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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication** (10) **Pub. No.: US 2005/0140887 A1****Song et al.**(43) **Pub. Date: Jun. 30, 2005**(54) **LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAYS HAVING
MULTI-DOMAINS AND A MANUFACTURING
METHOD THEREOF****Publication Classification**(76) Inventors: **Jang-Kun Song**, Seoul (KR);
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MCLEAN, VA 22102 (US)(57) **ABSTRACT**

A black matrix and a color filter are formed on a substrate, a indium-tin-oxide (ITO) common electrode are deposited thereon and then protrusion pattern made of sensitive material such as photoresist are formed on the common electrode with 3 to 20 micron width. A vertical alignment layer is coated thereon to complete a color filter substrate. After a thin film transistor (TFT) and a passivation film are formed on the other substrate, ITO is deposited on the passivation film and patterned to form a pixel electrode which contains open areas with 3 to 20 micron width. Then, a vertical alignment layer is coated to complete a TFT substrate. Two substrates are assembled in the manner that the apertures and the protrusion patterns are arranged on shifts and liquid crystal having negative dielectric anisotropy is injected between the substrates. Each Polarizer is attached at the outer surfaces of the LCD substrates. Compensation films may be attached between the polarizer and the substrate.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/068,461**(22) Filed: **Feb. 23, 2005****Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation of application No. 10/684,524, filed on Oct. 15, 2003, which is a continuation of application No. 09/311,718, filed on May 14, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,710,837.

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

May 16, 1998 (KR) 1998-17734

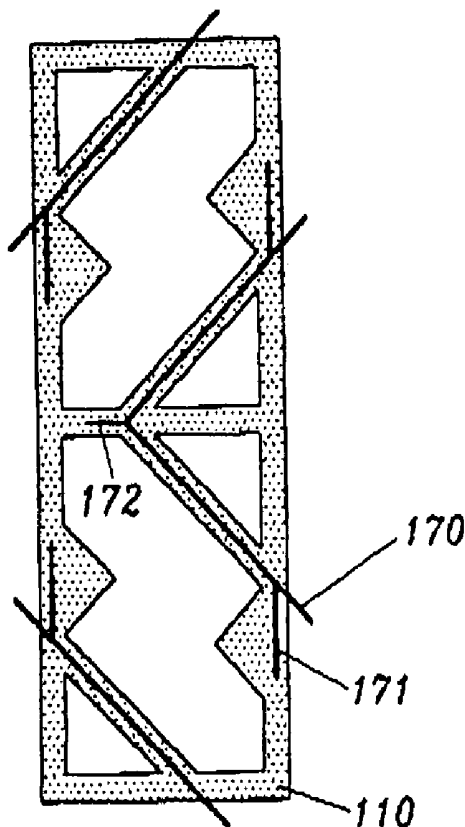


FIG. 1A

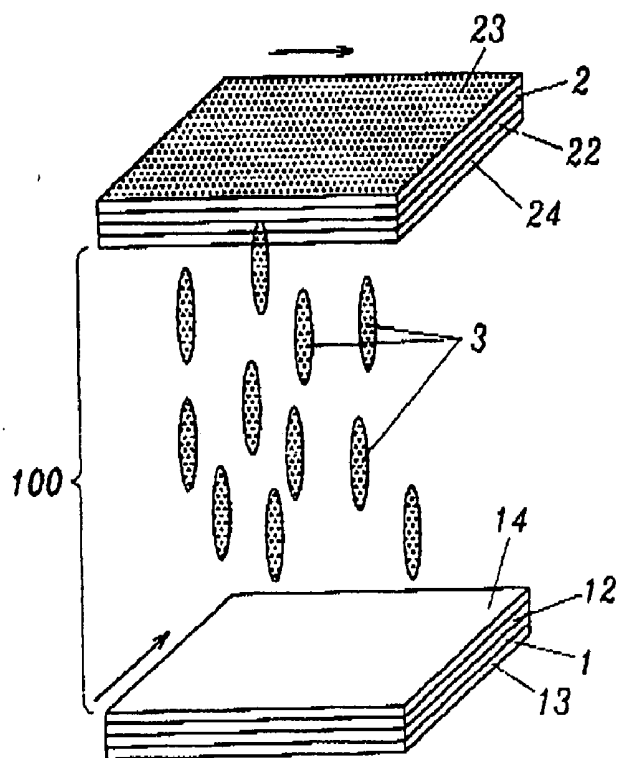


FIG. 1B

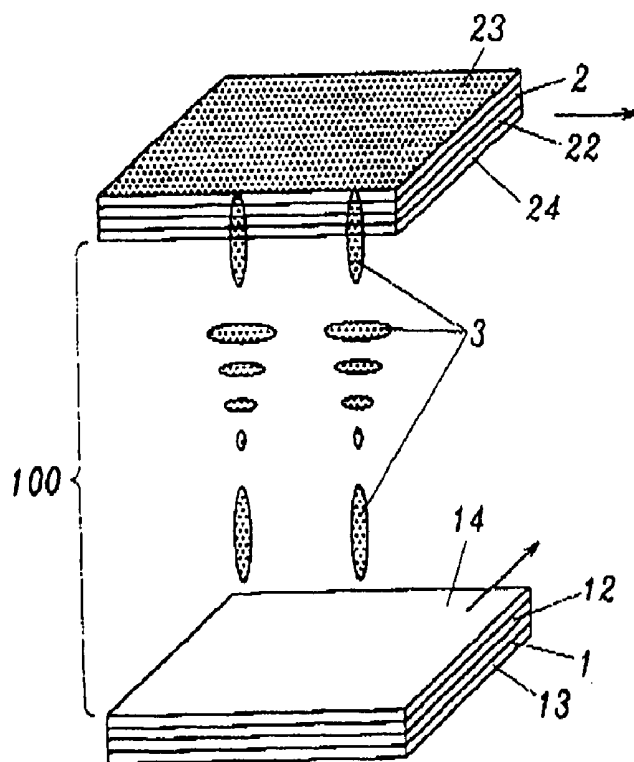


FIG. 2

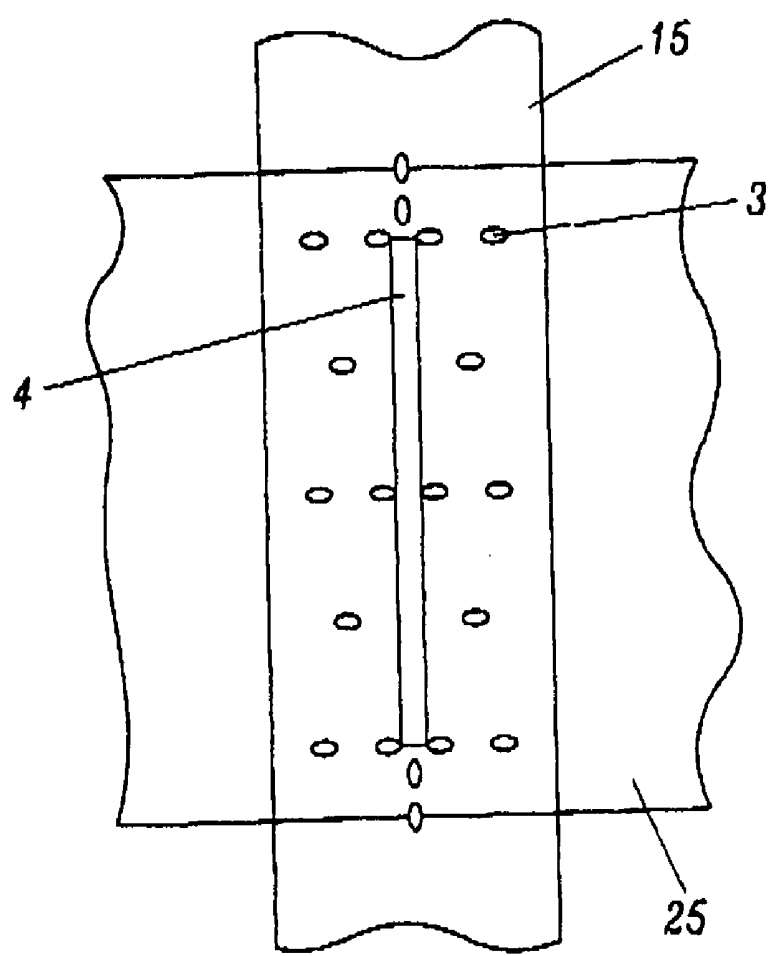


FIG. 3A

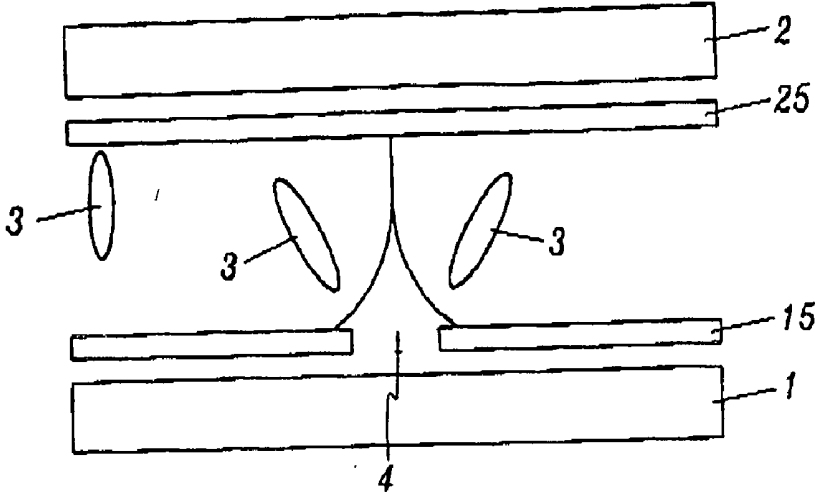


FIG. 3B

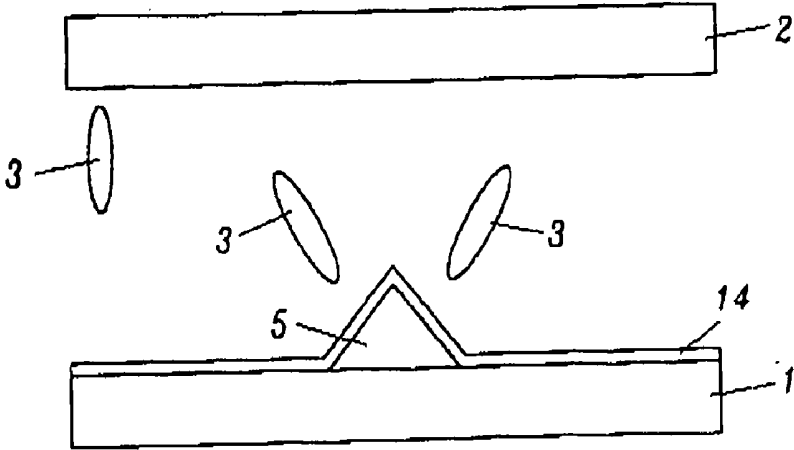


FIG. 4A

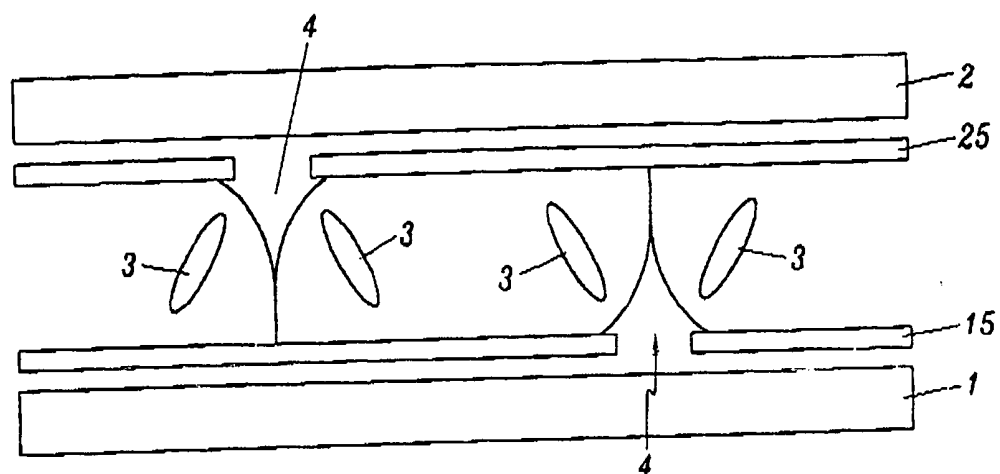


FIG. 4B

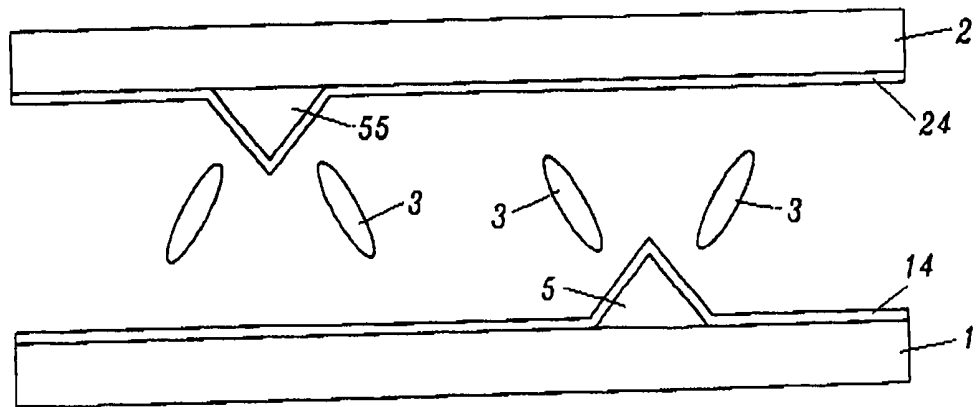


FIG. 5

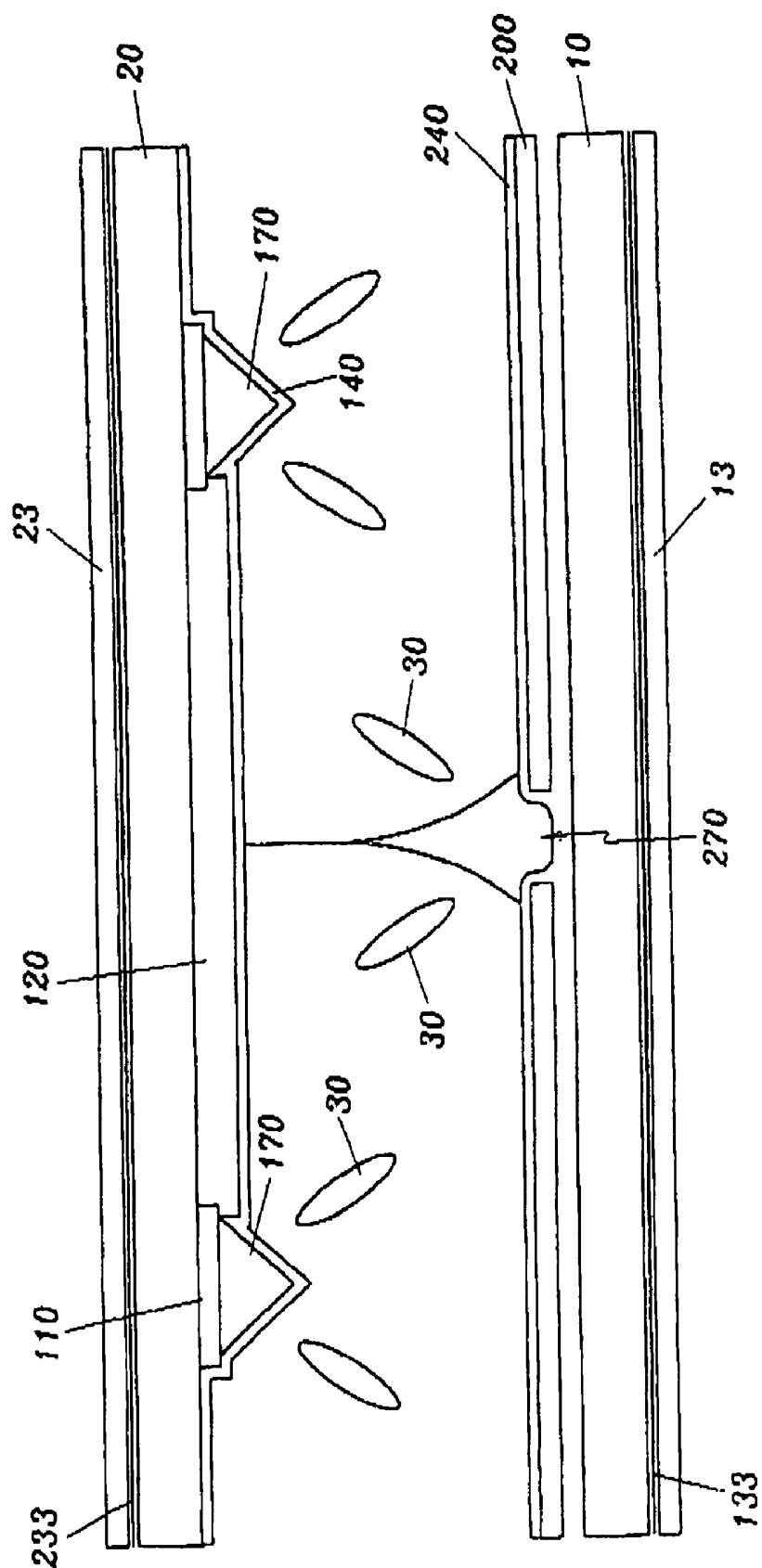


FIG. 6

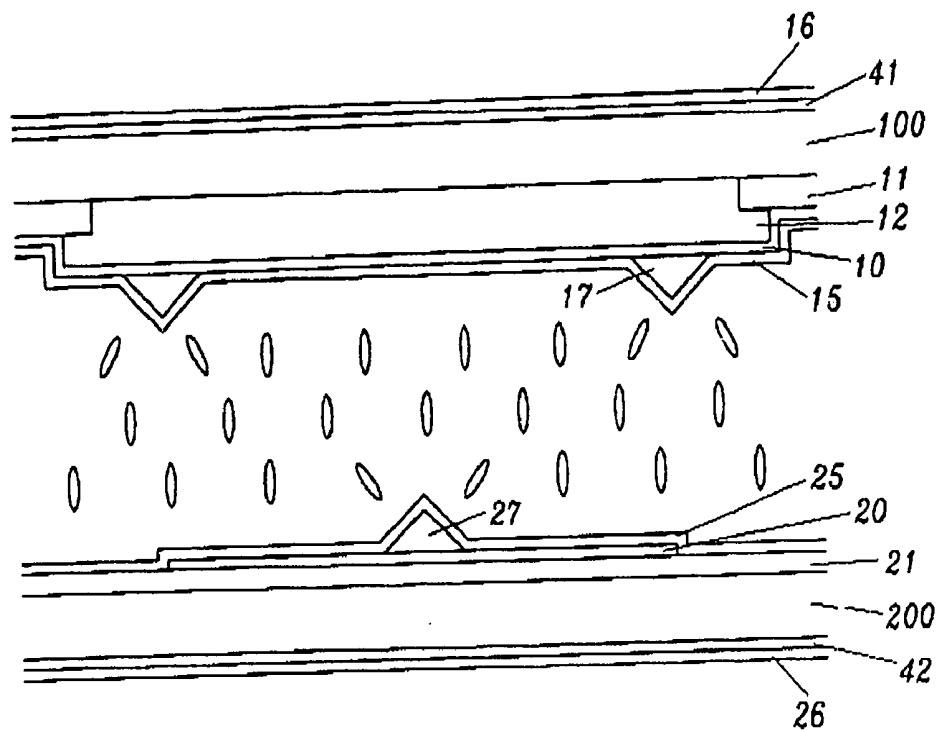


FIG. 7

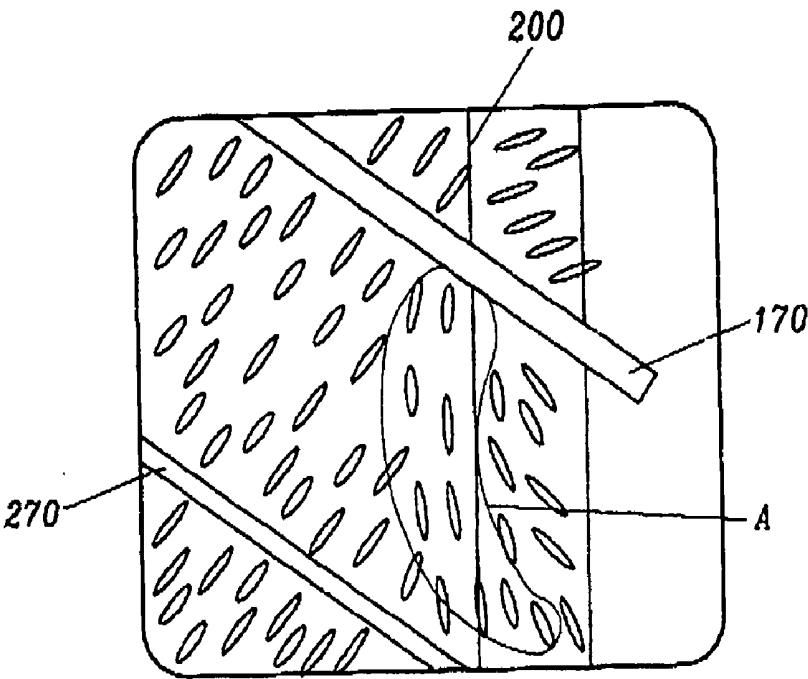


FIG. 8A

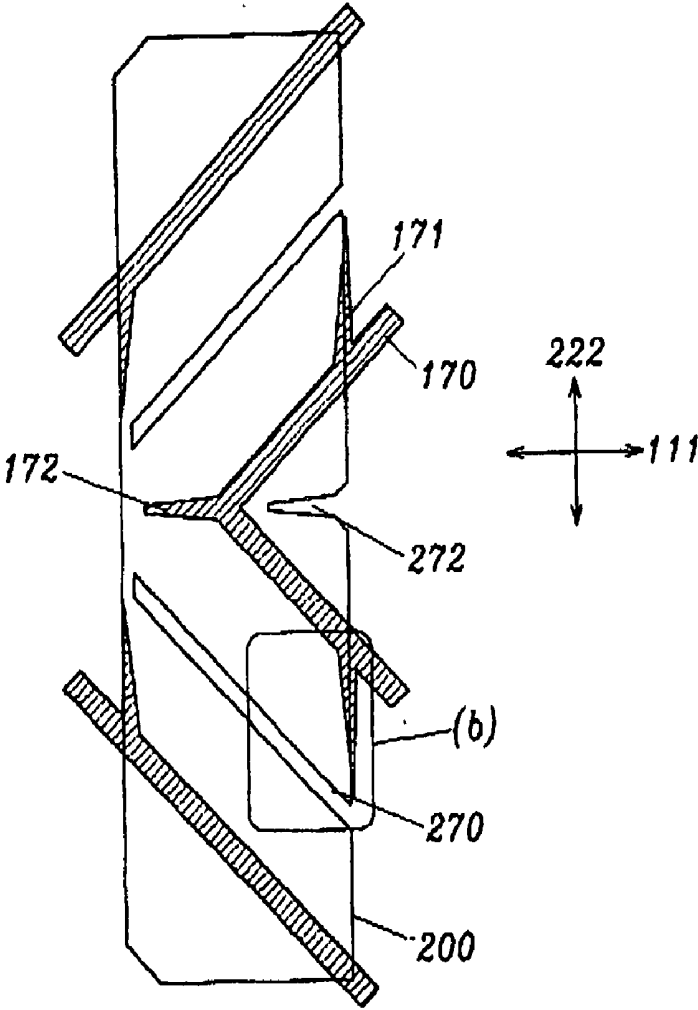


FIG. 9

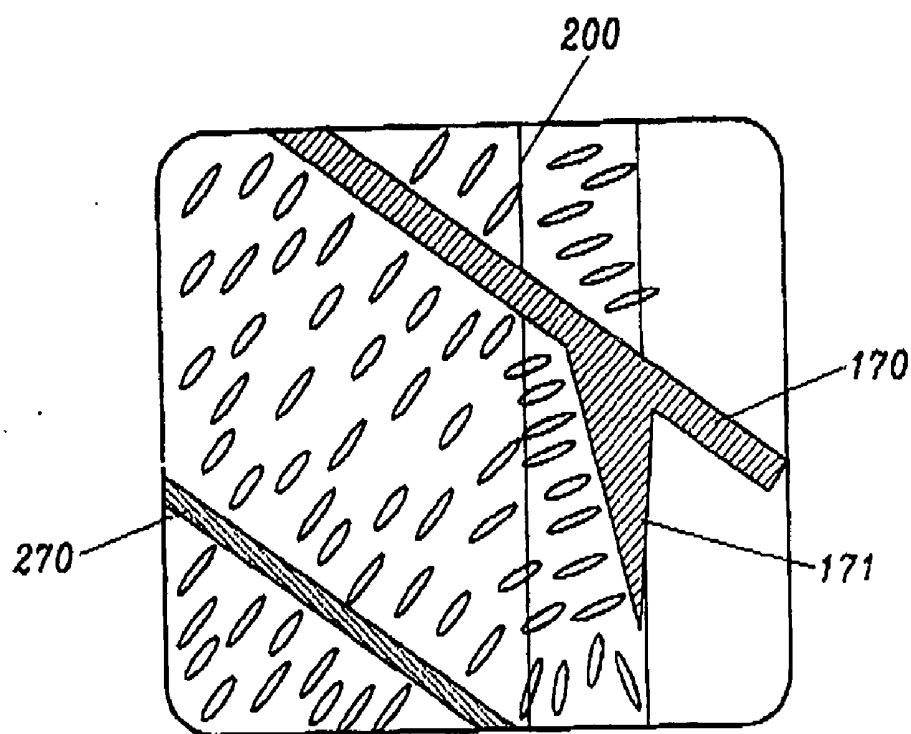


FIG. 10

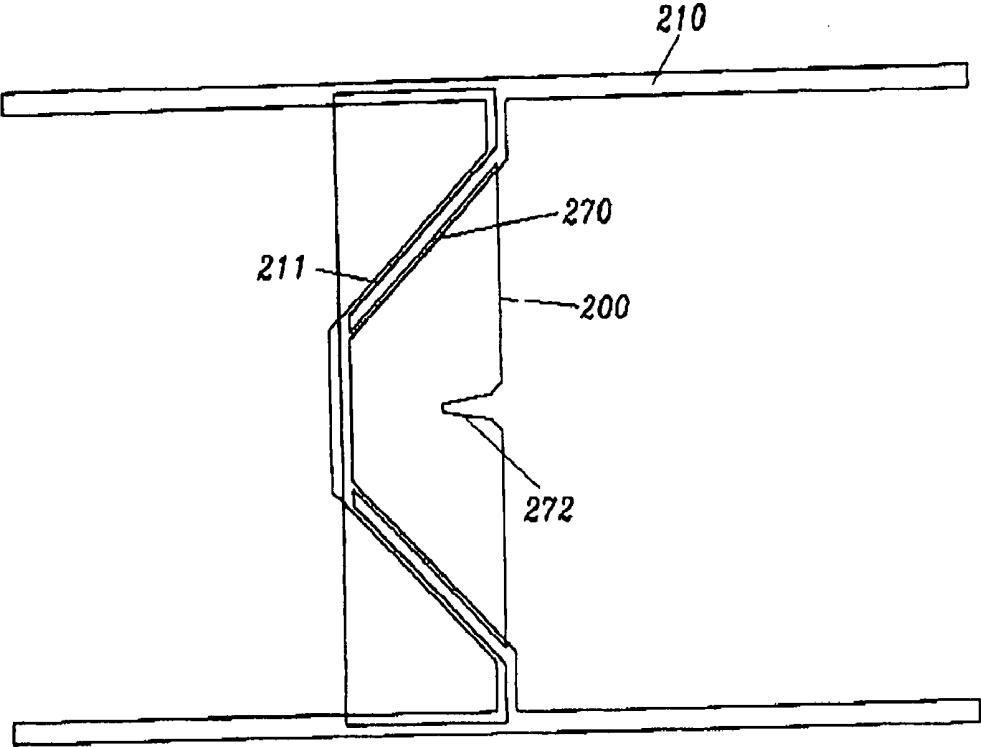


FIG. 11

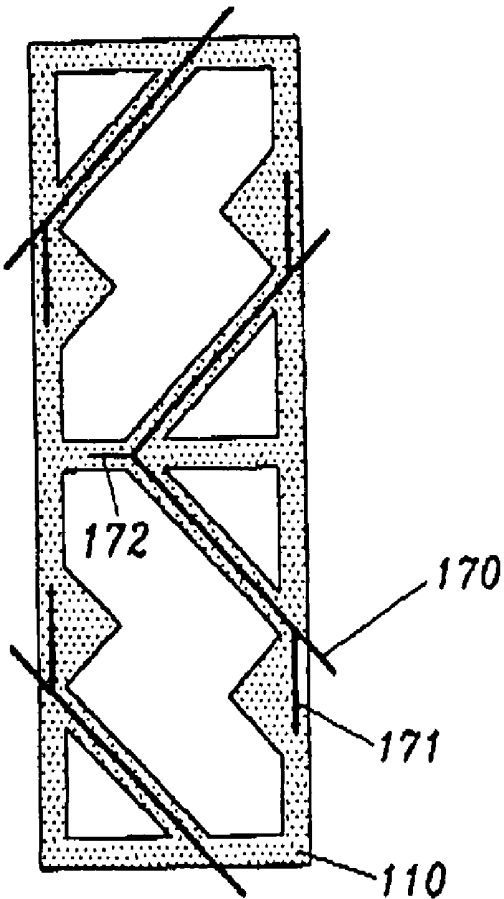


FIG. 12

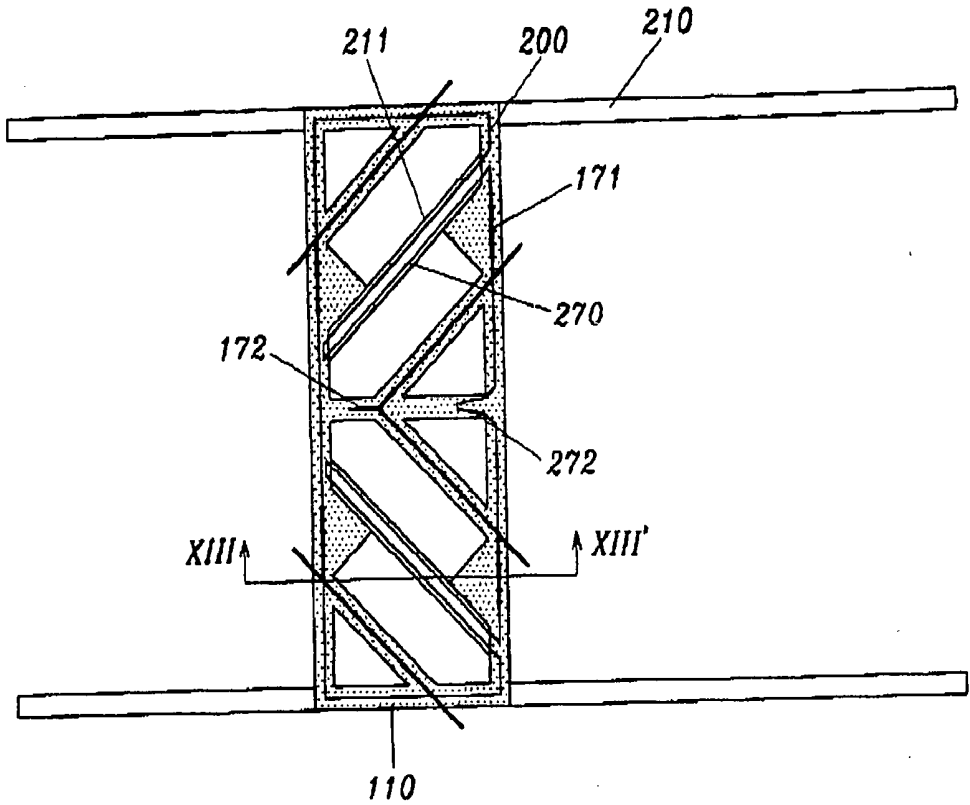


FIG. 13

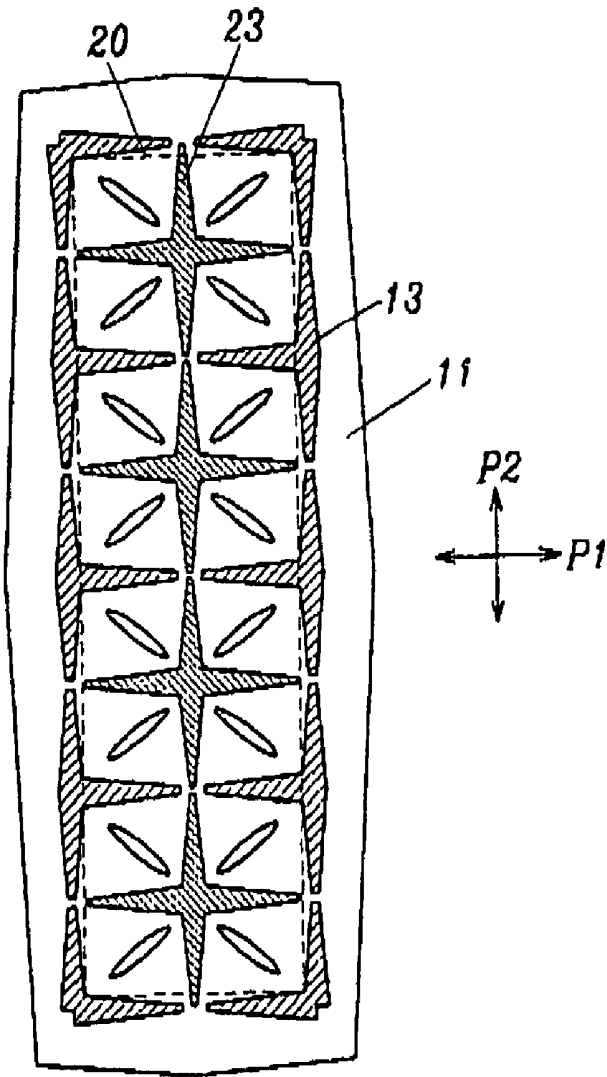


FIG. 14

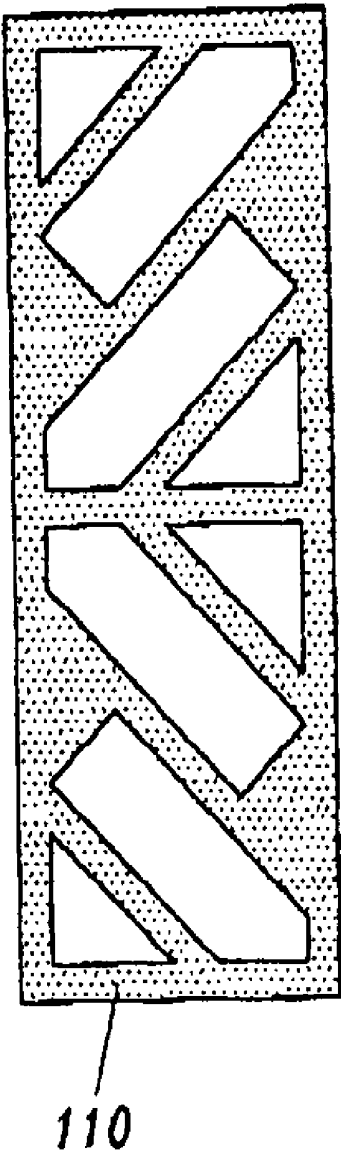


FIG. 15

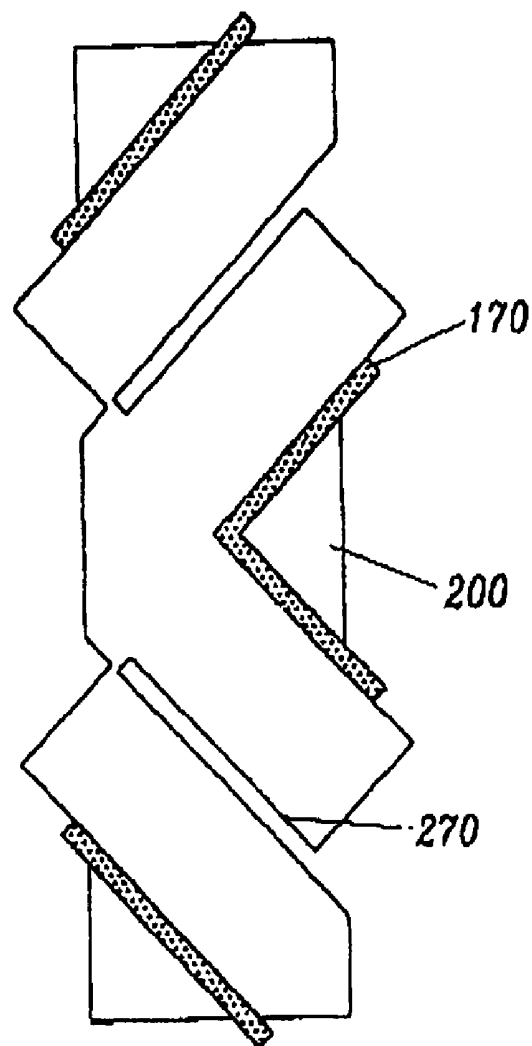


FIG. 16

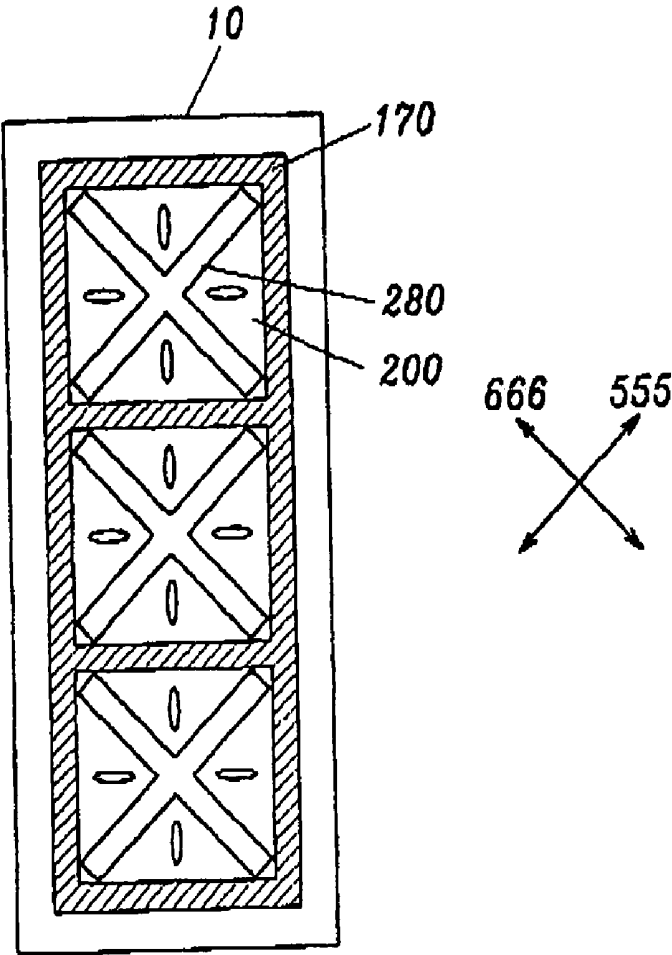


FIG. 17

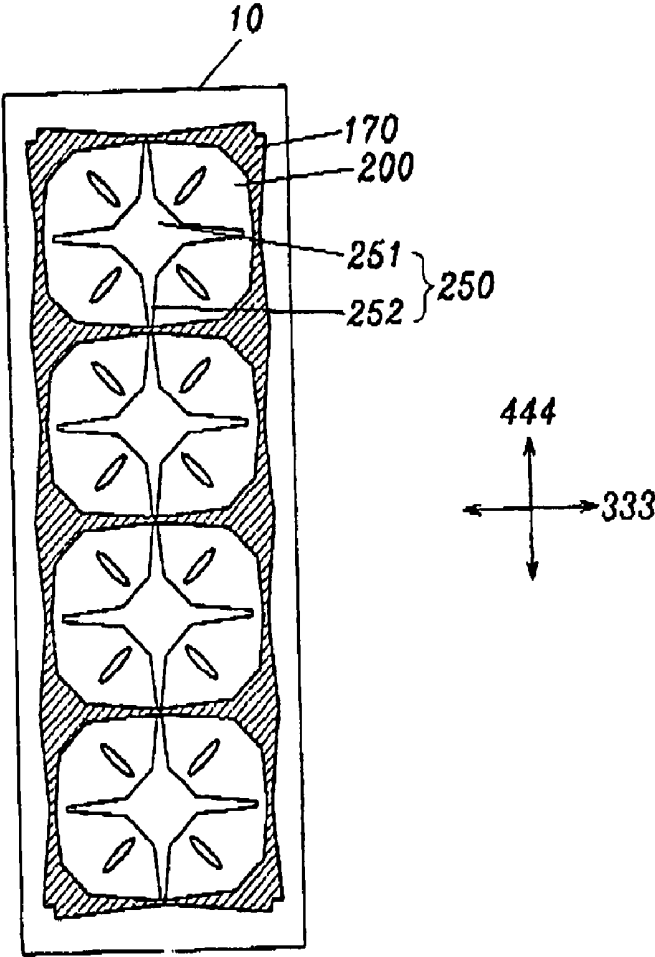


FIG. 18

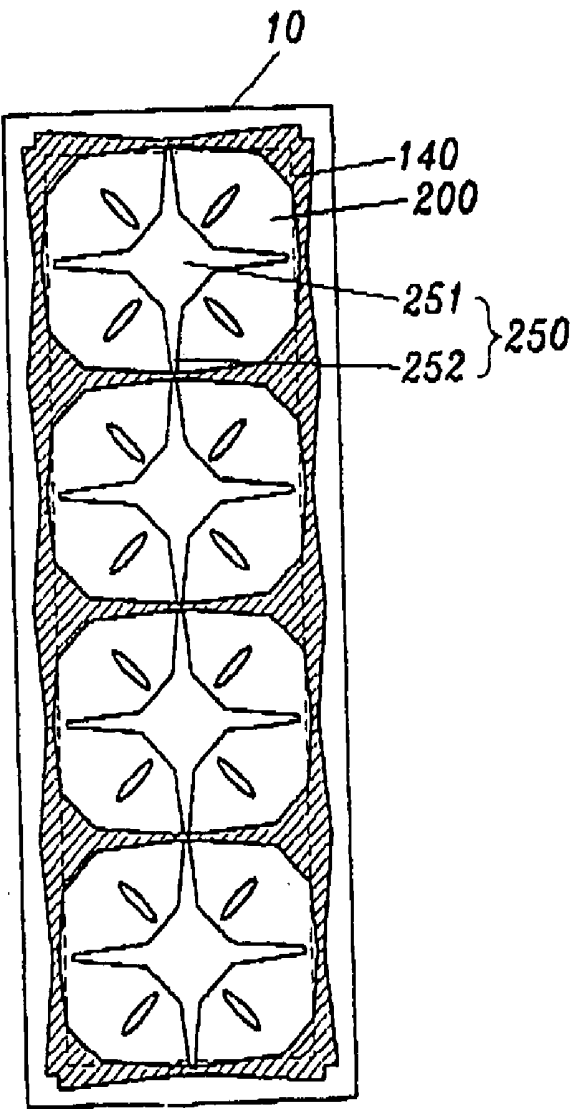


FIG. 19A

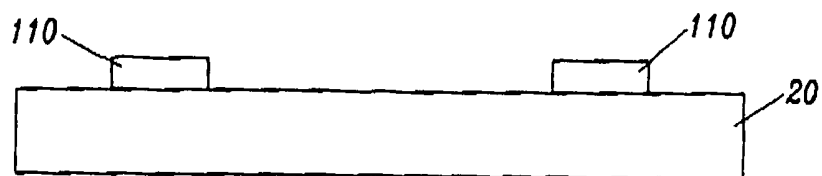


FIG. 19B

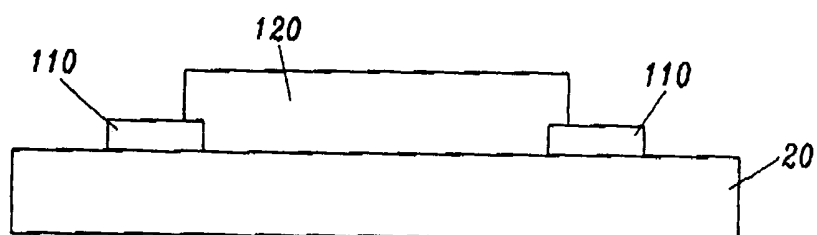


FIG. 19C

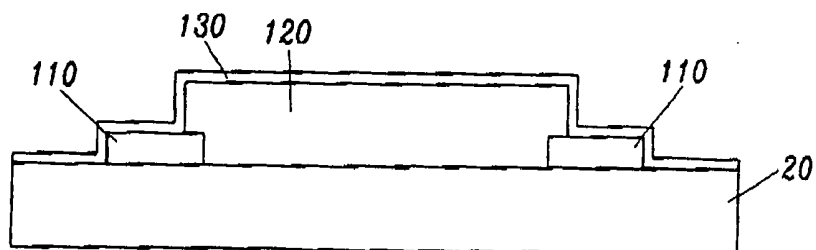


FIG. 19D

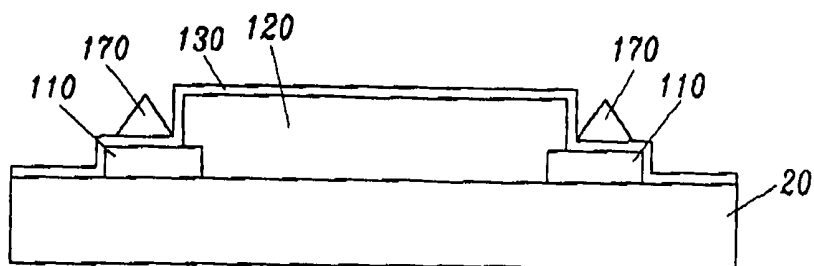


FIG. 19E

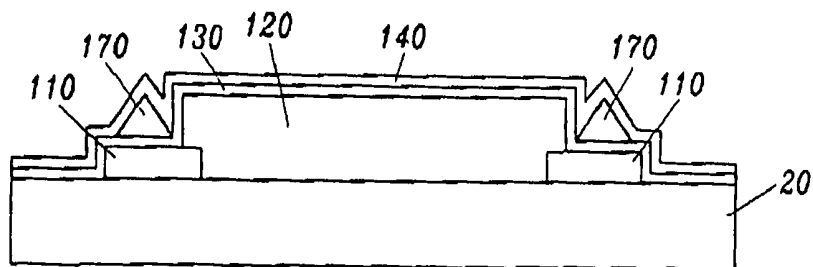


FIG. 20A

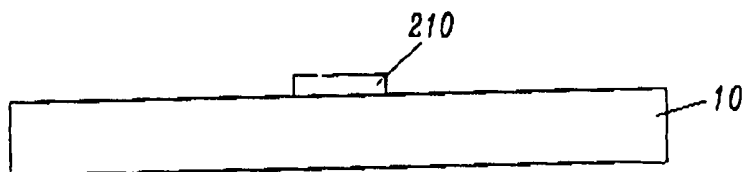


FIG. 20B

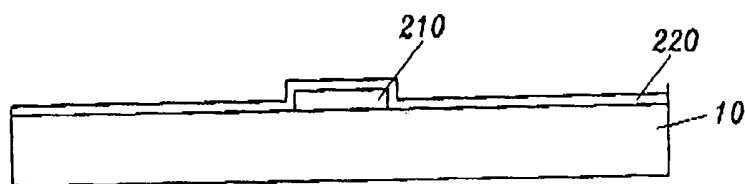


FIG. 20C

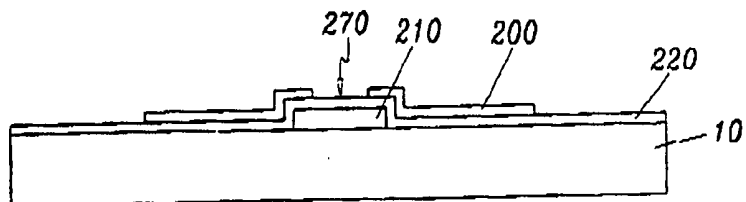
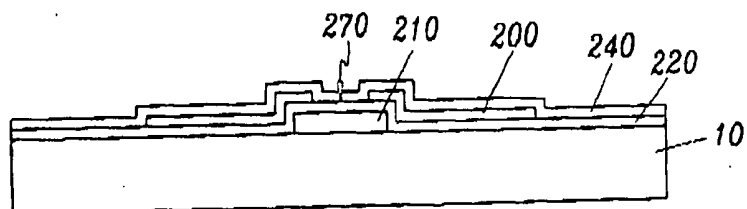


FIG. 20D



LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAYS HAVING MULTI-DOMAINS AND A MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] (a) Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to liquid crystal displays (LCDs) and a manufacturing method thereof, in particular, to vertically-aligned liquid crystal displays (VA LCDs) having multi-domains in a pixel region and a manufacturing method thereof.

[0003] (b) Description of the Related Art

[0004] A liquid crystal display (LCD) includes two substrates and a liquid crystal layer interposed therebetween. The transmittance of the incident light is controlled by the strength of the electric field applied to the liquid crystal layer.

[0005] A vertically aligned twisted nematic (VATN) liquid crystal display has a couple of transparent substrates which have transparent electrodes respectively on their inner surfaces, a chiral nematic liquid crystal layer having negative anisotropy between the substrates and a couple of polarizers which are respectively attached to the outer surfaces of the substrates. In the off state of the LCD, i.e., in the state that the electric field is not applied to the liquid crystal layer, the molecular axes or the long axes of the liquid crystal molecules are perpendicular to the substrates. On the other hand, in the on state of the LCD, i.e., in the state that the sufficient electric field caused by the voltage different between the electrodes is applied to the liquid crystal layer, the long axes of the liquid crystal molecules are parallel to the substrates by the negative anisotropy and twisted spirally by the chirality with a pitch from the inner surface of one substrate to that of the other substrate. Accordingly, the orientation of the long axes of the liquid crystal molecules vary continuously.

[0006] A VATN LCD in normally black mode may have an off state which is sufficiently dark because the molecular axes of the liquid crystal molecules are uniformly aligned perpendicular to the substrates in the off state. Therefore, the contrast ratio is relatively high compared with a conventional TN LCD. In addition, the viewing angle may be strongly dependent on the viewing directions. Therefore, it is suggested to form multi-domains in a pixel by providing apertures in the electrode by Clere in U.S. Pat. No. 5,136,407 and by Hirose in U.S. Pat. No. 5,229,873, etc.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] One object of the present invention is to form patterns for multi-domains to enlarge the range of viewing angle.

[0008] Another object of the present invention is to reduce the steps of forming patterns for multi-domains.

[0009] Another object of the present invention is to reduce light leakage near the boundary of multi-domains to improve the contrast ratio.

[0010] To achieve these objects of the present invention, aperture pattern is formed in pixel electrodes on a TFT

substrate and protrusion pattern is formed on a color filter substrate to form multi-domain alignment of liquid crystal.

[0011] A liquid crystal layer having negative dielectric anisotropy may be interposed between the substrates, and alignment layers may be formed on inner surfaces of the substrates respectively.

[0012] A pair of polarizers of which the polarizing directions are preferably perpendicular to each other may be attached to outer surfaces of the substrates.

[0013] Compensation films may be attached between one of the substrates and one of the polarizers attached thereto, and a biaxial or a combination of an a-plate and a c-plate compensation films may be used. The slow axis of the biaxial or the a-plate compensation film is preferably parallel or perpendicular to the polarizing directions of the polarizers.

[0014] The aperture pattern and the protrusion pattern may be formed as a shape of a wedge at an angle of 45 degrees with respect to the polarizing axis of the polarizers.

[0015] The aperture pattern may be cross-shaped or X-shaped perpendicular to the polarizing axis of the polarizer and the protrusion pattern may be tetragon shape surrounding the aperture pattern. The width of the cross-shaped pattern decreases as goes from a center to the edge of the pattern.

[0016] The width of the aperture pattern, the width of the protrusion pattern and the height of the protrusion pattern are 3 to 20 microns, 3 to 20 microns and 0.3 to 3 microns respectively.

[0017] Black matrix overlapping the protrusion pattern may be formed on the upper substrate and a wire overlapping the aperture pattern may be formed on the lower substrate.

[0018] To achieve the objects of the present invention, a pixel electrode having wedge-shaped aperture pattern is formed on the lower substrate and protrusion pattern arranged to the aperture pattern alternately and in parallel are formed on the upper substrate.

[0019] In the upper substrate, a black matrix overlapping the aperture pattern may be formed.

[0020] The black matrix may include the first portion overlapping the protrusion pattern, the second portion put across the bent points of the wedge-shaped aperture pattern and the protrusion pattern and the third portion covering a portion that the aperture pattern and the protrusion pattern meet a boundary of the pixel electrode.

[0021] The third portion of the black matrix may be formed as a triangular shape.

[0022] The black matrix may include the fourth portion overlapping the aperture pattern.

[0023] The edge of the pixel electrode between the aperture pattern and the protrusion pattern may be perpendicular to the aperture pattern.

[0024] In a manufacturing method of the present invention, aperture patterns of the TFT substrate are simultaneously formed at the step of forming the pixel electrode.

Then protrusion pattern is formed on the color filter substrate in a manner to arrange to the aperture patterns alternately and in parallel.

[0025] The protrusion pattern may be formed by coating a photo-sensitive film, exposing, developing and baking the film.

[0026] As described, the aperture pattern is formed at the step of patterning the ITO pixel electrode and a passivation film may not be coated on color filters. As a result, the number of the manufacturing steps decrease.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0027] FIGS. 1A and 1B are schematic diagrams of a VATN LCD respectively in black state and white state according to the present invention.

[0028] FIG. 2 is a layout view of the pattern for forming multi-domains according to the present invention.

[0029] FIGS. 3A and 3B are schematic sectional views of VATN LCDs according to the present invention.

[0030] FIGS. 4A and 4B are schematic sectional views of VATN LCDs according to the first and the second embodiments of the present invention, respectively.

[0031] FIG. 5 is a schematic sectional view of a VATN LCD according to the third to the tenth embodiments of the present invention.

[0032] FIG. 6 is a layout views of a pixel in a VATN LCD having patterns for forming multi-domains according to the third embodiment of the present invention.

[0033] FIG. 7 is an enlarged view of a portion (a) in FIG. 6.

[0034] FIGS. 8A and 8B are layout views of pixels in a VATN LCD having patterns for forming multi-domains according to the fourth embodiment of the present invention.

[0035] FIG. 9 is an enlarged view of a portion (b) in FIG. 8A.

[0036] FIG. 10 is a layout view of a pixel region in a TFT substrate having a modified gate line according to the fifth embodiment of the present invention.

[0037] FIG. 11 is a layout view of a pixel region in a color filter substrate having a black matrix and a protrusion pattern according to the fifth embodiment of the present invention.

[0038] FIG. 12 is a layout view of a pixel in an LCD having the TFT substrate and the color filter substrate shown in FIGS. 10 and 11.

[0039] FIG. 13 is a sectional view of the LCD shown in FIG. 12 taken along the line XIV-XIV'.

[0040] FIG. 14 is a layout view of a pixel region in a color filter substrate having a black matrix according to the sixth embodiment of the present invention.

[0041] FIG. 15 is a layout view of a pixel in an LCD having a modified pixel electrode according to the seventh embodiment of the present invention.

[0042] FIG. 16 is a layout view of a pixel in an LCD having patterns for forming multi-domains according to the eighth embodiment of the present invention.

[0043] FIGS. 17 and 18 are layout views of pixels in a LCD having patterns for forming multi-domains according to the ninth and the tenth embodiments of the present invention, respectively.

[0044] FIG. 19A to FIG. 19E are cross sectional views of the intermediate structures of a color filter substrate when manufactured according to the embodiments shown in FIG. 5.

[0045] FIG. 20A to FIG. 20D are cross sectional views of the intermediate structures of a TFT substrate when manufactured according to the embodiments shown in FIG. 5.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0046] The present invention now will be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which preferred embodiments of the invention are shown. This invention may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be constructed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein; rather, these inventions are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the scope of the invention to those skilled in the art. In the drawings, the thickness of layers and regions are exaggerated for clarity. Like numbers refer to like elements throughout. It will be understood that when an element such as a layer, region or substrate is referred to as being "on" another element, it can be directly on the other element or intervening elements may also be present.

[0047] FIGS. 1A and 1B are schematic diagrams showing the alignment of the liquid crystal molecules of a VATN LCD respectively in black state and white state, according to the present invention.

[0048] As shown in FIGS. 1A and 1B, two glass or quartz substrates 1 and 2 are spaced apart from each other. On the inner surfaces of the substrates 1 and 2, transparent electrodes 12 and 22 made of a transparent conductive material such as ITO (indium tin oxide) or the like are formed respectively, and homeotropic or vertical alignment layers 14 and 24 are formed thereon respectively. Between the substrates 1 and 2, a liquid crystal layer 100 including a chiral nematic liquid crystal material having negative dielectric anisotropy is disposed. Instead of the chiral nematic liquid crystal, a nematic liquid crystal mixed with chiral dopants may be used. On the outer surfaces of the substrates 1 and 2, polarizers 13 and 23 are attached. The polarizers 13 and 23 polarize the rays incident on the liquid crystal layer 100 and the rays out of the liquid crystal layer 100 respectively. The polarizing directions of the polarizers 13 and 23, represented as arrows in FIGS. 1A and 1B, are perpendicular to each other. The alignment layers 14 and 24 may be rubbed or not.

[0049] FIG. 1A shows the off state that the electric field is not applied. The long axes or the molecular axes of the liquid crystal molecules 3 in the liquid crystal layer 100 are aligned perpendicular to the surface of the substrates 1 and 2 by the aligning force of the alignment layers 14 and 24.

[0050] The polarized light by the polarizer 13 attached to the lower substrate 1 passes through the liquid crystal layer 100 without changing its polarization. Then, the light is blocked by the analyzer 23 attached to the upper substrate 2 to make a black state.

[0051] FIG. 1B shows the on state that the sufficient electric field is applied to the liquid crystal layer 100. The liquid crystal molecules 3 in the liquid crystal layer 100 are twisted spirally by 90° from the lower substrate 1 to the upper substrate 2, and the director of the liquid crystal layer 100 varies continuously. However, near the inner surfaces of two substrates 1 and 2, since the aligning force of the alignment layers 14 and 24 is larger than the force due to the applied electric field, the liquid crystal molecules stay vertically aligned.

[0052] The polarized light by the polarizer 13 passes through the liquid crystal layer 100, and its polarization is rotated by 90° according to the variation of the director of the liquid crystal layer 100. Therefore, the light passes through the analyzer 23 to make a white state.

[0053] The LCD shown in FIGS. 1A and 1B is a basic structure of the following embodiments of the present invention.

[0054] The basic structures and the principles for compensating the viewing angle according to the embodiments of the present invention are described with reference to FIGS. 2, 3A and 3B. Here, the liquid crystal layer is assumed to be chiral nematic or nematic mixed with chiral dopants, and to have negative anisotropy.

[0055] FIG. 2 is a layout view of a VATN LCD having an aperture for forming multi-domains, and FIG. 3A is a sectional view of a VATN LCD showing the structure of the electrodes and the alignment of the liquid crystal molecules according to the present invention. FIGS. 2 and 3A show only a few elements for simplicity and, therefore, the elements such as polarizers, etc., are eliminated.

[0056] As shown in FIG. 2 and FIG. 3A, an ITO electrode 15 formed on a lower substrate 1 has a linear aperture 4 extending in a horizontal direction. Although the aperture 4 has a linear shape, it actually has the width. The lower substrate 1 is opposite an upper substrate 2 having a transparent common electrode 25 thereon. A liquid crystal layer composed of liquid crystal molecules 3 is interposed between two substrates 1 and 2.

[0057] In absence of electric field, the liquid crystal molecules 3 are vertically aligned to show the black state under crossed-polarizers (not shown). When voltages are applied to the electrode 15 and 25, an electric field is generated in the liquid crystal layer due to the voltage difference between the electrodes 15 and 25. The field direction in most regions between the electrodes 15 and 25 is perpendicular to the substrates 1 and 2. However, near the aperture 4 of the ITO electrode 15, the electric field is curved and not completely perpendicular to the substrates 1 and 2. The electric field near the aperture 4 is called the fringe field, and the fringe field is symmetrical with respect to the aperture 4.

[0058] Since the long axes of the liquid crystal molecules 3 tend to be perpendicular to the field direction, the long axes of the liquid crystal molecules 3 near the aperture 4 are tilted symmetrically in opposite directions with respect to the aperture 4. In addition, the molecular axes tend to twisted on going from the upper substrate 2 to the lower substrate 1. As a result, two domains having opposite tilt directions of the liquid crystal molecules 3 are formed at both sides of the aperture 4, and may compensate the viewing angle.

[0059] The substitution of the aperture 4 with a protrusion having a symmetrical cross section may give a similar effect, which will be described next.

[0060] FIG. 3B is a sectional view of a VATN LCD having a protrusion according to the present invention. The layout view of the LCD is similar to FIG. 2 except the numeral 4, which may be assumed to be a protrusion.

[0061] As shown in FIG. 3B, a linear protrusion 5 having a wedge-shaped cross section is formed on a lower substrate 1 and extends in a horizontal direction. Although the protrusion 5 has a linear shape, it actually has the width. A vertical alignment layer 14 is formed thereon. A lower substrate 1 is opposite an upper substrate 2, and a liquid crystal layer including liquid crystal molecules 3 is interposed between the substrates 1 and 2.

[0062] In the absence of an electric field, the liquid crystal molecules 3 near the protrusion 5 are perpendicular to the surface of the protrusion 5 since the liquid crystal molecules 3 tend to erect perpendicularly to the surface of the alignment layer 14 by the aligning force of the alignment layer 14. Since the cross section of the protrusion 5 is symmetrical, the molecules 3 are symmetrically arranged with respect to the protrusion 5. Therefore, two domains having opposite tilt directions with respect to the protrusion 5 are generated at the both sides of the protrusion 5 even in the off state.

[0063] When an electric field is applied between the substrates 1 and 2, the liquid crystal molecules 3 in the two domains are tilted in opposite directions and tend to be horizontally arranged to the substrates 1 and 2.

[0064] However, the molecules 3 near the surface of the upper substrate 2 where the apertures or protrusions do not exist and near the center of a region between the apertures 4 or the protrusions 5, which are far from the apertures 4 or the protrusions 5, may not be affected by the electric field near the apertures 4 or the protrusions 5. The arrangement of the molecules 3 in the region may not be so uniform and the response time may not be so short. Therefore, it will be described that the patterns such as apertures or protrusions are provided in both substrates 1 and 2.

[0065] FIGS. 4A and 4B are cross sectional views of LCDs according to the first and the second embodiments of the present invention, respectively.

[0066] As shown in FIG. 4A, an ITO electrode 15 formed on a lower substrate 1 has a linear aperture 4 and a common electrode 25 formed on a upper substrate 2 opposite the lower substrate 1 also has a linear aperture 44. A liquid crystal layer composed of liquid crystal molecules 3 are interposed between the substrates 1 and 2. The aperture 44 is parallel to and spaced apart from the aperture 4 when viewed from the top.

[0067] The fringe fields due to both the apertures 4 and 44 make the molecules in a region between adjacent apertures 4 and 44 to incline in the same direction. Therefore, the liquid crystal molecules 3 in the region between the aperture 4 and the aperture 44 are aligned more uniformly and the response time becomes reduced.

[0068] Next, as shown in FIG. 4B, a linear protrusion 5 having a wedge-shaped cross section is formed on a lower substrate 1 and a vertical alignment layer 14 is formed thereon. A linear protrusion 55 having a wedge-shaped cross

section is formed on an upper substrate **2** opposite the lower substrate **1**, and a vertical alignment layer **24** is formed thereon. The protrusions **5** and **55** are parallel to and spaced apart from each other when viewed from the top. A liquid crystal layer including liquid crystal molecules **3** is interposed between the substrates **1** and **2** and the liquid crystal molecules **3** are perpendicular to the surfaces of the alignment layers **14** and **24** by the aligning force of the alignment layers **14** and **24**.

[0069] As similar to the first embodiment, the molecules in a region between adjacent protrusions **5** and **55** are inclined in the same direction by the protrusions **5** and **55**. Therefore, the liquid crystal molecules **3** in the region between the protrusions **5** and **55** are aligned more uniformly and the response time becomes reduced.

[0070] However, the LCDs of the first and the second embodiments may have some problems.

[0071] The number of the manufacturing steps of the LCD shown in FIG. 4A and FIG. 4B increases, as described below.

[0072] First, if the upper substrate **2** shown in FIG. 4A has color filters under the common electrode **25**, while wet etch of the common electrode **25** are performed by using ITO etchant to form the apertures **4** and **44**, the etchant may attack or contaminate the color filter. Therefore, a passivation film made of organic or inorganic material should be interposed between the color filter and the ITO electrode. Therefore, the step of forming the passivation film may be added.

[0073] Second, of the LCD shown in FIG. 4B, the step of forming the protrusions **5** and **55** may be added.

[0074] In addition, the light leakage may be yielded near the protrusions **5** and **55**, since the long axes of the liquid crystal molecules **3** near the protrusions **5** and **55** are not perpendicular to the substrates **1** and **2** in the off state. Accordingly, brightness in dark state increases and the contrast ratio decreases.

[0075] Now, in order to solve these problems, LCDs according to the third to the tenth embodiments are described.

[0076] FIG. 5 shows a cross sectional view of a vertically aligned liquid crystal display having multi-domains according to the fifth to the twelfth embodiments of the present invention. The liquid crystal layers in the embodiments are interposed between an upper substrate and a lower substrate and are composed of liquid crystal material having negative anisotropy and chirality.

[0077] As shown in FIG. 5, a linear aperture **270** is formed in an ITO pixel electrode **200** on the inner surface of a lower insulating substrate **10**, and a vertical alignment film **240** is coated thereon. A black matrix **110** and a color filter **120** formed between the black matrix is formed on the inner surface of an upper insulating substrate **20** facing the lower substrate **10**. A plurality of linear protrusions **170** are formed on the black matrix **110**, and a vertical alignment film **140** is coated thereon. The upper and lower substrates **20** and **10** are arranged in a manner that the protrusions **170** and the aperture **270** are alternately arranged. A liquid crystal layer having negative dielectric anisotropy is interposed between

two substrates **10** and **20** and vertically aligned to the surfaces of the substrates **10** and **20** by the vertical alignment film **240** and **140**.

[0078] Furthermore, polarizers **13** and **23** are attached on the outer surfaces of the assembled substrates **10** and **20**. The polarizing axes of the polarizers **13** and **23** are perpendicular to each other.

[0079] Compensation films **133** and **233** are interposed between polarizer **13** and **23** and the substrates **20** and **200** respectively. One of the compensation films may be an a-plate compensation film and the other a c-plate compensation film. Otherwise, both the compensation films may be c-plate compensation films. A biaxial compensation film may be used instead of the uniaxial compensation film, and, in this case, the biaxial compensation film may be attached to only one substrate. The slow axis, which is the direction having a largest refractive index, of the a-plate or the biaxial compensation film may be parallel or perpendicular to the polarizing directions of the polarizers **13** and **23**.

[0080] Here, since the protrusions **170** are formed only one substrate **20**, the light leakage near the protrusions **170** decreases compared with the second embodiment.

[0081] Furthermore, since the protrusions **170** are formed on the color filter **120** and it is not necessary to etch the common electrode (not shown), the manufacturing process of the color filter substrate is simple compared with the first embodiment. In addition, since the lower substrate does not have protrusions, the manufacturing process of the lower substrate is simple compare with the second embodiment.

[0082] The manufacturing method of the LCD will be described in detail later.

[0083] The LCD shown in FIG. 5 may have various layouts, which will be described in third to the tenth embodiments.

[0084] The third to the tenth embodiments of the present invention are related to liquid crystal displays (LCDs) having patterns for forming four domains in a pixel region.

[0085] Now, the third embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to FIG. 6 showing a pixel having patterns for four domains.

[0086] A protrusion pattern including a plurality of linear protrusions **170** formed on a color filter substrate and an aperture pattern including a plurality of linear apertures **270** formed in a pixel electrode **200** on a TFT substrate **10** have substantially wedge shapes having bent portions placed on the transverse center line passing through the center of a pixel. The protrusions **170** and the apertures **270** are arranged alternately, and are parallel to each other in respective half portions located at upper and lower sides of the transverse center line.

[0087] The liquid crystal molecules in adjacent two regions divided by the aperture **270** or the protrusion **170** either in the upper half portion or in the lower half portion have opposite tilt directions. Therefore, two domains are obtained in each half portion.

[0088] Furthermore, the liquid crystal molecules in the upper half portion and in the lower half portion have different tilt directions. Therefore, four domains having

different tilt directions are obtained in a single pixel to enlarge the viewing angle more than the first and the second embodiments.

[0089] The apertures 270 and the protrusions 170 are formed at an angle of 45 degrees with respect to the polarizing axis 111, and the long axes of the liquid crystal molecules are perpendicular to the protrusions 170 and the apertures 270. Therefore, the long axes of the liquid crystal molecules make 45 (or 135) angular degrees with the polarizing directions of the polarizing axes 111 and 222. As described above, since four domains having different tilt directions, viewing angle is enlarged.

[0090] In this embodiment, however, the arrangement of liquid crystal molecules falls into disorder near the bent portions of the patterns 170 and 270, and disclination is generated near the position where the apertures 270 meet the boundary of the pixel electrode 200 because the angle therebetween is acute, as shown in FIG. 7 which is an enlarged layout view of portion (a) of FIG. 6. FIG. 7 shows that the arrangement of the liquid crystal molecules falls into disorder in the region A, which causes the decrease of the luminance. Moreover, the disorder of the arrangement may cause the afterimage because the disordered region may move whenever different pixel voltages are applied.

[0091] According to the fourth embodiment of the present invention shown in FIGS. 8A and 8B, the disclination generated in the third embodiment may be removed.

[0092] The shapes of the patterns are substantially similar to the patterns of the fifth embodiment. That is, a protrusion pattern 170 formed on a color filter substrate and an aperture pattern 270 formed on a TFT substrate have wedge shapes, and the protrusions 170 and the apertures 270 are arranged alternately. The bent portions of the wedge-shaped patterns are placed on the transverse center line passing through the center of a pixel, and have a convex point and a concave point.

[0093] A first branch protrusion 172 extend from the convex point of the protrusion 170 toward the concave point of the aperture 270, and a branch aperture 272 extend from the convex point of the aperture 270 toward the concave point of the protrusion 170 along the transverse center line.

[0094] Second branch protrusions 171 of the protrusion pattern 170 extend from the points where the protrusions 170 meet the edges of the pixel electrode 200 toward the points where the edges of the pixel electrode 200 and the wedge-shaped aperture pattern 270 substantially make an acute angle. Therefore, the ends of the patterns 270 and 170 formed on the two substrates are close to each other, and the patterns 270 and 170 have only obtuse angles to remove the disclination.

[0095] That is, the liquid crystal molecules are arranged relatively in order by the branch protrusion 171 as shown in FIG. 9 which is an enlarged layout view of portion (b) of FIG. 8A.

[0096] The width of the first and the second branch protrusions 171 and 172 and the branch aperture 272 may gradually decrease from the point connected to the patterns 170 and 270 to the end of the branches 171, 172 and 272. The widths of the linear protrusions 170 and the linear

apertures 270 are preferably in the range of 3 to 20 microns, and the distance therebetween are in the range of 5 to 20 microns.

[0097] In the fifth embodiment of the present invention, disclination may be prevented by a black matrix or a wire instead of forming branch patterns.

[0098] FIGS. 10 and 11 are layout views of a TFT substrate and a color filter substrate according to the fifth embodiment respectively.

[0099] As shown in FIG. 10, a portion 211 of a gate line 210 which transmits a scanning signal is formed to have substantially the same shape as one of the apertures 270 which has the same shapes as those in FIGS. 8A and 8B. That is, the portion 211 has a trapezoid shape without the lower side. Then, the portion 211 made of opaque metal blocks the light from the backlight, and, therefore the light leakage or the decrease of luminance due to the aperture 270 may be removed.

[0100] Next, as shown in FIG. 11, a black matrix 110 is formed on the color filter substrate to cover the regions where disclination is generated and the protrusions 170, 171 and 172 on the color filter substrate. The disclination regions are, as described above, the regions where the apertures 270 on the TFT substrate meet the edges of the pixel electrode 200 and the region where the wedge-shaped patterns 170 and 270 are bent.

[0101] The black matrix pattern which covers the disclination includes, as shown in FIG. 11, an edge portion surrounding and defining a pixel region, a wedge-shaped portion to cover the pattern 170, a triangular portion to cover the disclination between wedge-shaped protrusions 170 and apertures 270 and a central portion put across the pixel region to cover the disclination generated in the bent portion of the patterns 170 and 270.

[0102] Then, the light leakage generated by the disclination or the patterns 170 and 270 is prevented by the black matrix 110. Moreover, additional decrease of the aperture ratio does not occur though the black matrix 110 is formed to have relatively large area because the region where the black matrix covers may not be used for display.

[0103] FIG. 12 is a layout view of a pixel in an LCD having the TFT substrate and the color filter substrate shown in FIGS. 10 and 11. FIG. 13 is a sectional view of an LCD shown in FIG. 12 taken along the line XIII-XIII'.

[0104] As shown in FIGS. 12 and 13, a portion 211 of a gate line 210 is formed on a lower TFT substrate. The gate line 210 has a trapezoid shape without the lower side. An insulating layer 220 covers the gate line. A pixel electrode 200 is formed on the insulating layer 220, and portions of the pixel electrode 200 are removed to form wedge-shaped aperture pattern 270 over the portion 211 of the gate line 210. A vertical alignment layer 240 is formed on the pixel electrode 200.

[0105] On the other hand, a black matrix 110 is formed on a upper color filter substrate 20 to cover the outside of the pixel electrode 200, the protrusions 170 and the disclination regions. In the pixel region within the black matrix 110, a color filter 120 is formed and an ITO common electrode 130 is formed over the color filter substrate 20. A protrusions 170 made of organic or inorganic material is formed on the

common electrode **130** over the black matrix **110**. The protrusions **170** formed on the upper substrate overlaps the black matrix **110** and is arranged alternately to the apertures **270** formed on the lower substrate, and the protrusions **170** and the apertures **270** are parallel to each other.

[0106] Polarizers **13** and **23** may be attached to the outer surfaces of two substrates **10** and **20**, and their polarizing axes are perpendicular to each other.

[0107] Compensation films **133** and **233** may be attached between one of the substrates **10** and **20** and one of the polarizers **13** and **23** attached thereto.

[0108] A liquid crystal material layer **30** with negative dielectric anisotropy is interposed between two substrate **10** and **20**, and the liquid crystal molecules are homotropically aligned to the substrates **10** and **20** by the aligning force of the alignment layers **140** and **240**. Near the protrusions **170**, the liquid crystal molecules are aligned to be perpendicular to the surface of the protrusions **170**.

[0109] It is possible to form a gate line as in a conventional LCD, and then the aperture pattern formed on the lower substrate is also covered by the black matrix, as shown in FIG. 14 which is a layout view of a pixel region in a color filter substrate according to the sixth embodiment of the present invention.

[0110] A black matrix **110** is formed to define a pixel region and to cover the protrusions **170** for forming multi-domains, the disclination between wedge-shaped protrusion pattern **170** and aperture pattern **270** and the disclination generated in the bent portion of the protrusion pattern **170** and the aperture pattern **270** as in the fifth embodiment. In addition, the black matrix **110** includes another portion to cover the apertures **270** formed on the lower substrate.

[0111] If the black matrix covers the patterns **170** and **270** and the disclination as in the sixth embodiment, it is not necessary to consider the influence due to the change of the gate line and no additional process step is required.

[0112] Moreover, the shape of the pixel electrode may be changed instead of forming the branches in the fourth embodiment.

[0113] In the seventh embodiment of the present invention shown in FIG. 15, a pixel electrode is changed to prevent from decrease of the luminance.

[0114] As described above, the region where the disclination is generated is the region where the aperture pattern **270** on the TFT substrate meets the edges of the pixel electrode **200**.

[0115] Therefore, in the eighth embodiment of the present invention, the edge of the pixel electrode **200** between the apertures **70** and the protrusions **170** is perpendicular to the protrusion pattern **170**. The widths of the apertures **270** and the protrusions **170** are preferably 30 to 20 microns respectively, and the distance between the patterns **170** and **270** is preferably in the range of 5 to 50 microns.

[0116] The eighth embodiment having patterns for four-domains is shown in FIG. 16.

[0117] As shown in FIG. 16, an aperture pattern including a plurality of apertures **280** is formed in a pixel electrode **200** on a TFT substrate **10** and has a X shape having the first and

the second portions crossing each other at a right angle. A protrusion **170** is formed of one portion corresponding to the edges of the pixel electrode **100** and the other portion transversing the spaces between the apertures **280**.

[0118] The liquid crystal layer in the single pixel have four domains having different tilt directions by the apertures **280** and the protrusion **170**, and the long axes of the liquid crystal molecules in the adjacent domains are arranged at an angle of 90 or 180 degrees.

[0119] It is suitable that the polarizers are attached to the substrate **10** and **20** in a manner that polarizing directions **555** and **666** are perpendicular to each other. The polarizing directions **555** and **666** make an angle of 45 degrees with the long axes of the liquid crystal molecules.

[0120] FIGS. 17 and 18 are layout views of pixels in a LCD having patterns for multi-domains according to the ninth and the tenth embodiments of the present embodiment. A protrusion pattern overlaps substantially the boundary of a pixel electrode or is located substantially inside the pixel electrode in FIG. 17, while it is substantially located outside the pixel electrode in FIG. 18.

[0121] As shown in FIGS. 17 and 18, a substantially cross-shaped aperture pattern including a plurality of apertures **250** is formed in a pixel electrode **200** on a TFT substrate **10**, and a protrusion pattern **170** surrounding the cross-shaped apertures **250** is formed on a color filter substrate.

[0122] The four domains are obtained by the apertures **250** and the protrusion **170**, and the long axes of the liquid crystal molecules interposing between the substrates are perpendicular to each other.

[0123] It is possible to modify the shape of the cross shapes as in FIGS. 17 and 18.

[0124] The modified cross-shaped apertures **250** includes a diamond-shaped portion **251** and extended portions **252**. The extended portions **252** extend outwards from the corners of the diamond **251** and make a right angle with each other. The width of the extended portions **252** decreases gradually as goes from the point connected to the portion **251** to the ends of the extended portions **252**. Oblique sides of the diamond portion **251** are parallel to the corresponding oblique sides of protrusion **170** respectively because the protrusion pattern **170** and aperture pattern **250** have substantially the same shapes each other even though the centers of the patterns **170** and **250** are alternately arranged.

[0125] Therefore, the liquid crystal molecules between the patterns **250** and **170** are arranged relatively uniformly, and the response time is reduced.

[0126] In this case, it is suitable that polarizing directions of the polarizers on two substrates are respectively a vertical direction **444** and a horizontal direction **333** such that the long axes of the liquid crystal molecules make an angle of 45 degrees with the polarizing directions.

[0127] The widths of the patterns **170** and **250** are preferably in the range of 3 to 20 microns respectively and the height of the protrusion pattern **170** is 0.3 to 3.0 microns. If the width is too narrow, the region where the liquid crystal molecules incline by the fringe field is too small, and

therefore the effect of multi-domains is not sufficiently gained. On the contrary, if the width is too large, the aperture ratio becomes low.

[0128] The distance between the protrusion pattern 170 and the aperture pattern 250 is in the range of 10 to 50 microns. However, it depends on the size or the shape of the pixel.

[0129] For high-aperture ratio, the embodiment shown in FIG. 18 in which the protrusion pattern 170 outside the edges of the pixel electrode 200 is superior to the embodiment shown in FIG. 17 in which the protrusion pattern 170 overlaps the edges or is located inside the edges.

[0130] Next, a manufacturing method of a liquid crystal display for forming multi-domains is described.

[0131] FIG. 19A to FIG. 19E are cross sectional views of the intermediate structures of a color filter substrate when manufactured according to the embodiments shown in FIG. 5.

[0132] As shown in FIGS. 19A and 19B, a black matrix 110 is formed on a transparent insulating substrate 20 and a color filter 120 is formed within the black matrix 110.

[0133] Then, as shown in FIG. 19C, an ITO layer is deposited thereon to form a common electrode 130.

[0134] As shown in FIGS. 19D and 19E, a photo-sensitive film such as photoresist or polyimide film is coated on the common electrode 130 with the thickness of 3 to 20 microns, exposed, developed and baked to form a protrusion pattern 170 with 0.3 to 3 micron width. The protrusion pattern 170 may overlap the black matrix 110. Then, a vertically alignment layer 140 is coated thereon.

[0135] FIG. 20A to FIG. 20D are cross sectional views of the intermediate structures of a TFT substrate when manufactured according to the embodiments in FIG. 5.

[0136] As shown in FIG. 20A to 20D, a gate wire including gate lines 210 is formed on a transparent insulating substrate 10, and a gate insulating film 220 is deposited thereon. Afterward, an active layer (not shown) and a data wire (not shown) are formed to form a TFT.

[0137] As shown in FIG. 20C, a passivation film 220 is formed, and a transparent conductive material such as ITO is deposited and patterned to form a pixel electrode 200. In this step, an aperture pattern 270 with 3 to 20 micron width is formed in the pixel electrode 200.

[0138] Then, a vertical alignment layer 240 is coated thereon.

[0139] As a result, the aperture pattern may be formed in the steps of forming the pixel electrode 200 without any additional step.

[0140] The TFT and the color filter substrate 10 and 20 formed according to the methods shown in FIG. 19A to 19E and in FIG. 20A to 20D are assembled with each other in a manner that the protrusions 170 and the aperture pattern patterns 270 are alternately arranged with a space. After liquid crystal having native dielectric anisotropy is injected between two substrates, polarizers are attached on the surfaces of the substrates in a manner that the polarizing directions have a right angle each other.

[0141] The polarizing directions are at an angle of 45 degrees or at a right angle with respect to the protrusions 170 and apertures 270.

[0142] As described above, the apertures are formed at the step of forming the ITO pixel electrode and a passivation film may not be coated on color filters before forming step of the protrusions so that additional steps to realize VA-LCD having four-domains may not be performed.

[0143] Therefore, wide-viewing angle is obtained.

[0144] Furthermore, the black matrix or the gate line corresponds to the portions where the protrusions and the apertures are formed or the structure of the pixel electrode are changed so that lightness and contrast ratio are improved.

[0145] In the drawings and specification, there have been disclosed typical preferred embodiments of the invention and, although specific terms are employed, they are used in a generic and descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation, the scope of the invention being set forth in the following claims.

1-51. (canceled)

52. A liquid crystal display, comprising:

a first substrate;

a common electrode formed on the first substrate;

a plurality of protrusions formed on the common electrode;

a second substrate facing the first substrate; and

a pixel electrode having a plurality of apertures and formed on the second substrate.

53. The liquid crystal display of claim 52, further comprising a chiral nematic liquid crystal layer having negative dielectric anisotropy and interposed between the first and second substrates.

54. The liquid crystal display of claim 53, further comprising two vertical alignment layers formed on inner surfaces of the first and second substrates, respectively, and aligning molecular axes of liquid crystal molecules in the liquid crystal layer in a direction perpendicular to the substrates.

55. The liquid crystal display of claim 52, further comprising first and second polarizers attached to outer surfaces of the first and second substrates, respectively, polarizing directions of the first and second polarizers being perpendicular to each other.

56. The liquid crystal display of claim 55, further comprising a first compensation film attached either between the first substrate and the first polarizer or between the second substrate and the second polarizer.

57. The liquid crystal display of claim 56, wherein the first compensation film is a biaxial compensation film.

58. The liquid crystal display of claim 57, wherein a slow axis of the first compensation film is parallel or perpendicular to the polarizing directions of the first and the second polarizers.

59. The liquid crystal display of claim 56, further comprising a second compensation film attached either between the first substrate and the first polarizer or between the second substrate and the second polarizer.

60. The liquid crystal display of claim 59, wherein the first and second compensation films are a-plate and c-plate compensation films, respectively.

61. The liquid crystal display of claim 60, wherein a slow axis of the a-plate compensation film is parallel or perpendicular to the polarizing directions of the first and second polarizers.

62. The liquid crystal display of claim 55, wherein the apertures have a shape of a wedge-shaped line having a width.

63. The liquid crystal display of claim 55, wherein the protrusions have symmetrical cross sections and have a shape of a wedge-shaped line having a width, and

the apertures and the protrusions are arranged alternately.

64. The liquid crystal display of claim 63, wherein the polarizing directions of the first and second polarizers make an angle of 45° with the aperture and the protrusion.

65. The liquid crystal display of claim 63, wherein the width of the aperture is 3 to 20 microns.

66. The liquid crystal display of claim 65, wherein the width of the protrusion is 3 to 20 microns.

67. The liquid crystal display of claim 66, wherein the distance between the aperture and the protrusion is 5 to 15 microns.

68. The liquid crystal display of claim 67, wherein the height of the protrusion is 0.3 to 3 microns.

69. The liquid crystal display of claim 55, wherein the aperture has a shape of cross including a first and a second portions crossing each other at a right angle.

70. The liquid crystal display of claim 69, wherein the first and the second portions are parallel to the polarizing axes of the first and second polarizers respectively.

71. The liquid crystal display of claim 55, wherein the aperture has an X shape including first and second portions crossing each other at a right angle.

72. The liquid crystal display of claim 52, wherein the protrusions are made of polyimide.

73. The liquid crystal display of claim 52, wherein the protrusions are made of photoresist.

74. The liquid crystal display of claim 52, further comprising a black matrix overlapping the protrusions on the second substrate.

75. The liquid crystal display of claim 74, further comprising a wire overlapping the aperture patterns on the first substrate.

76. The liquid crystal display of claim 75, wherein the wire is a gate wire.

77. A liquid crystal display comprising:

a first substrate including a pixel electrode having at least a wedge-shaped aperture; and

a second substrate facing the first substrate and including a common electrode and at least a wedge-shaped pro-

trusion on the common electrode, the protrusion being parallel and alternate to the aperture.

78. The liquid crystal display of claim 77, further comprising a wire overlapping the aperture on the first substrate.

79. The liquid crystal display of claim 78, wherein the wire is a gate wire.

80. The liquid crystal display of claim 77, wherein an edge of the pixel electrode between the aperture and the protrusion makes a right angle with the aperture.

81. A liquid crystal display comprising:

a first substrate;

a common electrode formed on the first substrate;

a plurality of protrusions formed on the common electrode;

a second substrate facing the first substrate;

a pixel electrode having a plurality of apertures and formed on the second substrate; and

a liquid crystal layer having negative dielectric anisotropy and interposed between the first substrate and the second substrate,

wherein the liquid crystal layer has four domains which have different tilt directions due to the apertures and the protrusions, and the long axes of molecules in the liquid crystal layer in the adjacent domains are perpendicular to each other.

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

forming a plurality of protrusions on a first substrate;

forming a pixel electrode having a plurality of apertures on a second substrate; and

assembling the first substrate and the second substrate such that the protrusions and the apertures are alternately arranged.

83. The manufacturing method of the liquid crystal display of claim 82, wherein the protrusions are made of a photo-sensitive material.

84. The manufacturing method of the liquid crystal display of claim 83, wherein the step of forming the protrusions comprises the steps of:

coating a photo-sensitive film;

exposing the photo-sensitive film;

developing the photo-sensitive film; and

baking the photo-sensitive film.

85. The manufacturing method of the liquid crystal display of claim 82, further comprising the step of forming vertical alignment layers on the first and second substrates.

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专利名称(译)	具有多畴的液晶显示器及其制造方法		
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摘要(译)

在基板上形成黑矩阵和滤色器，在其上沉积氧化铟锡（ITO）公共电极，然后在公共电极上形成由3至20微米宽度的敏感材料（例如光致抗蚀剂）制成的突起图案。在其上涂覆垂直取向层以完成滤色器基板。在另一个基板上形成薄膜晶体管（TFT）和钝化膜之后，在钝化膜上沉积ITO并图案化以形成包含3至20微米宽度的开口区域的像素电极。然后，涂覆垂直取向层以完成TFT基板。以孔和突起图案布置在移位上的方式组装两个基板，并且在基板之间注入具有负介电各向异性的液晶。每个偏振器连接在LCD基板的外表面上。补偿膜可以附着在偏振器和基板之间。

