquid crystal molecules **618** ($\Delta\epsilon < 0$) are then filled in a space between the first substrate **600** and the second substrate **610**, constituting a liquid crystal layer **620**.

Note that the first pattern **604'** and the second pattern **614'** constitute a third pattern **630** with at least one intersection. That is, the second line segment **6042** and the fifth line segment **6142** constitute a cross. According to the fourth embodiment, a liquid crystal molecule orientation area has a whirlwind arrangement surrounding the intersection (i.e. the cross). A liquid crystal display with omnidirectional viewing angle characteristics is thus obtained.

Due to the transverse electric fields between bus lines (i.e. gate and data lines), disclination areas **999** occur in the regions as shaded in FIG. **6B**. In order to prevent the occurrence of the disclination areas **999**, variations of the fourth embodiment are provided. In FIGS. **6C**, **6D** and **6E**, a third slit structure **640** is formed on part of the common electrode **612**. The location of the third slit structure **640** corresponds to a region near an interior side of the pixel electrode **602** (or the pixel unit **P**). The third slit structure **640** results in orderly alignment of liquid crystal molecules to prevent occurrence of disclination areas **999**. The third slit structure **640** can be a linear slit structure shown in FIG. **6C**, a circular slit structure shown in FIG. **6D** or combinations of linear and circular slit structures shown in FIG. **6E**. Note that a protrusion structure can replace the third slit structure **640**, and achieves the same effect of preventing occurrence of disclination areas **999**.

FIG. **7** is a schematic top view showing a protrusion or slit layout of an embodiment of the invention. In FIG. **7**, the third pattern **330/430/530/630** is arranged in a zigzag pattern in all the pixel units **P**.

Thus, the embodiments of the invention provide a wide-viewing angle LCD. A first protrusion or slit structure with a first pattern is formed on a pixel electrode. A second protrusion or slit structure with a second pattern is formed on a common electrode. The first and second patterns constitute a third pattern with at least one intersection. Thus, the LCD comprises a liquid crystal molecule orientation area having a whirlwind arrangement surrounding the intersection (i.e. the crisscross), thereby providing omnidirectional viewing angle characteristics to improve display quality and ameliorating the disadvantages of the conventional technology.

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

What is claimed is:

1. A wide-viewing angle liquid crystal (LCD) comprising a plurality of pixel units, each comprising:
 - a first substrate; and a second substrate disposed opposite each other with a liquid crystal layer interposed therebetween;

first electrode formed on an interior of the first substrate:
a first protrusion structure with a first pattern formed on
the first electrode;

a second electrode formed on an interior of the second
substrate; and

a second protrusion structure with a second pattern
formed on the second electrode;

wherein the first and second patterns constitute a third
pattern with at least one intersection;

wherein the first pattern comprises sequential combina-
tions of a first line segment, a second line segment and
a third line segment, the first and third line segments are
parallel but not opposite to each other, and the second
line segment is not parallel and not perpendicular to the
first and third line segments;

wherein the second pattern comprises sequential combi-
nations of a fourth line segment, a fifth line segment
and a sixth line segment, the fourth and sixth line
segments are parallel but not opposite to each other, and
the fifth line segment is not parallel and not perpen-
dicular to the fourth and sixth line segments.

2. The wide-viewing angle LCD according to claim 1,
wherein the second line segment and the fifth line segment
comprises a cross.

3. The wide-viewing angle LCD according to claim 1,
wherein the third pattern is arranged in a zigzag pattern in
the pixel units.

4. The wide-viewing angle LCD according to claim 1,
wherein the liquid crystal layer comprises negative type
liquid crystal molecules.

5. The wide-viewing angle LCD according to claim 4,
further comprising a liquid crystal molecule orientation area
having a whirlwind arrangement surrounding the intersec-
tion.

6. The wide-viewing angle LCD according to claim 1,
wherein:

when the first electrode serves as a pixel electrode, the
second electrode serves as a common electrode; and
when the first electrode serves as a common electrode, the
second electrode serves as a pixel electrode.

7. The wide-viewing angle LCD according to claim 1,
further comprising a third protrusion structure or a slit
structure formed on part of the second electrode, wherein the
third protrusion structure or the slit structure corresponds to
a region near an interior side of the pixel unit to prevent
disclination areas.

8. A wide-viewing angle LCD comprising a plurality of
pixel units, each comprising:

a first substrate and a second substrate disposed opposite
each other with a liquid crystal layer interposed there-
between;

a first electrode formed on an interior of the first substrate;
a protrusion structure with a first pattern, formed on the
first electrode;

a second electrode formed on an interior of the second
substrate; and

a slit structure with a second pattern formed on the second
electrode;

wherein the first and second patterns constitute a third
pattern with at least one intersection;

wherein the first pattern comprises sequential combina-
tions of a first line segment, a second line segment and
a third line segment, the first and third line segments are
parallel but not opposite to each other and the second
line segment is not parallel and not perpendicular to the
first and third line segments;

wherein the second pattern comprises sequential combi-
nations of a fourth line segment, a fifth line segment
and a sixth line segment, the fourth and sixth line
segments are parallel but not opposite to each other, and
the fifth line segment is not parallel and not perpen-
dicular to the fourth and sixth line segments.

9. The wide-viewing angle LCD according to claim 8,
wherein the second line segment and the fifth line segment
comprise a cross.

10. The wide-viewing angle LCD according to claim 8,
wherein the third pattern is arranged in a zigzag pattern in
the pixel units.

11. The wide-viewing angle LCD according to claim 8,
wherein the liquid crystal layer comprises negative type
liquid crystal molecules.

12. The wide-viewing angle LCD according to claim 11,
further comprising a liquid crystal molecule orientation area
having a whirlwind arrangement surrounding the intersec-
tion.

13. The wide-viewing angle LCD according to claim 8,
wherein:

when the first electrode serves as a pixel electrode, the
second electrode serves as a common electrode; and
when the first electrode serves as a common electrode, the
second electrode serves as a pixel electrode.

14. The wide-viewing angle LCD according to claim 8,
further comprising a second protrusion structure or a second
slit structure formed on part of the second electrode, wherein
the second protrusion structure or the second slit structure
corresponds to a region near an interior side of the pixel unit
to prevent disclination areas.

15. A wide-viewing angle LCD comprising a plurality of
pixel units, each comprising:

a first substrate and a second substrate disposed opposite
each other with a liquid crystal layer interposed there-
between;

a first electrode formed on an interior of the first substrate;
a first slit structure with a first pattern formed on the first
electrode;

a second electrode formed on an interior of the second
substrate;

a second slit structure with a second pattern formed on the
second electrode;

wherein the first and second patterns constitute a third
pattern with at least one intersection;

wherein the first pattern comprises sequential combina-
tions of a first line segment, a second line segment and
a third line segment, the first and third line segments are
parallel but not opposite to each other, and the second
line segment is not parallel and not perpendicular to the
first and third line segments;

wherein the second pattern comprises sequential combi-
nations of a fourth line segment, a fifth line segment
and a sixth line segment, the fourth and sixth line
segments are parallel but not opposite to each other, and
the fifth line segment is not parallel and not perpen-
dicular to the fourth and sixth line segments.

16. The wide-viewing angle LCD according to claim 15,
wherein the second line segment and the fifth line segment
comprise a cross.

17. The wide-viewing angle LCD according to claim 15,
wherein the third pattern is arranged in a zigzag pattern in
the pixel units.

18. The wide-viewing angle LCD according to claim 15,
wherein the liquid crystal layer comprises negative type
liquid crystal molecules.

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19. The wide-viewing angle LCD according to claim 18, further comprising a liquid crystal molecule orientation area having a whirlwind arrangement surrounding the intersection.

20. The wide-viewing angle LCD according to claim 15, 5 wherein:

when the first electrode serves as a pixel electrode, the second electrode serves as a common electrode; and when the first electrode serves as a common electrode, the second electrode serves as a pixel electrode.

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21. The wide-viewing angle LCD according to claim 19, further comprising a

second protrusion structure or a second slit structure formed on part of the second electrode, wherein the second protrusion structure or the second slit structure corresponds to a region near an interior side of the pixel unit to prevent disclination areas.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	宽视角液晶显示器		
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申请号	US10/914351	申请日	2004-08-09
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摘要(译)

宽视角LCD包括第一基板和第二基板，第一基板和第二基板彼此相对设置，液晶层设置在它们之间。第一电极设置在第一基板的内部。在第一电极上形成具有第一图案的第一突起或狭缝结构。第二电极设置在第二基板的内部。在第二电极上形成具有第二图案的第二突起或狭缝结构。第一和第二图案构成具有至少一个交叉点的第三图案。

