



US 20100296032A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**
Shin et al.

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2010/0296032 A1**
(43) **Pub. Date: Nov. 25, 2010**

(54) **OPTICAL FILM, PREPARATION METHOD OF THE SAME, AND LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY COMPRISING THE SAME**

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Jan. 18, 2008 (KR) 10-2008-0005837

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Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G02F 1/1335 (2006.01)
G02F 1/1337 (2006.01)
B32B 27/32 (2006.01)
C08J 7/04 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **349/96; 349/123; 428/424.4; 427/520**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to a composition for liquid crystal alignment layer, a preparation method of liquid crystal alignment layer using the same, and an optical film comprising the liquid crystal alignment layer. More particularly, the composition for liquid crystal alignment layer according to the present invention includes crosslinkable functional monomers as well as a photoreactive polymer, thereby improving thermal stability and durability of the liquid crystal alignment layer that is prepared by using the composition for liquid crystal alignment layer. In addition, when the liquid crystal alignment layer is used to produce an optical film, adhesive strength between substrate and liquid crystal alignment layer and between liquid crystal alignment layer and liquid crystal film can be improved.

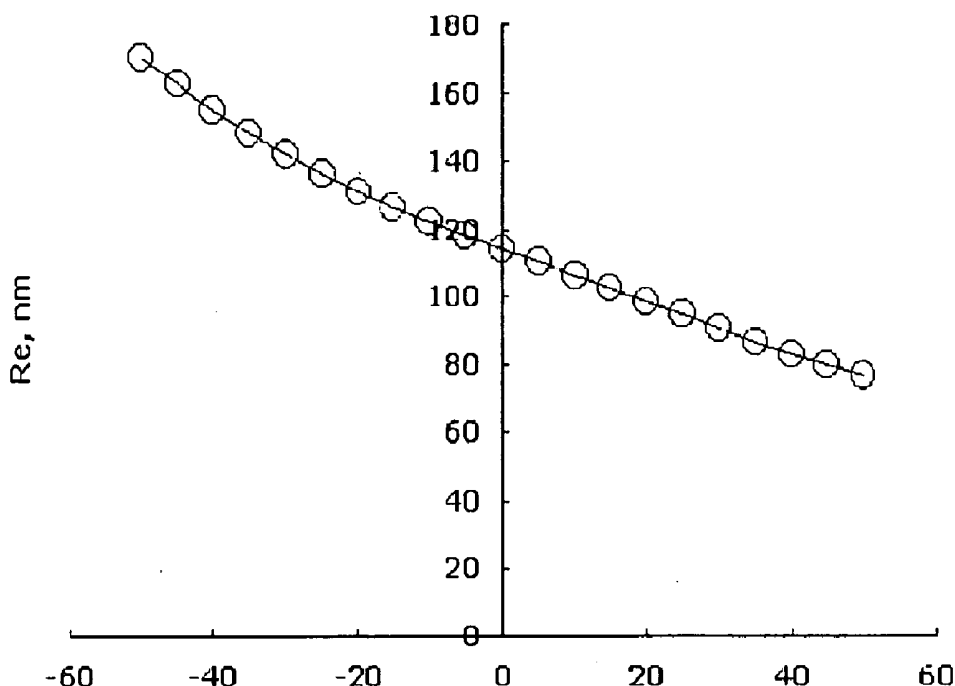
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(21) Appl. No.: **12/863,347**

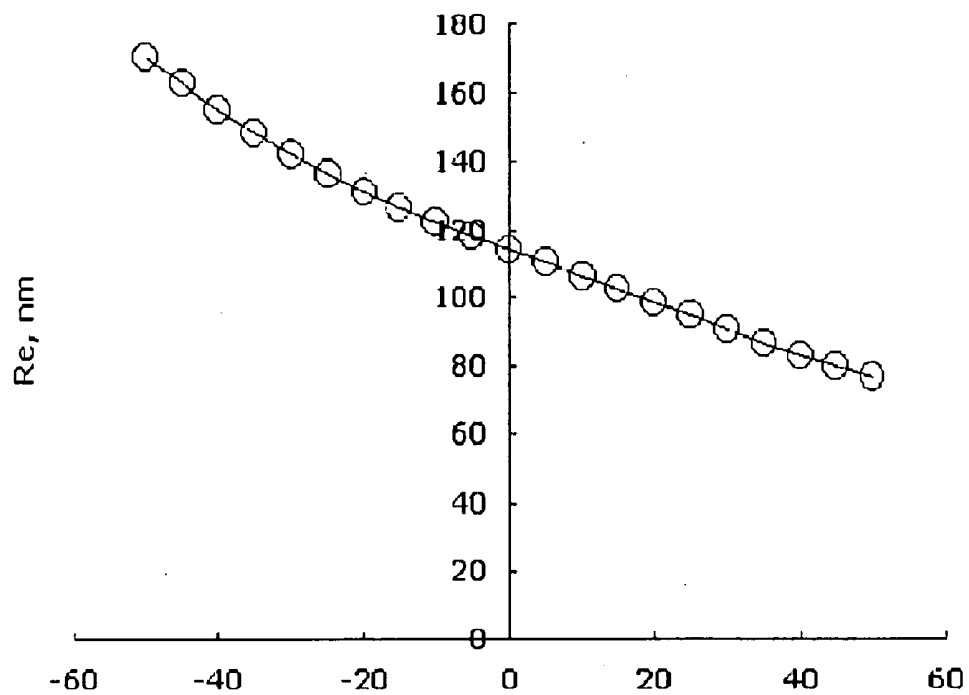
(22) PCT Filed: **Jan. 19, 2009**

(86) PCT No.: **PCT/KR2009/000271**

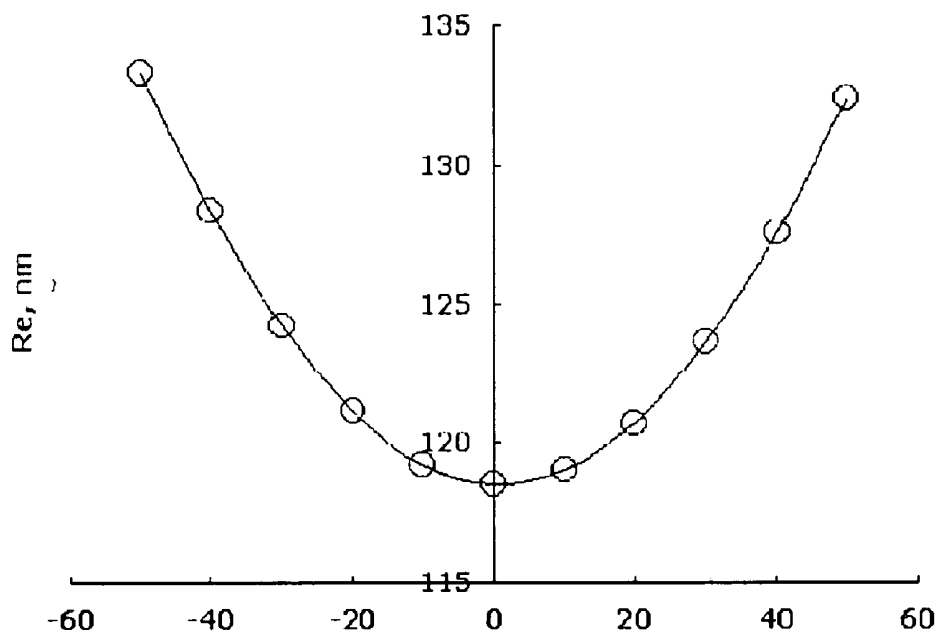
§ 371 (c)(1),
(2), (4) Date: **Jul. 16, 2010**



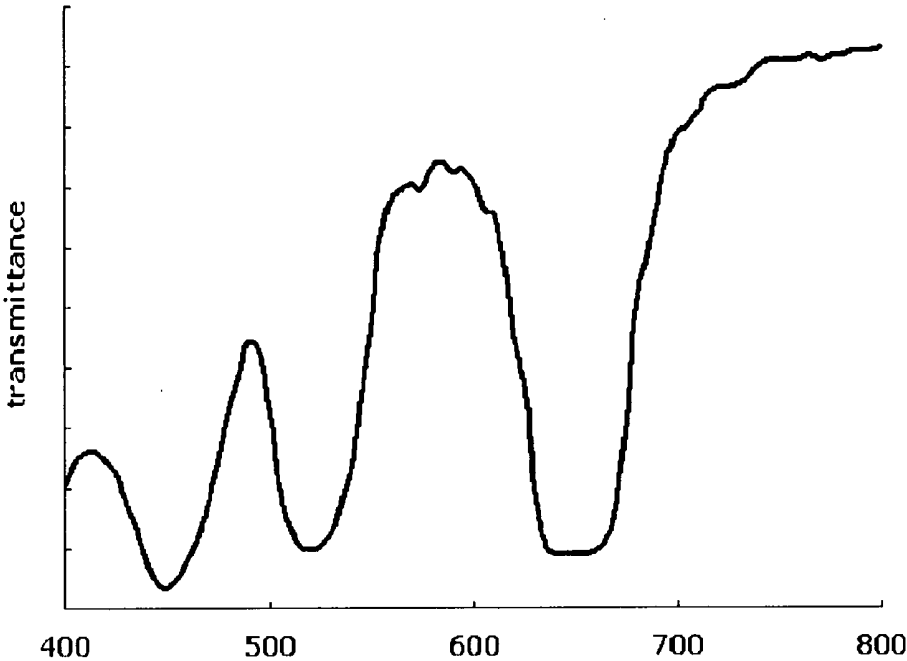
[Fig. 1]



[Fig. 2]



[Fig. 3]



**OPTICAL FILM, PREPARATION METHOD
OF THE SAME, AND LIQUID CRYSTAL
DISPLAY COMPRISING THE SAME**

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present invention relates to an optical film, a preparation method of the same, and a liquid crystal display comprising the same.

[0002] This application claims priority from Korean Patent Application No. 10-2008-0005837 filed on Jan. 18, 2008 in the Korean Intellectual Property Office, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND ART

[0003] In general, optical films, such as a retardation film and a view angle compensating film, are disposed between a polarizing plate and liquid crystal cells, so that color change of liquid crystal display (LCD) is decreased and viewing angle is expanded to improve brightness. The optical film is mainly divided into two films: one stretched film prepared by stretching a polymer film to give optical anisotropy, and the other liquid crystal film prepared by coating a plastic substrate with a polymeric liquid crystal compound and curing the polymeric liquid crystal compound by UV irradiation. In particular, liquid crystal film may be mainly divided into a rod-type liquid crystal and a disc-type liquid crystal, depending on the shape of the liquid crystal molecules. Among them, the rod-type liquid crystal can be aligned in various shapes such as planar, homeotropic, tilted, splay, cholesteric shapes, and therefore their optical properties owing to the various shapes are also diverse and unique, compared to those of the stretched film. Thus, if the stretched film is directly coated with the polymeric liquid crystal compound to give the various liquid crystal alignment properties, the liquid crystal film may function as a protective film and an optical compensation film of the polarizer.

[0004] The liquid crystal film is generally manufactured by coating a plastic substrate with a composition for an alignment layer such as polyimide and polyvinyl alcohol to form an alignment layer, rubbing the alignment layer in a predetermined direction, and then coating the alignment layer with the polymeric liquid crystal compound. However, when such alignment layer is used, a liquid crystal film may be peeled off or shrunken from the alignment layer due to the insufficient adhesive force to the liquid crystal film under hot and humid environments. Moreover, when an alignment layer is manufactured using the rubbing process, there are several problems in that electrostatic discharge or defect sites may be caused due to contact with impurities during rubbing, and fine dust by a rubbing cloth may be generated.

[0005] To solve the above problems, liquid crystal alignment methods comprising a non-rubbing process have been developed. Among them, a photo-alignment is proposed, in which a liquid crystal alignment layer is manufactured by light irradiation. In this connection, examples of the photopolymerizable alignment material for liquid crystal alignment include those prepared by photodimerization such as cinnamate, coumarin, and chalcon, by photoisomerization of polymer having an azobenzene group, and by photodegradation of polyimide polymer. However, these materials show

poor thermal stability or light stability, and contamination due to byproducts may occur.

[0006] To manufacture a retardation film, a view angle compensating film, a brightness improving film using a polymeric liquid crystal compound, an alignment layer is generally formed on a plastic substrate. However, even though using the composition for alignment layer prepared by the above process, its application is limited to the types of plastic substrate.

[0007] Japanese publication No. 2006-133718 describes a photo-alignment layer showing a good alignment property on acetylcellulose, which is prepared using a photoreactive polymer with a cinnamate group; and a preparation method of the photo-alignment layer. However, the preparation method of the photo-alignment layer is problematic in that the use of commercial solvents is limited, and a retardation film including the photo-alignment layer prepared by the above method should employ acetylcellulose as a substrate. The acetylcellulose substrate has problems that light leakage appears in the substrate under hot and humid environments due to its high hygroscopicity, and durability is deteriorated such as reduction in its degree of polarization. Therefore, a cycloolefin-based stretched film has been proposed to substitute for the acetylcellulose substrate. There are still no reports of applying the photo-alignment layer on the substrate of cycloolefin-based stretched film.

DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

Technical Problem

[0008] Accordingly, in order to solve the above problems, the present invention provides an optical film comprising a substrate, a liquid crystal alignment layer, and a liquid crystal film, in which the optical film is excellent in terms of adhesive strength between the substrate and the liquid crystal alignment layer and between the liquid crystal alignment layer and the liquid crystal film; a preparation method thereof; and a liquid crystal display comprising the same.

Technical Solution

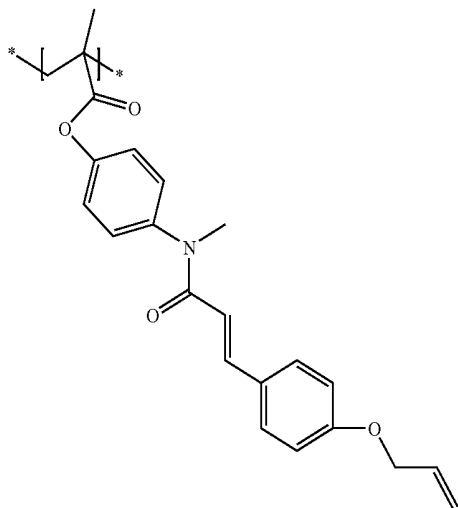
[0009] In order to achieve the above object, the present invention provides an optical film, comprising

[0010] 1) a substrate of cycloolefin-based film,

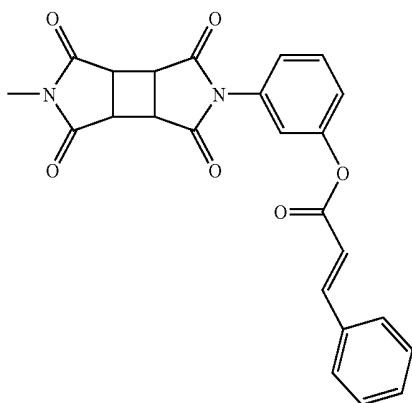
[0011] 2) a liquid crystal alignment layer that is formed on the substrate by using the composition for liquid crystal alignment layer comprising a) one or more photoreactive polymer selected from the group consisting of a norbornene-based photoreactive polymer comprising a cinnamate group, a photoreactive polymer comprising an unit represented by the following Formula 1, and a photoreactive polymer comprising an unit represented by the following Formula 2, b) a multifunctional monomer crosslinkable with the photoreactive polymer, c) a photoinitiator, and d) an organic solvent, and

[0012] 3) a liquid crystal film formed on the liquid crystal alignment layer.

[Formula 1]



[Formula 2]



[0013] Further, the present invention provides a preparation method of the optical film, comprising the steps of:

[0014] 1) applying and drying the composition for liquid crystal alignment layer comprising a) one or more photoreactive polymer selected from the group consisting of a norbornene-based photoreactive polymer comprising a cinnamate group, a photoreactive polymer comprising an unit represented by the following Formula 1, and a photoreactive polymer comprising an unit represented by the following Formula 2, b) a multifunctional monomer crosslinkable with the photoreactive polymer, c) a photoinitiator, and d) an organic solvent on the substrate of cycloolefin-based film to form a coating, and then irradiating UV rays to form a liquid crystal alignment layer, and

[0015] 2) applying and drying a liquid crystal compound solution comprising a polymeric liquid crystal compound, a photoinitiator, and an organic solvent on the liquid crystal alignment layer, and then irradiating UV rays thereto.

[0016] Furthermore, the present invention provides a liquid crystal display comprising the optical film.

ADVANTAGEOUS EFFECTS

[0017] An optical film according to the present invention is excellent adhesive strength between a substrate and the liquid crystal alignment layer and between the liquid crystal alignment layer and a liquid crystal film, thereby improving dura-

bility of optical film. In addition, under the conditions of high temperature and high humidity, the liquid crystal film is not shrunken, or not separated from the liquid crystal alignment layer.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0018] FIG. 1 shows phase difference distribution determined according to the viewing angles of the splay alignment liquid crystal film formed on the alignment layer prepared according to Example 1 of the present invention;

[0019] FIG. 2 shows phase difference distribution determined according to the viewing angles of the homeotropic alignment liquid crystal film formed on the alignment layer prepared according to Example 2 of the present invention;

[0020] FIG. 3 shows transmittance of the cholesteric alignment liquid crystal film formed on the alignment layer prepared according to Example 3 of the present invention.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

[0021] Hereinafter, the present invention will be described in detail.

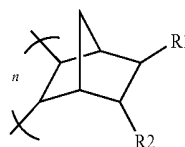
[0022] The optical film according to the present invention comprises 1) a substrate of cycloolefin-based film, 2) a liquid crystal alignment layer that is formed on the substrate by using the composition for liquid crystal alignment layer comprising a) one or more photoreactive polymer selected from the group consisting of a norbornene-based photoreactive polymer comprising a cinnamate group, a photoreactive polymer comprising an unit represented by the Formula 1, and a photoreactive polymer comprising an unit represented by the Formula 2, b) a multifunctional monomer crosslinkable with the photoreactive polymer, c) a photoinitiator, and d) an organic solvent, and 3) a liquid crystal film formed on the liquid crystal alignment layer.

[0023] In the optical film according to the present invention, the 1) cycloolefin-based film is, not specifically limited to, films prepared from cycloolefin-based resins that are generally used in the art, for example, films prepared from cycloolefin-based resins including a hydrogenated cycloolefin ring-open polymer, a cycloolefin addition polymer, a copolymer of cycloolefin and α -olefin, and a graft denatured product obtained by denaturing the above polymers or copolymers with unsaturated carboxylic acid or a derivative thereof. The cycloolefin-based film may be an unstretched or stretched film.

[0024] In the optical film according to the present invention, the cinnamate-based photoreactive polymer having a number average molecular weight of 10,000 to 500,000 is preferably used in the 2) composition for liquid crystal alignment layer.

[0025] The norbornene-based photoreactive polymer comprising a cinnamate group may comprise a unit represented by the following Formula 3.

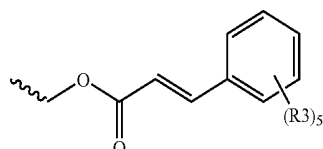
[Formula 3]



[0026] wherein n is 50 to 5,000,

[0027] at least one of R1 and R2 is represented by the following Formula 4, and

[0028] the other is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, a halogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and a group represented by the following Formula 4,

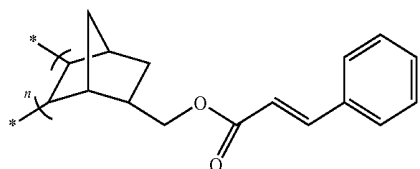


[Formula 4]

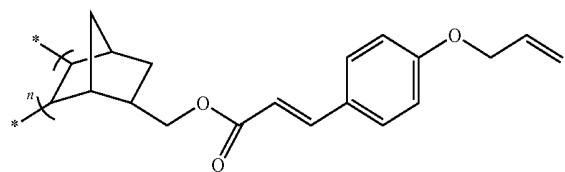
wherein R3 is each independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, a halogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and an allyloxy group.

[0029] Examples of the photoreactive polymer comprising a cinnamate group may include any one or more selected from the group consisting of polynorbornene cinnamate, polynorbornene alkoxy cinnamate (alkoxy group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms), polynorbornene allyloxy cinnamate, polynorbornene fluorinated cinnamate, polynorbornene chlorinated cinnamate, and polynorbornene dicinnamate, but are not limited thereto.

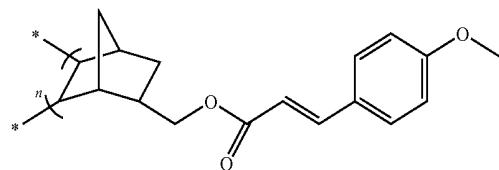
[0030] In the optical film according to the present invention, the photoreactive polymer comprising a cinnamate group is more preferably any one or more of units represented by the following Formulae 5 to 10.



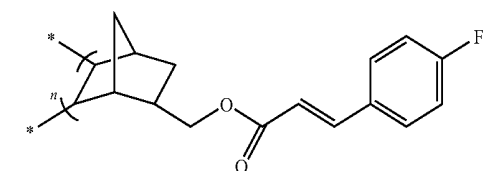
[Formula 5]



[Formula 6]



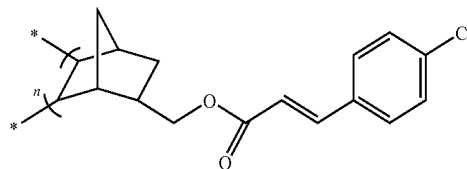
[Formula 7]



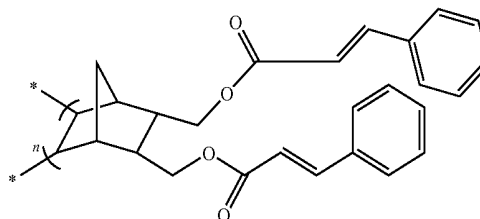
[Formula 8]

-continued

[Formula 9]



[Formula 10]



[0031] wherein n is 50 to 5,000.

[0032] The content of the photoreactive polymer is preferably 0.1 to 20% by weight, and more preferably 0.1 to 10% by weight, based on the total composition for liquid crystal alignment layer. If the content is less than 0.1% by weight, the coating thickness is too thin to obtain a good alignment layer. If the content is more than 20% by weight, the coating thickness is too thick to obtain a good alignment layer.

[0033] In the optical film according to the present invention, the multifunctional monomer in the 2) composition for liquid crystal alignment layer is used together with the photoreactive polymer to induce a crosslinking reaction upon UV irradiation, in addition to dimerization of the photoreactive polymer.

[0034] The crosslinking reaction includes a crosslinking reaction in the photoreactive polymer, a crosslinking reaction between the photoreactive polymer and multifunctional monomer, and a crosslinking reaction between the photoreactive polymer and liquid crystal molecule.

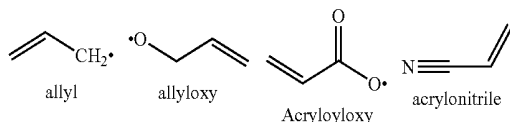
[0035] When the cinnamate group is irradiated by polarized UV, it aligns perpendicular to the polarization direction of irradiated UV. However, a part of the total cinnamate group is only reacted, and the unreacted group still remains. In the present invention, the unreacted cinnamate groups are utilized to improve adhesive strength between the substrate and the liquid crystal alignment layer and between the liquid crystal alignment layer and the liquid crystal film. That is, when the photoinitiator and the multifunctional monomer are added, a crosslinking reaction is induced between the unreacted cinnamate groups or between the cinnamate group and the multifunctional monomer, thereby inducing a crosslinking reaction with liquid crystal molecules applied on the liquid crystal alignment layer.

[0036] Herein, the term "multifunctional" is understood as having 2 or more functional groups.

[0037] The functional group functions to generate crosslinking reaction and polymerization reaction by radicals, and any functional group may be used without limitation, as long as it contains a carbon-carbon double bond. For example, representative example thereof may include an acrylate group, but is not limited thereto.

[0038] It is preferable that the multifunctional monomer contains a functional group (carbon-carbon double bond) that

generates a radical reaction selected from the group consisting of the following Structural Formulae.



[0039] In particular, the multifunctional monomer is preferably one or more selected from the group consisting of a multifunctional acrylate-based monomer and a multifunctional acrylamide-based monomer.

[0040] Examples of the multifunctional acrylate-based monomer may include trimethylolpropane triacrylate, pentaerythritol tri(meth)/tetraacrylate, dipentaerythritol hexa/pentaacrylate, triglycerol di(meth)acrylate, tripropylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, tetraethylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, pentaerythritol di(meth)acrylate, 1,6-hexandiol di(meth)acrylate, glycerol di(meth)acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylate, methoxyethyl (meth)acrylate, N,N-dimethylaminoethyl (methyl)acrylate, butoxytriethylene glycol (meth)acrylate, 2-carboxyethyl acrylate, hydroxypropyl acrylate, mono-2-(acryloyloxy)ethyl succinate, vinyl acrylate, 3-(acryloyloxy)-2-hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylate, glycerol 1,3-diglycerolate diacrylate, tri(propylene glycol) glycerolate diacrylate, allyl (meth)acrylate, but are not limited thereto.

[0041] Examples of the multifunctional acrylamide-based monomer may include diacetone acrylamide, (meth)acrylamide, methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate, N-[tris(hydroxymethyl)methyl]acrylamide, N,N'-(1,2-dihydroxyethylene)bisacrylamide, N,N'-methylenebis(acrylamide), but are not limited thereto.

[0042] In particular, the multifunctional monomer is preferably pentaerythritol triacrylate, but is not limited thereto.

[0043] The content of the multifunctional monomer is preferably 0.1 to 20% by weight, and more preferably 0.1 to 5% by weight, based on the total composition for liquid crystal alignment layer. If the content is less than 0.1% by weight, the additional crosslinking reaction does not occur. If the content is more than 20% by weight, alignment effect cannot be attained.

[0044] In the optical film according to the present invention, any photoinitiator in the 2) composition for liquid crystal alignment layer may be employed, as long as it can induce radical reaction. Specifically, examples of the photoinitiator may include α -hydroxy ketone-based, α -amino ketone-based, and phenyl glyoxylate-based photoinitiators, but are not limited thereto.

[0045] The content of the photoinitiator is preferably 0.01 to 5% by weight, and more preferably 0.01 to 2% by weight, based on the total composition for liquid crystal alignment layer. If the content is less than 0.01% by weight, the additional crosslinking reaction does not occur. If the content is more than 5% by weight, alignment effect is significantly reduced.

[0046] In the optical film according to the present invention, examples of the organic solvent in the 2) composition for liquid crystal alignment layer may include one or more organic solvents selected from the group consisting of ether-based, aromatic-based, halogen-based, olefin-based, and ketone-based organic solvents, more specifically, cyclopentanone, chlorobenzene, N-methylpyrrolidone, toluene, dimethylsulfoxide, dimethylformamide, chloroform, gammabutyrolactone, or tetrahydrofuran, but are not limited thereto.

tanone, chlorobenzene, N-methylpyrrolidone, toluene, dimethylsulfoxide, dimethylformamide, chloroform, gammabutyrolactone, or tetrahydrofuran, but are not limited thereto.

[0047] In the optical film according to the present invention, the 3) liquid crystal film includes the polymeric liquid crystal compound.

[0048] The polymeric liquid crystal compound may be a nematic liquid crystal or cholesteric liquid crystal which is polymerized with the surrounding liquid crystal monomers by lights to form a liquid crystal polymer.

[0049] In general, after the polymeric liquid crystal compound is applied onto an oriented plastic substrate or an alignment layer, which is fixed by applying the alignment layer composition on the plastic substrate, in an isotropic phase, it exhibits a phase transition into nematic or cholesteric liquid crystals by polymerization during drying and curing processes, and thus the liquid crystals are aligned in a specific direction. Therefore, when other layers are laminated thereto, the alignment is not changed.

[0050] In the optical film according to the present invention, one or more substances having an acrylate group being polymerizable by photoreaction is preferably used as the polymeric liquid crystal compound. Examples of the substance having an acrylate group may include a low-molecular weight liquid crystal having a nematic or cholesteric phase at a room or high temperature, such as cyanobiphenyl-based acrylate, cyanophenyl cyclohexane-based acrylate, cyanophenyl ester-based acrylate, phenyl ester benzoate-based acrylate, phenylpyrimidine acrylate and a mixture thereof.

[0051] The optical film according to the present invention may have an optical anisotropy, and may be used as a retardation film or a polarizing plate protective film for liquid crystal display.

[0052] Further, the present invention provides a preparation method of the optical film, comprising the steps of: 1) applying and drying the composition for liquid crystal alignment layer comprising a) one or more photoreactive polymer selected from the group consisting of a norbornene-based photoreactive polymer comprising a cinnamate group, a photoreactive polymer comprising an unit represented by the Formula 1, and a photoreactive polymer comprising an unit represented by the Formula 2, b) a multifunctional monomer crosslinkable with the photoreactive polymer, c) a photoinitiator, and d) an organic solvent on the substrate of cycloolefin-based film to form a coating, and then irradiating UV rays to form a liquid crystal alignment layer, and 2) applying and drying a liquid crystal compound solution comprising a polymeric liquid crystal compound, a photoinitiator, and an organic solvent on the liquid crystal alignment layer, and then irradiating UV rays thereto.

[0053] In step 1) of the preparation method of the optical film according to the present invention, any coating method may be employed, as long as it is typically performed in the art to apply the composition for liquid crystal alignment layer on a substrate of cycloolefin-based film, preferably a method of applying the composition on the substrate of the cycloolefin-based film to a thickness of 800 to 2,000 Å.

[0054] In step 1), after the composition for liquid crystal alignment layer is applied on the substrate of cycloolefin-based film, a drying process may be performed at 25 to 150° C. for at least 30 sec to remove the residual solvent. If the drying temperature is less than 25° C., the substrate is not sufficiently dried, and thus stains may be generated or align-

ment performance may be reduced due to residual solvent. If the drying temperature is more than 150° C., the substrate may be deformed.

[0055] After the drying process is completed, polarized UV rays is irradiated in a predetermined direction for 0.5 sec or longer to provide a desired alignment direction, in which UV-induced dimerization (ring addition) of the photoreactive polymer constituting the liquid crystal alignment layer is generated to primarily induce molecular alignment in a direction (absorption axis) perpendicular to a transmission axis of UV polarizing plate (wire-grid polarizing plate). Therefore, the alignment direction of the alignment layer can be adjusted to a desired angle by adjusting the polarization direction of the UV rays. Thus, it is possible to adjust an optical axis of the polymeric liquid crystal compound to be applied on the liquid crystal alignment layer in any direction to that of the substrate.

[0056] In the preparation method of optical film according to the present invention, the liquid crystal compound solution of step 2) may be prepared by dissolving the polymeric liquid crystal compound and the photoinitiator in an organic solvent. In the liquid crystal compound solution, the content of the polymeric liquid crystal compound is, but not specifically limited to, preferably 5 to 70 parts by weight, and more preferably 5 to 50 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the total liquid crystal compound solution. If the content of the polymeric liquid crystal compound is less than 5 parts by weight, stains may be generated. If the content of the polymeric liquid crystal compound is more than 70 parts by weight, the polymeric liquid crystal compound may be precipitated due to the low content of the solvent.

[0057] In the liquid crystal compound solution, the photoinitiator is contained in a small amount. In the total liquid crystal compound solution, the content of the photoinitiator is preferably 3 to 10 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the polymeric liquid crystal compound. If the content of the photoinitiator is less than 3 parts by weight, it is difficult to achieve a sufficient cure upon UV irradiation. If the content of the photoinitiator is more than 10 parts by weight, the photoinitiator may generate change in the orientation of liquid crystals.

[0058] The liquid crystal compound solution may contain a chiral agent, a surfactant, a polymeric monomer, or a polymer which does not interfere with the orientation of liquid crystals, in addition to the photoinitiator.

[0059] Examples of the organic solvent to be used for the preparation of liquid crystal compound solution may include halogenated hydrocarbons such as chloroform, tetrachloroethane, trichloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, and chlorobenzene; aromatic hydrocarbons such as benzene, toluene, xylene, methoxy benzene, and 1,2-dimethoxybenzene; ketones such as acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, cyclohexanone, and cyclopentanone; alcohols such as isopropyl alcohol and n-butanol; and cellosolves such as methyl cellosolve, ethyl cellosolve, and butyl cellosolve, but are not limited thereto. They may be used alone or in a mixture.

[0060] After applying the liquid crystal compound solution on the alignment layer, a drying process is preferably performed at 25 to 120° C. for at least 1 min. The drying temperature plays an important role in the determination of liquid crystal orientation. If the drying process is not performed within the above range, the liquid crystal orientation may be affected, and stains may be generated.

[0061] After the drying process, the liquid crystal layer that is aligned on the alignment layer is polymerized and cured by UV irradiation, and thus fixed. At this time, the curing process by polymerization is performed in the presence of a photoinitiator that absorbs light in the UV region. The UV irradiation may be performed in an atmospheric environment or in an oxygen-free nitrogen environment to improve the reaction efficiency. Typically, the UV irradiation may be performed using a middle or high pressure mercury UV lamp or a metal halide lamp having an intensity of 80 w/cm or higher. Upon UV irradiation, a cold mirror or other cooling apparatuses may be installed between the substrate and the UV lamp so that a surface temperature of a liquid crystal layer can be within the liquid crystalline temperature upon UV irradiation.

[0062] Further, the present invention provides a liquid crystal display comprising one or more of the optical film.

[0063] The optical film according to the present invention may be used as an optical compensation member for liquid crystal displays. Examples thereof may include a retardation film such as a STN (Super Twist Nematic) type LCD, a TFT-TN (Thin Film Transistor-Twisted Nematic) type LCD, a VA (Vertical Alignment) type LCD, and an IPS (In-Plane Switching) type LCD; a 1/2 wavelength plate; a 1/4 wavelength plate; an inverse wavelength dispersion property film; an optical compensation film; a color filter; a laminate film including a polarizing plate; and a polarizing plate compensation film.

[0064] The liquid crystal display comprising one or more optical films will be described in detail as follows.

[0065] In the liquid crystal display which includes a liquid crystal cell, a first polarizing plate and a second polarizing plate, respectively, provided on both sides of the liquid crystal cell, the optical film may be provided between the liquid crystal cell and the first polarizing plate and/or the second polarizing plate. That is, optical anisotropy film may be provided between the first polarizing plate and the liquid crystal cell, and one or more optical films may be provided between the second polarizing plate and the liquid crystal cell, or between the first polarizing plate and the liquid crystal cell and between the second polarizing plate and the liquid crystal cell.

[0066] The first polarizing plate and the second polarizing plate may include a protective film on a side or both sides thereof. Examples of the inner protective film may include, but are not limited to, a triacetate cellulose (TAC) film, a polynorbornene film which is produced by using ring opening metathesis polymerization (ROMP), a HROMP (ring opening metathesis polymerization followed by hydrogenation) polymer which is produced by using hydrogenation of a ring-opened cyclic olefin polymer, a polyester film, and a polynorbornene film which is produced by using addition polymerization. Additionally, a protective film which is made of a transparent polymer material may be used. However, examples of the protective film are not limited thereto.

[0067] Further, the present invention provides an integrated polarizing plate comprising a polarizing film and one or more optical films according to the present invention as a protective film, provided on one side or both sides of the polarizing film.

[0068] If the optical film according to the present invention is provided as a protective film in the integrated polarizing plate, the polarizing film may be contacted with the substrate or the liquid crystal film of the optical film of the present invention.

[0069] If the optical film according to the present invention is provided on only one side of the polarizing film, a protective film which is known in the related art may be provided on another side thereof.

[0070] Examples of the polarizing film may include a film which contains iodine or dichromatic dyes and is made of polyvinyl alcohol (PVA). The polarizing film may be produced by applying iodine or dichromatic dyes on the PVA film. However, the production method of the polarizing plate is not limited. In the present specification, the polarizing film does not include the protective film, and the polarizing plate includes the polarizing film and the protective film.

[0071] In the integrated polarizing plate of the present invention, the protective film and the polarizing film may be combined with each other by using a method known in the related art.

[0072] For example, the combination of the protective film and the polarizing film may be performed according to an attachment method using an adhesive. That is, the adhesive is applied on the surface of the PVA film that is the protective film of the polarizing film or the polarizing film by using a roll coater, a gravure coater, a bar coater, a knife coater, a capillary coater, or the like. Before the adhesive is completely dried, the protective film and the polarizing film are combined with each other using heat pressing or pressing at normal temperature by means of a combination roll. When a hot melt type adhesive is used, the heat pressing roll is used.

[0073] Examples of the adhesive which is capable of being used to combine the protective film and the polarizing plate include, but are not limited to, a one- or two-liquid type PVA adhesive, a polyurethane adhesive, an epoxy adhesive, a styrene-butadiene rubber (SBR) adhesive, or a hot melt adhesive. If the polyurethane adhesive is used, it is preferable to use the polyurethane adhesive produced by using an aliphatic isocyanate compound which does not cause yellowing due to light. If an one- or two-liquid type dry laminate adhesive or an adhesive having relatively low reactivity in respects to isocyanate and a hydroxy group is used, a solution type adhesive which is diluted with an acetate solvent, a ketone solvent, an ether solvent, or an aromatic solvent may be used. In this connection, it is preferable that the adhesive have low viscosity of 5,000 cps or less. Preferably, the adhesive has excellent storage stability and light transmittance of 90% or more at a wavelength of 400 to 800 nm.

[0074] Any adhesive may be used as long as the adhesive has desirable adhesion strength. It is preferable that the adhesive is sufficiently cured by heat or ultraviolet rays after the combination so that mechanical strength required in the adhesive is ensured, and interfacial adhesion strength is large so that stripping does not occur as long as any one of both sides of the film to which the adhesive is attached is not destroyed.

[0075] Specific examples of the adhesive may include natural rubber, synthetic rubber, or elastomer having excellent optical transparency, a vinyl chloride/vinyl acetate copolymer, polyvinyl alkyl ether, polyacrylate, denatured polyolefin adhesive, and a curable adhesive containing a curing agent such as isocyanate.

[0076] Further, the present invention provides a liquid crystal display comprising the integrated polarizing plate.

[0077] If the liquid crystal display according to the present invention is included in the above described integrated polarizing plate, one or more of the optical film according to the

present invention may be additionally provided between the polarizing plate and the liquid crystal cell.

MODE FOR THE INVENTION

[0078] Hereinafter, the preferred Examples are provided for better understanding. However, these Examples are for illustrative purposes only, and the invention is not intended to be limited by these Examples.

EXAMPLE

Example 1

[0079] As listed in the following Table 1, 5-norbornene-2-methyl-(4-methoxy cinnamate) as a photoreactive polymer, pentaerythritol triacrylate as a multifunctional monomer, and Irgacure 907 (Swiss, Ciba-Geigy) as a photoinitiator were dissolved in cyclopentanone at a concentration of 2% by weight, 2% by weight, and 0.5% by weight, respectively. The composition solution for liquid crystal alignment layer that were prepared according to the above composition was applied on a cycloolefin-based film (Japan, SEKISUI, KANEKA) to a dry thickness of 1,000 Å, and dried with hot wind for 2 minutes in a 70° C. dry oven to form a liquid crystal alignment layer.

[0080] The liquid crystal alignment layer was cured once by polarized UV perpendicular to substrate direction at a rate of 3 m/min using an 80 w/cm high-pressure mercury lamp and a wire-grid polarizing plate (Moxtek) to provide alignment property.

[0081] The mixed solid of 95% by weight of the polymeric liquid crystal compound (Merck) having a splay alignment, which consists of cyanobiphenyl-based acrylate, cyanophenyl cyclohexane-based acrylate, and cyanophenyl ester-based acrylate, and 5% by weight of Irgacure 907 (Swiss, Ciba-Geigy) as a photoinitiator was dissolved in toluene at a solid concentration of 25 parts by weight, based on solution 100 parts by weight of the total solution to prepare a polymeric liquid crystal compound solution. The polymeric liquid crystal compound solution was applied on the liquid crystal alignment layer to a dry thickness of 1 micron, and dried with hot wind for 2 minutes in a 60° C. dry oven, and cured by non-polarized UV irradiation using an 80 w/cm high-pressure mercury lamp to produce a liquid crystal film.

[0082] As a result, it is possible to finally prepare an optical film laminate including a cycloolefin-based film, a liquid crystal alignment layer formed on the cycloolefin-based film, and a liquid crystal film formed on the liquid crystal alignment layer, all of which are laminated in sequence.

[0083] Adhesive forces between layers, that is, between the cycloolefin-based stretched film and the liquid crystal alignment layer, and between the liquid crystal alignment layer and the liquid crystal film, were evaluated according to the ASTM standard (a cross-cut testing method), and phase difference was measured using an Axoscan (manufactured by Axomatrix) so as to evaluate optical properties of the liquid crystal film formed on the liquid crystal alignment layer.

TABLE 1

Item			Weight (g)	Weight ratio (%)
Alignment layer composition solution	Solvent	Cyclopentanone	980	95.6
	Alignment layer	5-norbornene-2-methyl-(4- methoxy cinnamate)	20	1.95
	composition	Pentaerythritol triacrylate	20	1.95
		Irgacure 907	5	0.5

Example 2

[0084] A liquid crystal film was produced in the same manners as in Example 1, except using a polymeric liquid crystal compound (Merck) having homeotropic alignment, which consists of cyanobiphenyl-based acrylate, cyanophenyl cyclohexane-based acrylate, and cyanophenyl ester-based acrylate, instead of the polymeric liquid crystal compound having a splay alignment, which consists of cyanobiphenyl-based acrylate, cyanophenyl cyclohexane-based acrylate, and cyanophenyl ester-based acrylate.

Example 3

[0085] A liquid crystal film was produced in the same manners as in Example 1, except using a polymeric liquid crystal compound (Merck) having cholesteric alignment, which consists of cyanobiphenyl-based acrylate, cyanophenyl cyclohexane-based acrylate, cyanophenyl ester-based acrylate, benzoic acid phenyl ester-based acrylate, and phenyl pyrimidine-based acrylate, instead of the polymeric liquid crystal compound having a splay alignment, which consists of cyanobiphenyl-based acrylate, cyanophenyl cyclohexane-based acrylate and cyanophenyl ester-based acrylate.

Example 4

[0086] A liquid crystal film was produced in the same manners as in Example 1, except using 5-norbornene-2-methyl-

(4-fluoro cinnamate) instead of 5-norbornene-2-methyl-(4-methoxy cinnamate) as a photoreactive polymer.

Example 5

[0087] A liquid crystal film was produced in the same manners as in Example 1, except using 5-norbornene-2-methyl-(4-allyloxy cinnamate) (compound represented the Formula 6) instead of 5-norbornene-2-methyl-(4-methoxy cinnamate) as a photoreactive polymer.

Example 6

[0088] A liquid crystal film was produced in the same manners as in Example 1, except using 5-norbornene-2-methyl-cinnamate (compound represented the Formula 5) instead of 5-norbornene-2-methyl-(4-methoxy cinnamate) as a photoreactive polymer.

Comparative Example 1

[0089] A liquid crystal film was produced in the same manners as in Example 1, except using a composition for liquid crystal alignment layer which consists of only 5-norbornene-2-methyl-(4-methoxy cinnamate) without a multifunctional monomer and a photoinitiator, as shown in the following Table 2.

TABLE 2

Item			Weight (g)	Weight ratio (%)
Alignment layer composition solution	Solvent	Cyclopentanone	980	98
	Alignment layer	5-norbornene-2-methyl-(4- methoxy cinnamate)	20	2
	composition	Pentaerythritol triacrylate	0	0
		Irgacure 907	0	0

Comparative Example 2

[0090] A liquid crystal film was produced in the same manners as in Example 1, except using a composition for liquid crystal alignment layer which consists of 5-norbornene-2-methoxy-hexyl acrylate instead of 5-norbornene-2-methyl-(4-methoxy cinnamate), as shown in the following Table 3.

TABLE 3

Item			Weight (g)	Weight ratio (%)
Alignment layer	Solvent	Cyclopentanone	980	95.6
	Alignment	5-norbornene-2-methoxy-	20	1.95

TABLE 3-continued

Item			Weight (g)	Weight ratio (%)
composition	layer	hexyl acrylate		
solution	composition	Pentaerythritol triacrylate	20	1.95
		Irgacure 907	5	0.5

[0091] <Phase Difference of Splay Alignment>

[0092] FIG. 1 shows phase difference distribution determined according to the viewing angles of the splay alignment liquid crystal film formed on the alignment layer prepared according to Example 1. As shown in FIG. 1, it was revealed that the phase difference of the splay alignment liquid crystal film is distributed uniformly according to the viewing angles.

[0093] <Phase Difference of Homeotropic Alignment>

[0094] FIG. 2 shows phase difference distribution determined according to the viewing angles of the homeotropic alignment liquid crystal film formed on the alignment layer prepared according to Example 2. As shown in FIG. 2, it was revealed that the phase difference of the homeotropic alignment liquid crystal film is distributed uniformly according to the viewing angles.

[0095] <Transmittance of Cholesteric Alignment>

[0096] FIG. 3 shows transmittance of cholesteric alignment liquid crystal film formed on the alignment layer prepared according to Example 3. As shown in FIG. 3, it was revealed that cholesteric liquid crystals were aligned according to each wavelength.

[0097] <Alignment Properties and Adhesiveness>

[0098] The liquid crystal films prepared in Examples 1 to 6 and Comparative examples 1 to 2 were evaluated for alignment properties, adhesiveness between the substrate and the alignment layer, and adhesiveness between the alignment layer and the liquid crystal, and the results were listed in the following Table 4. The evaluation of the alignment properties was dividedly carried out: when there is no alignment at all (X); when there is alignment with a slight deviation (Δ); and when there is alignment without deviation (\circ). The adhesiveness was determined by cross-cutting a surface of the liquid crystal film with a line style such as checkers at a distance of 1 mm according to the ASTM standard, and determining whether the liquid crystal film remains attached to the substrate when a cellophane tape is attached to the liquid crystal film and then detached from the liquid crystal film. Here, Level (\circ) represents that the liquid crystal film is intactly attached to the substrate, Level (X) represents that the liquid crystal film is partially or completely detached from the checkers of the substrate.

TABLE 4

			Adhesiveness		
Section	Alignment property	Substrate/Alignment layer	Alignment layer/Liquid crystal film		
Example	Example 1	\circ	\circ	\circ	
	Example 2	\circ	\circ	\circ	
	Example 3	\circ	\circ	\circ	
	Example 4	\circ	\circ	\circ	
	Example 5	Δ	\circ	\circ	
	Example 6	Δ	\circ	\circ	

TABLE 4-continued

		Adhesiveness		
Section	Alignment property	Substrate/Alignment layer	Alignment layer/Liquid crystal film	
Comparative Example	Comparative Example 1	\circ	X	\circ
	Comparative Example 2	X	X	X

[0099] <Thermal Stability of Alignment Layer>

[0100] The photoalignment layers prepared in Examples 1 and 6, and Comparative Examples 1 and 2 were left in a 100° C. dry oven for 48 hrs or longer. The polymeric liquid crystal compound was applied on the alignment layer, and alignment property and adhesiveness were examined to confirm the thermal stability of the alignment layers. The results are shown in the following Table 5. The evaluation of the alignment properties was dividedly carried out: when there is no alignment at all (X); when there is alignment with a slight deviation (Δ); and when there is alignment without deviation (\circ). The adhesiveness was determined by cross-cutting a surface of the liquid crystal film with a line style such as checkers at a distance of 1 mm according to the ASTM standard, and determining whether the liquid crystal film remains attached to the substrate when a cellophane tape is attached to the liquid crystal film and then detached from the liquid crystal film. Here, Level (\circ) represents that the liquid crystal film is intactly attached to the substrate, Level (X) represents that the liquid crystal film is partially or completely detached from the checkers of the substrate.

TABLE 5

		Adhesiveness		
Section	Alignment property	Substrate/Alignment layer	Alignment layer/Liquid crystal film	
Example	Example 1	\circ	\circ	\circ
	Example 2	\circ	\circ	\circ
	Example 3	\circ	\circ	\circ
	Example 4	\circ	\circ	\circ
	Example 5	Δ	\circ	\circ
	Example 6	Δ	\circ	\circ
Comparative Example	Comparative Example 1	\circ	X	\circ
	Comparative Example 2	X	X	X

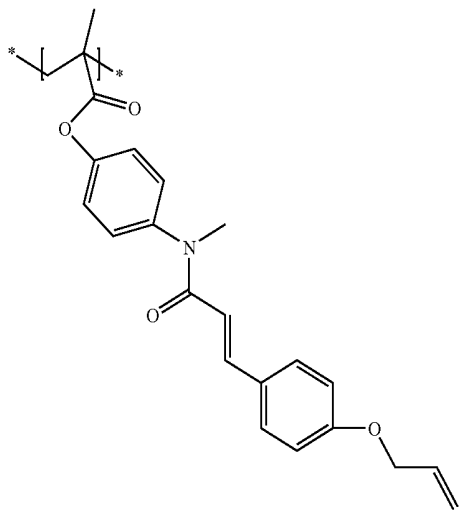
[0101] Taken together, when a liquid crystal alignment layer is prepared using the composition for liquid crystal alignment layer according to the present invention, thermal stability and surface hardness of the liquid crystal alignment layer were improved, and adhesive strength between the substrate and the liquid crystal alignment layer and between the

liquid crystal alignment layer and the liquid crystal film was improved, so that durability of the optical film was improved. Accordingly, under the conditions of high temperature and high humidity, the liquid crystal film was not shrunken, or not separated from the liquid crystal alignment layer.

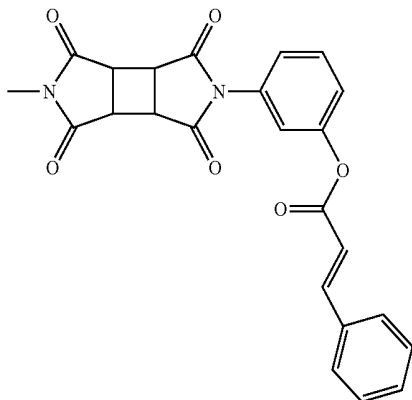
1. An optical film, comprising

- 1) a substrate of cycloolefin-based film,
- 2) a liquid crystal alignment layer that is formed on the substrate by using a composition for liquid crystal alignment layer comprising a) one or more photoreactive polymer selected from the group consisting of a norbornene-based photoreactive polymer comprising a cinnamate group, a photoreactive polymer comprising a unit represented by the following Formula 1, and a photoreactive polymer comprising a unit represented by the following Formula 2, b) a multifunctional monomer crosslinkable with the photoreactive polymer, c) a photoinitiator, and d) an organic solvent, and
- 3) a liquid crystal film formed on the liquid crystal alignment layer:

[Formula 1]



[Formula 2]

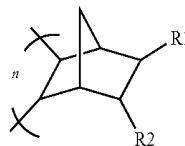


2. The optical film according to claim 1, wherein the a) photoreactive polymer has a number average molecular weight of 10,000 to 500,000.

3. The optical film according to claim 1, wherein the norbornene-based photoreactive polymer comprising a cin-

namate group comprises a unit represented the following Formula 3:

[Formula 3]

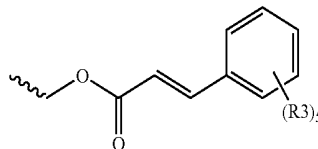


wherein n is 50 to 5,000,

at least one of R1 and R2 is represented by the following Formula 4, and

the other is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, a halogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and a group represented by the following Formula 4,

[Formula 4]

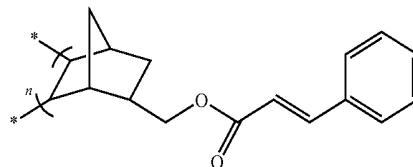


wherein R3 is each independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen, a halogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and an allyloxy group.

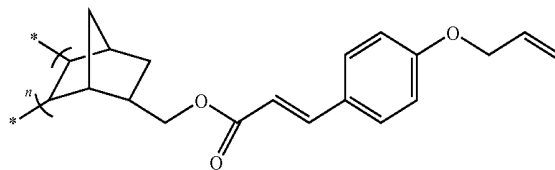
4. The optical film according to claim 1, wherein the norbornene-based photoreactive polymer comprising a cinnamate group comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of polynorbornene cinnamate, polynorbornene alkoxy cinnamate (alkoxy group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms), polynorbornene allyloxy cinnamate, polynorbornene fluorinated cinnamate, polynorbornene chlorinated cinnamate, and polynorbornene dicinnamate.

5. The optical film according to claim 1, wherein the norbornene-based photoreactive polymer comprising a cinnamate group comprises one or more selected from the units represented by the following Formulae 5 to 10:

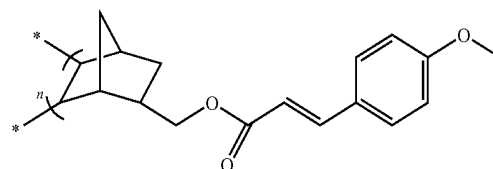
[Formula 5]



[Formula 6]

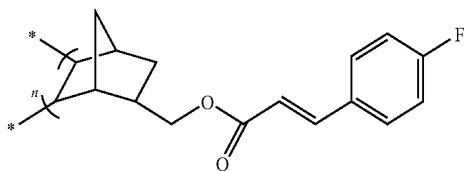


[Formula 7]

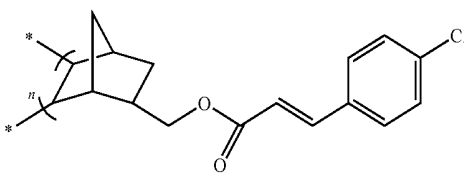


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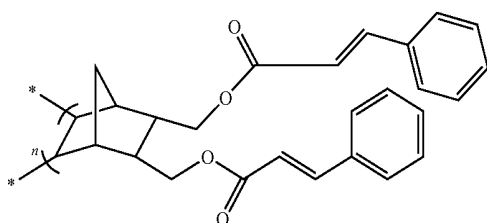
[Formula 8]



[Formula 9]



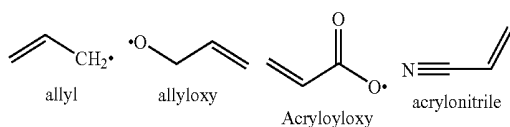
[Formula 10]



wherein n is 50 to 5,000.

6. The optical film according to claim 1, wherein the content of the a) photoreactive polymer is 0.1 to 20% by weight, based on the total composition for liquid crystal alignment layer.

7. The optical film according to claim 1, wherein the b) multifunctional monomer comprises a functional group that generates a radical reaction selected from the group consisting of the following Structural Formulae:



8. The optical film according to claim 1, wherein the b) multifunctional monomer comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of a multifunctional acrylate-based monomer and a multifunctional acrylamide-based monomer.

9. The optical film according to claim 8, wherein the multifunctional acrylate-based monomer comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of trimethylolpropane triacrylate, pentaerythritol tri(meth)/tetraacrylate, dipentaerythritol hexa/pentaacrylate, triglycerol di(meth)acrylate, tripropylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, tetraethylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, pentaerythritol di(meth)acrylate, 1,6-hexandiol di(meth)acrylate, glycerol di(meth)acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylate, methoxyethyl (meth)acrylate, N,N-dimethylaminoethyl (methyl)acrylate, butoxytriethylene glycol (meth)acrylate, 2-carboxyethyl acrylate, hydroxypropyl acrylate, mono-2-(acryloyloxy)ethyl succinate, vinyl acrylate, 3-(acryloyloxy)-2-hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylate, glycerol 1,3-diglycerolate diacrylate, tri(propylene glycol) glycerolate diacrylate, and allyl (meth)acrylate.

10. The optical film according to claim 8, wherein the multifunctional acrylamide-based monomer comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of diacetone acrylamide, (meth)acrylamide, methyl 2-acetamidoacrylate, N-[tris(hydroxymethyl)methyl]acrylamide, N,N'-(1,2-dihydroxyethylene)bisacrylamide, and N,N'-methylenebis(acrylamide).

11. The optical film according to claim 1, wherein the content of the b) multifunctional monomer is 0.1 to 20% by weight, based on the total composition for liquid crystal alignment layer.

12. The optical film according to claim 1, wherein the content of the c) photoinitiator is 0.01 to 5% by weight, based on the total composition for liquid crystal alignment layer.

13. (canceled)

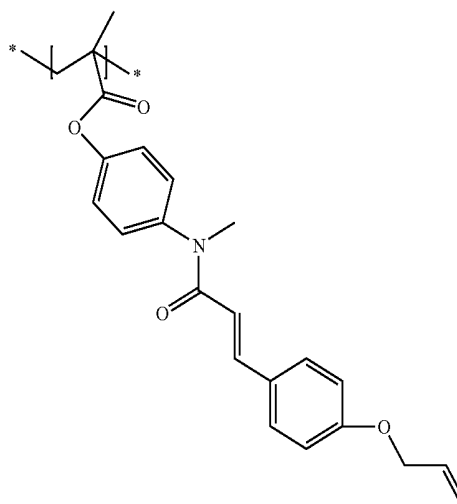
14. The optical film according to claim 1, wherein the 3) liquid crystal film comprises the polymeric liquid crystal compound of a nematic liquid crystal or cholesteric liquid crystal.

15. The optical film according to claim 1, wherein the 3) liquid crystal film comprises the polymeric liquid crystal compound selected from the group consisting cyanobiphenyl-based acrylate, cyanophenyl cyclohexane-based acrylate, cyanophenyl ester-based acrylate, phenyl ester benzoate-based acrylate, phenylpyrimidine acrylate, and a mixture thereof.

16. A preparation method of optical film, comprising the steps of:

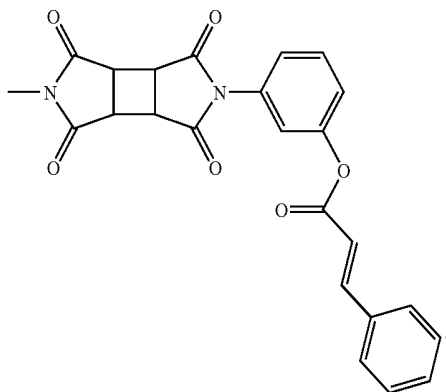
- 1) applying and drying the composition for liquid crystal alignment layer comprising a) one or more photoreactive polymer selected from the group consisting of a norbornene-based photoreactive polymer comprising a cinnamate group, a photoreactive polymer comprising an unit represented by the Formula 1, and a photoreactive polymer comprising an unit represented by the Formula 2, b) a multifunctional monomer crosslinkable with the photoreactive polymer, c) a photoinitiator, and d) an organic solvent on the substrate of cycloolefin-based film to form a coating, and then irradiating UV rays to form a liquid crystal alignment layer, and
- 2) applying and drying a liquid crystal compound solution comprising a polymeric liquid crystal compound, a photoinitiator, and an organic solvent on the liquid crystal alignment layer, and then irradiating UV rays thereto:

[Formula 1]



-continued

[Formula 2]



17. (canceled)

18. The preparation method according to claim 16, wherein the content of the polymeric liquid crystal compound in step 2) is 5 to 70 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the total liquid crystal compound solution.

19. The preparation method according to claim 16, wherein the content of the photoinitiator in step 2) is 3 to 10 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the polymeric liquid crystal compound in the total liquid crystal compound solution.

20. (canceled)

21. A liquid crystal display comprising one or more optical films according to claim 1.

22. An integrated polarizing plate, comprising a polarizing film; and one or more optical films of claim 1 on one side or both sides of the polarizing film as a protective film.

23. A liquid crystal display comprising the integrated polarizing plate of claim 22.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	光学膜，其制备方法以及包含该光学膜的液晶显示器		
公开(公告)号	US20100296032A1	公开(公告)日	2010-11-25
申请号	US12/863347	申请日	2009-01-19
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	约翰逊马西有限公司		
申请(专利权)人(译)	庄信万丰公共有限公司		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	LG化学有限公司.		
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IPC分类号	G02F1/1335 G02F1/1337 B32B27/32 C08J7/04		
CPC分类号	B32B27/08 B32B2457/202 C08J2365/00 G02F1/13363 G02F2001/133633 G02F2001/133635 G02F2001/133638 C08J2485/04 B32B7/12 B32B27/306 B32B2307/308 B32B2307/40 B32B2307/42 B32B2307/554 B32B2307/734 C08J7/04 Y10T428/31576		
优先权	1020080005837 2008-01-18 KR		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

本发明涉及用于液晶取向层的组合物，使用其的液晶取向层的制备方法，以及包含该液晶取向层的光学膜。更具体地，根据本发明的用于液晶取向层的组合物包括可交联的官能单体以及光反应性聚合物，从而改善通过使用用于液晶取向层的组合物制备的液晶取向层的热稳定性和耐久性。另外，当使用液晶取向层制造光学膜时，可以提高基板与液晶取向层之间以及液晶取向层与液晶膜之间的粘合强度。

