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(54) **WIRE GRID POLARIZER AND METHOD FOR FABRICATING THEREOF, LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY PANEL AND LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE HAVING THE SAME**

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(75) Inventor: **Shinill KANG**, Seoul (KR)

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(73) Assignee: **INDUSTRY-ACADEMIC COOPERATION FOUNDATION YONSEI UNIVERSITY**, Seoul (KR)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A wire grid polarizer capable of improving light efficiency by applying a nano-wire grid pattern optimized to a LCD panel, a method of manufacturing thereof, and a liquid crystal display panel and a liquid crystal display device provided with the wire grid polarizer are provided. The wire grid polarizer of the present invention has a plurality of areas, and a shape of a wire grid pattern of an area among the plurality of areas is different from those of the other areas.

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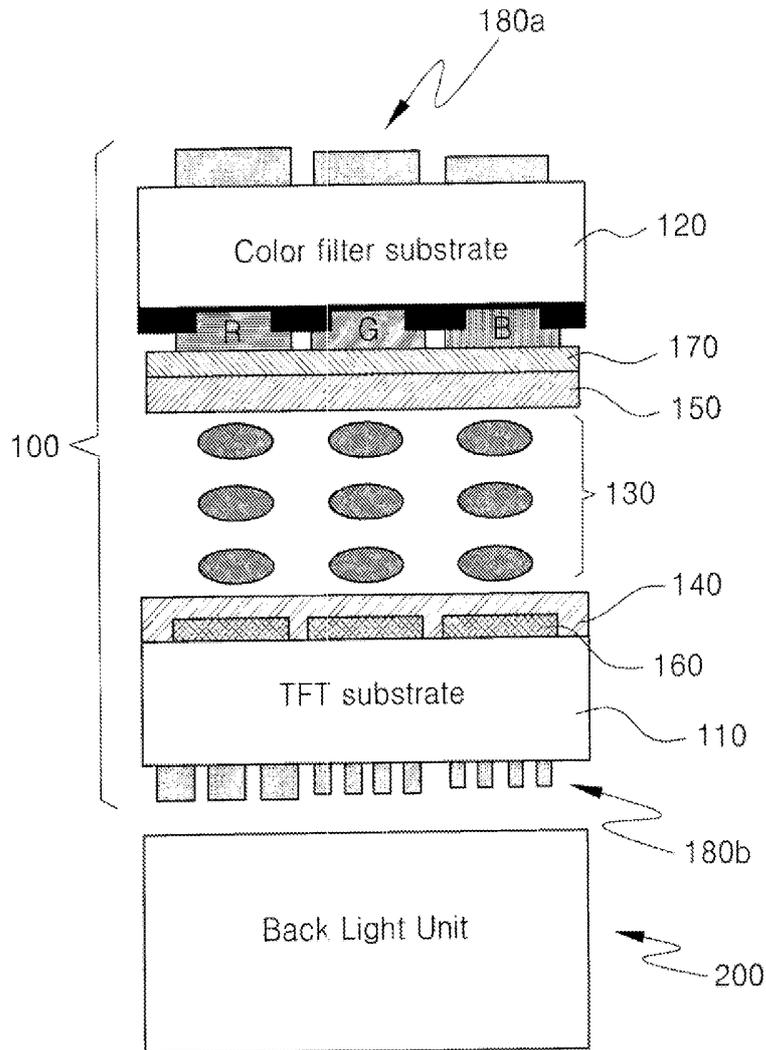


FIG. 1

RELATED ART

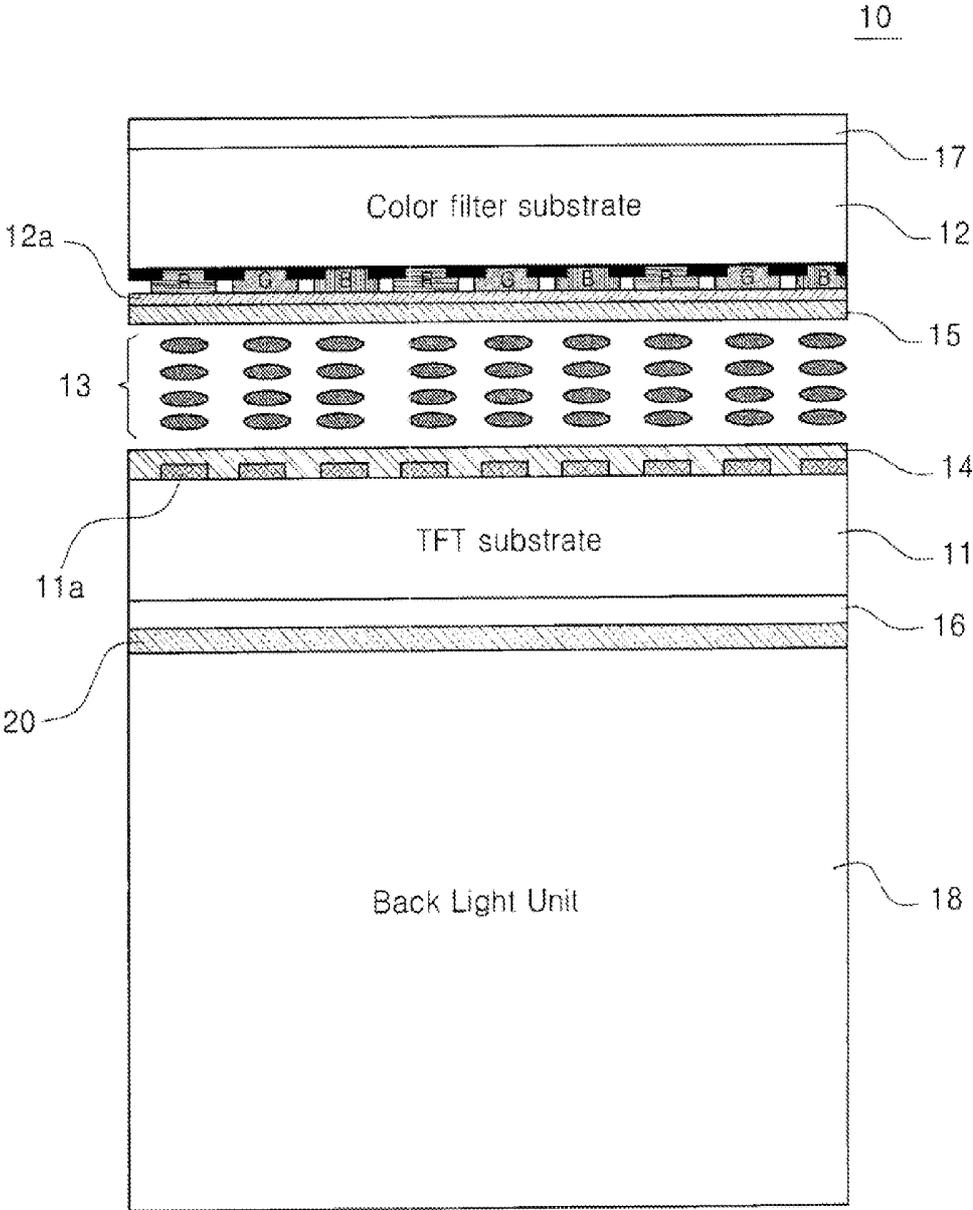


FIG. 2

RELATED ART

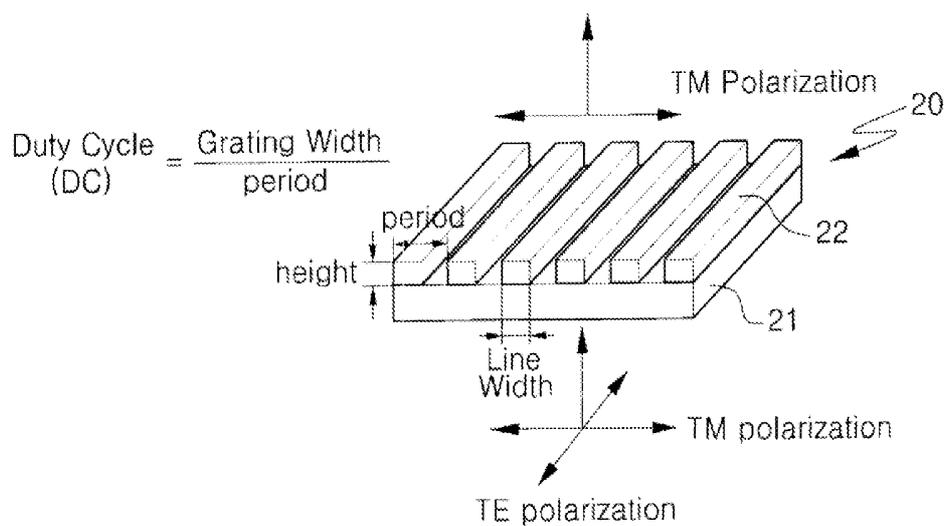


FIG. 3

RELATED ART

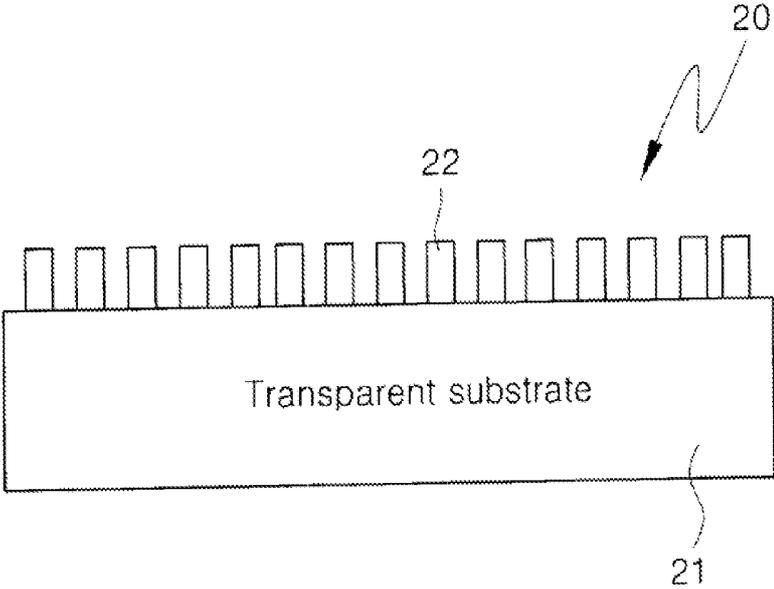


FIG. 4

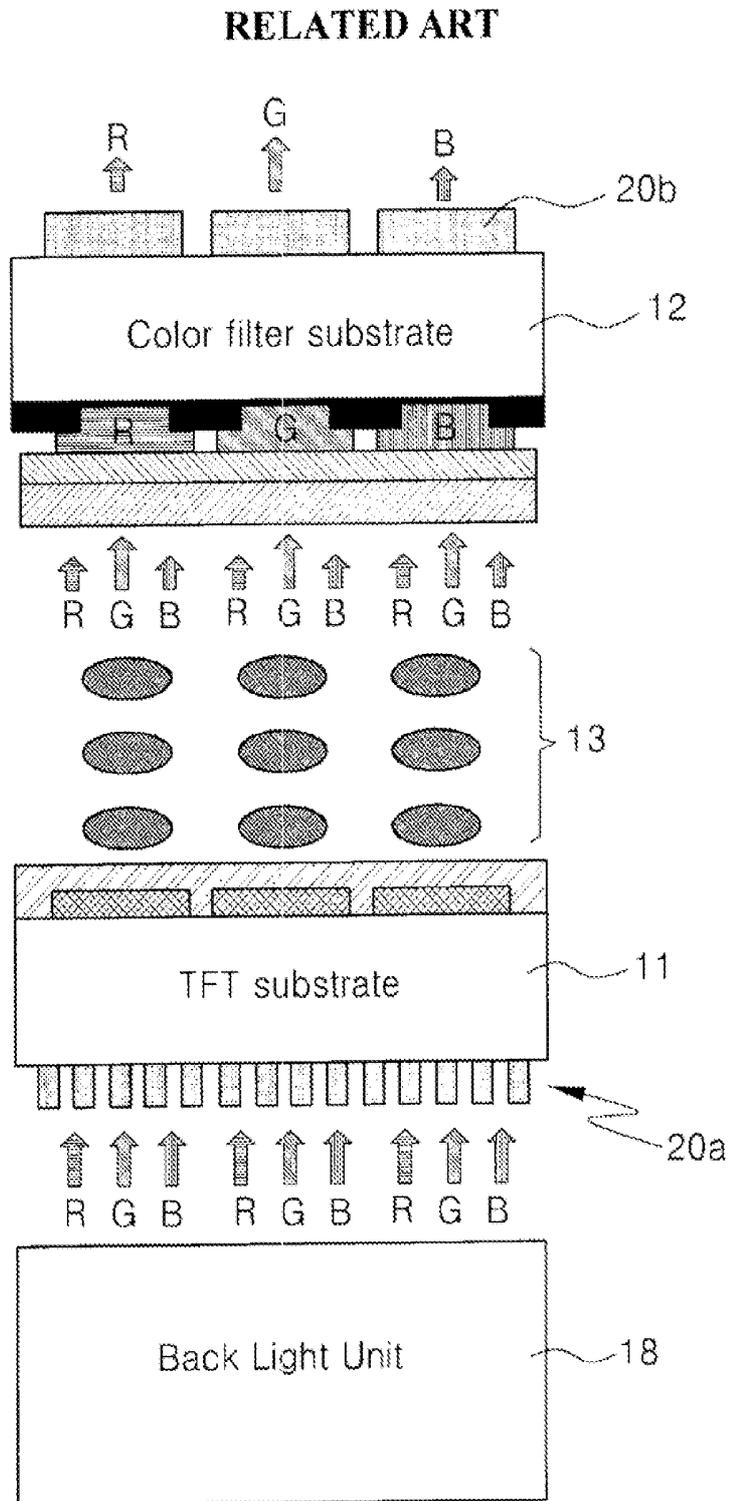


FIG. 5

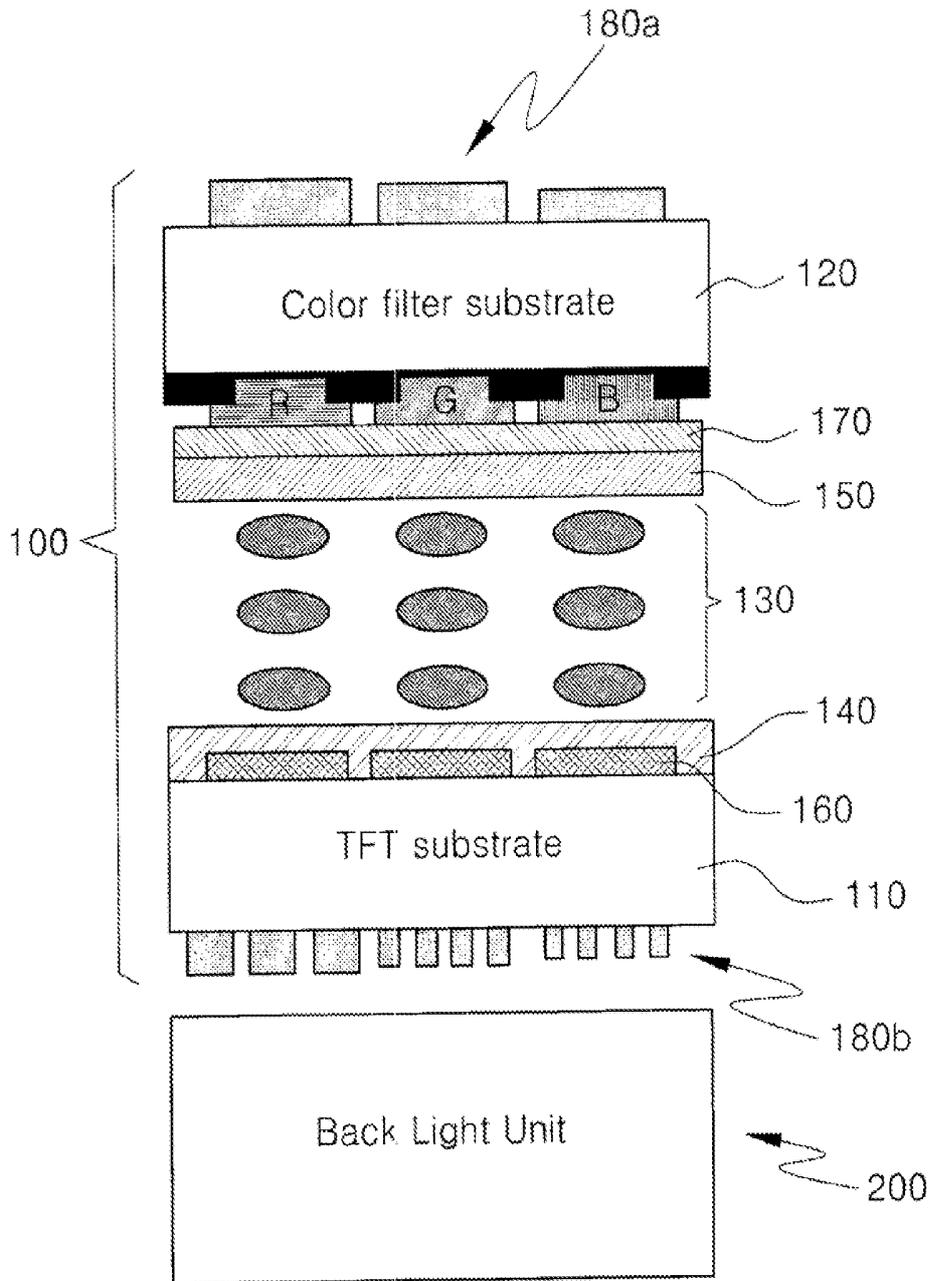


FIG. 6

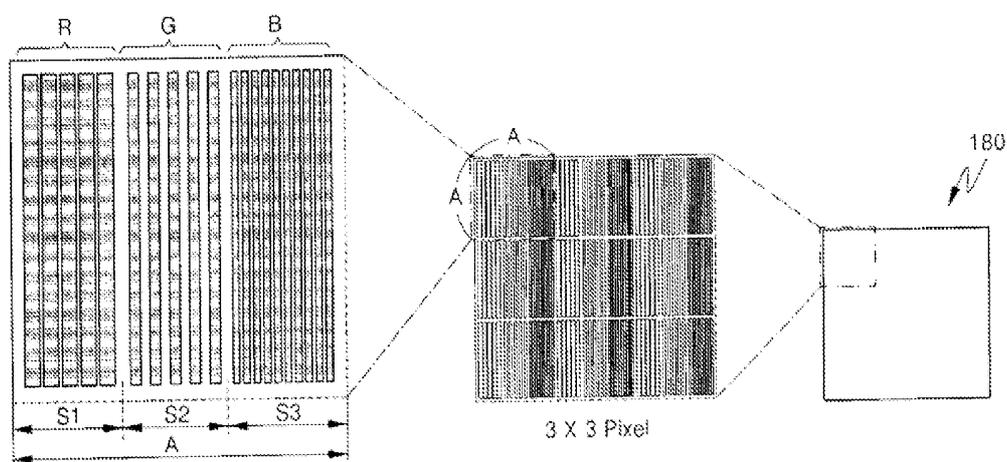


FIG. 7

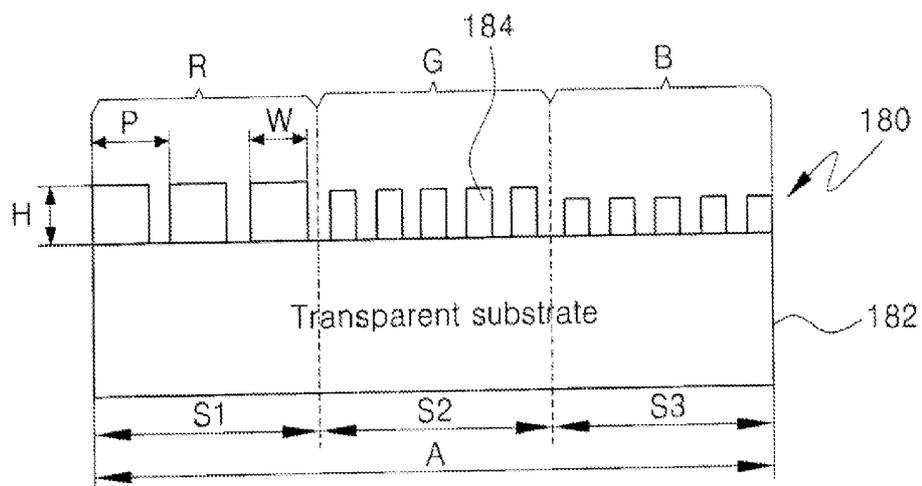


FIG. 8

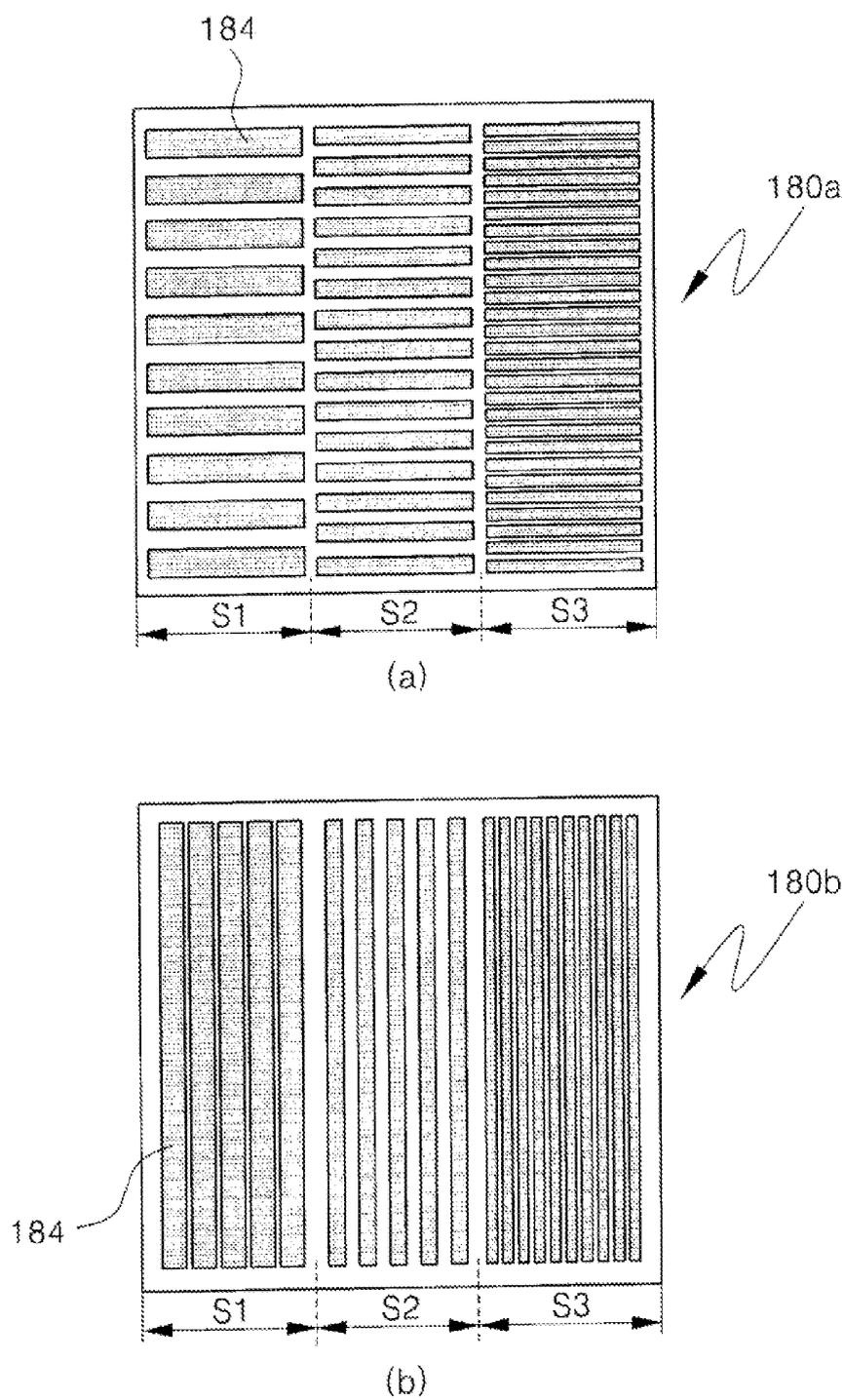


FIG. 9

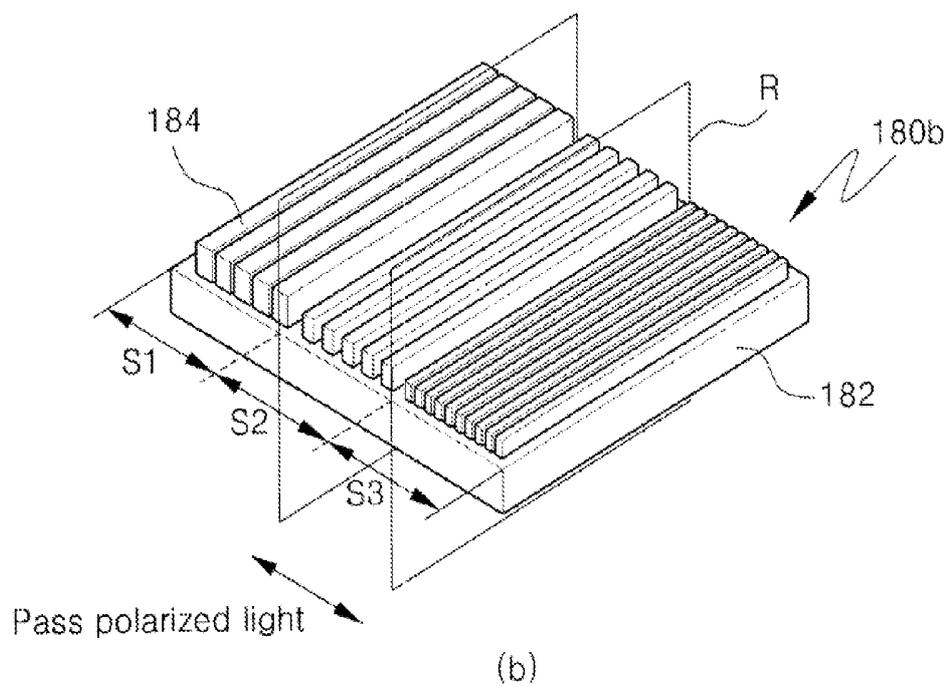
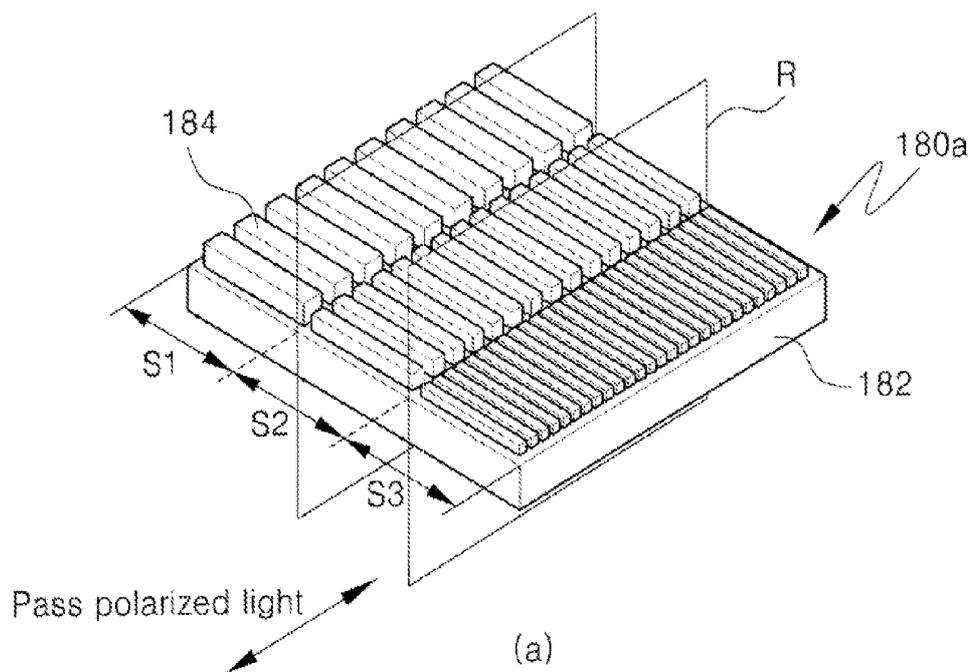


FIG. 10

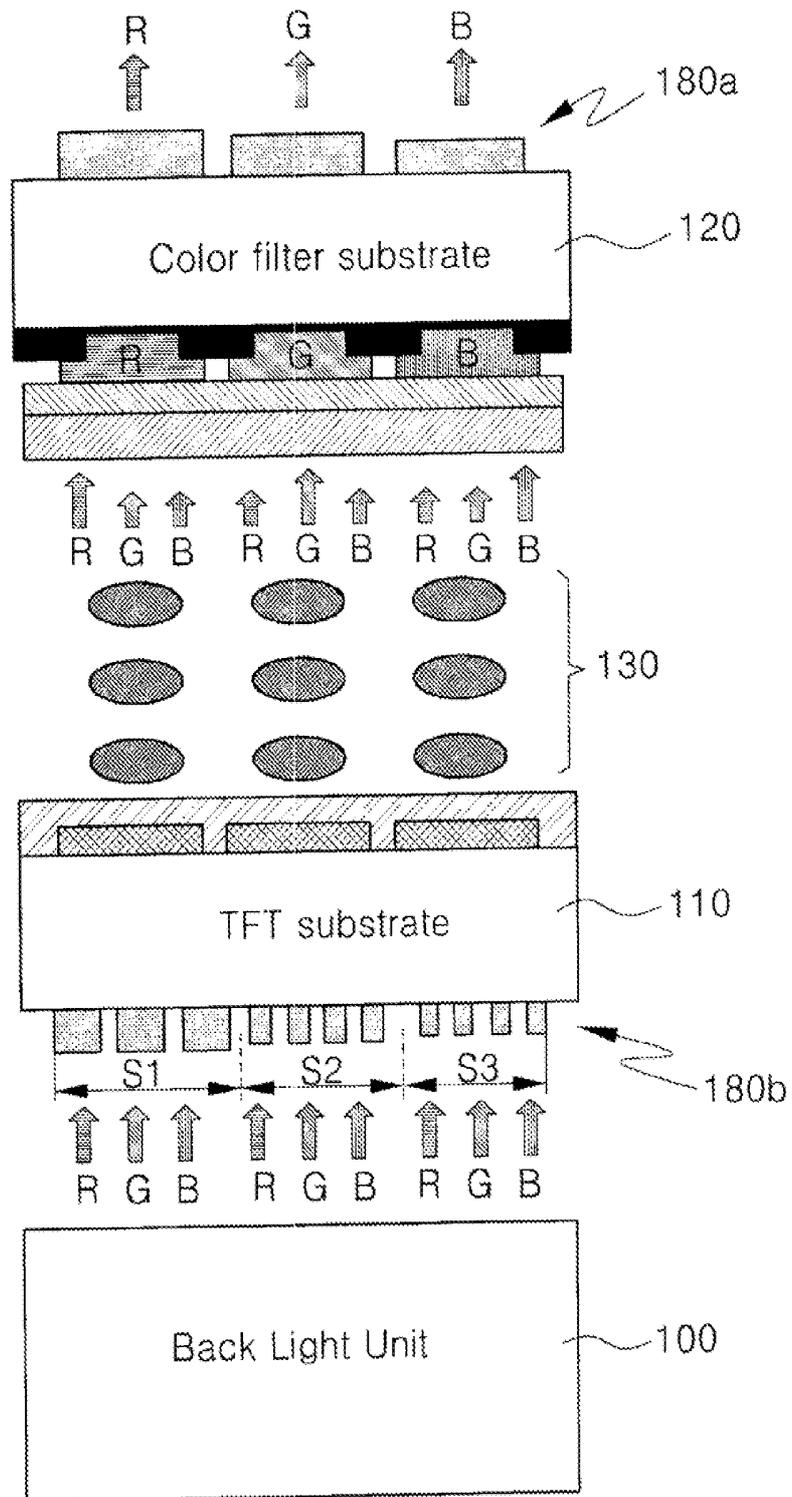


FIG. 11

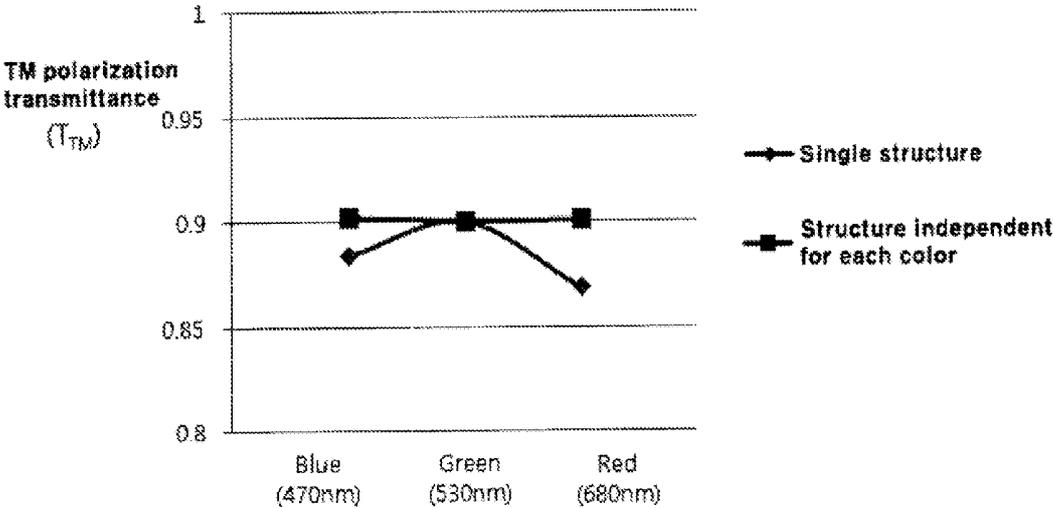


FIG. 12

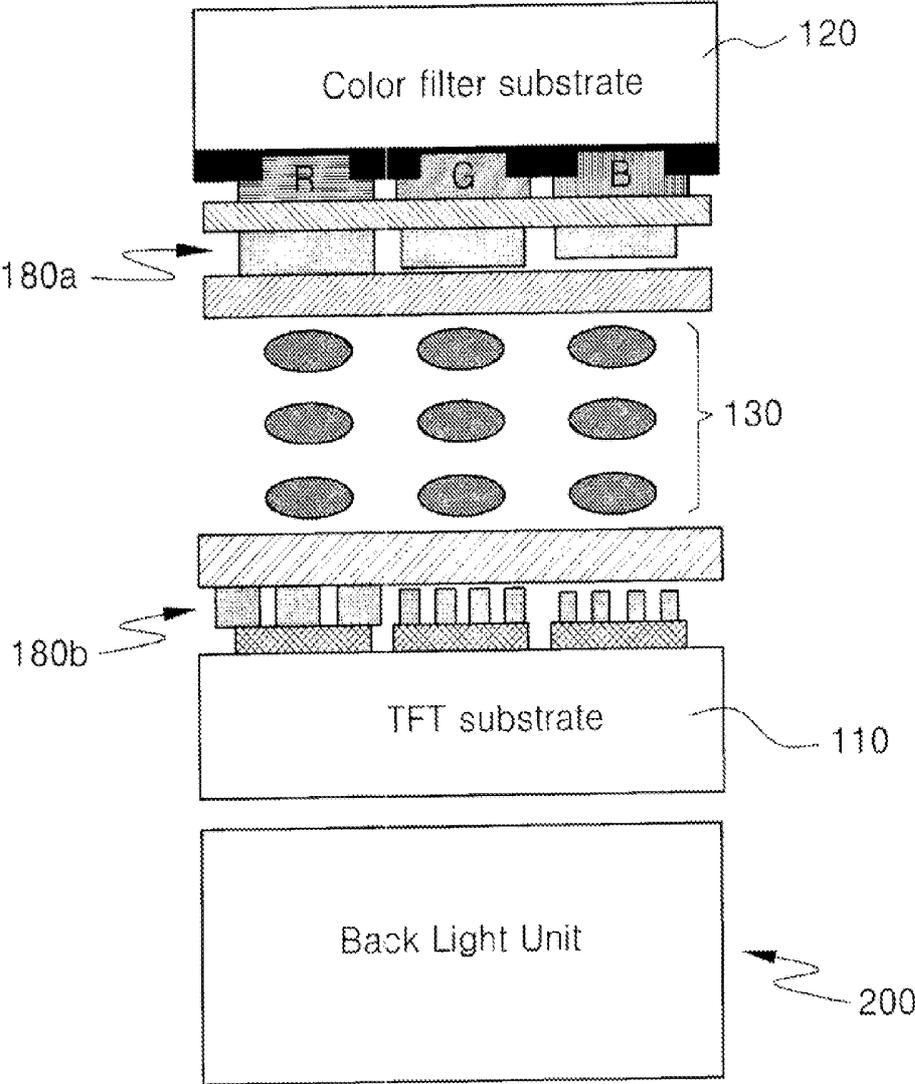


FIG. 13

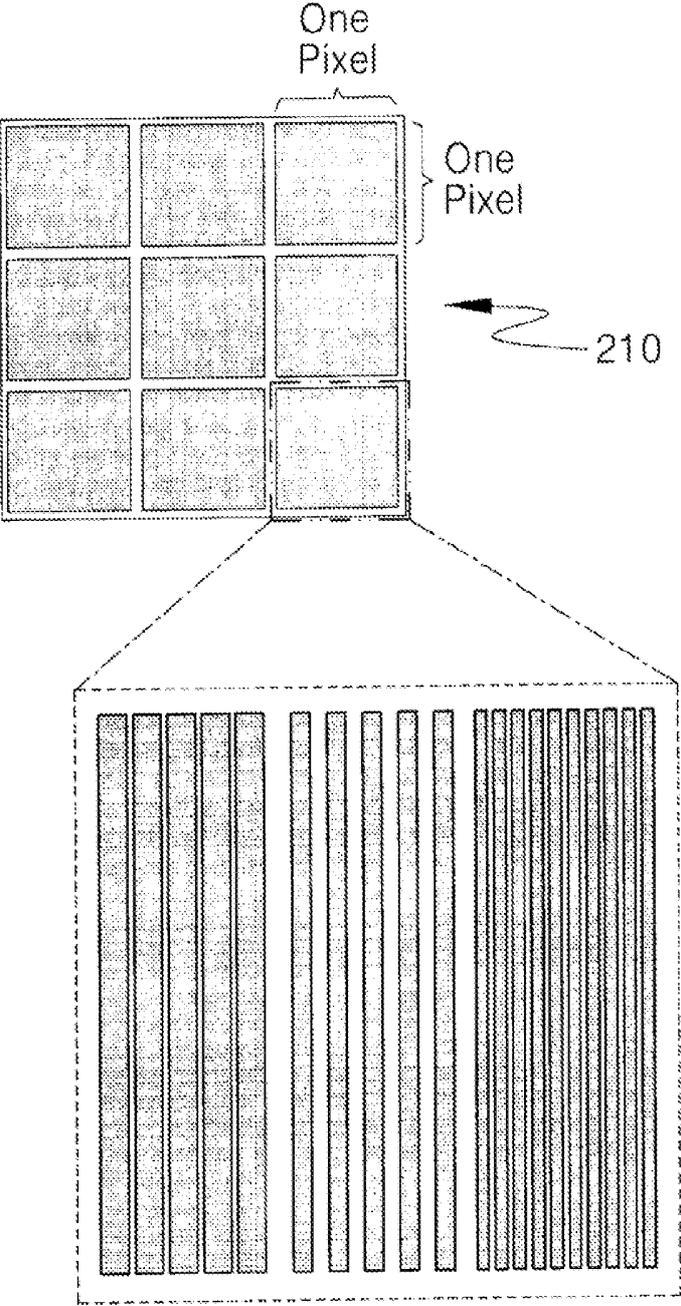


FIG. 14

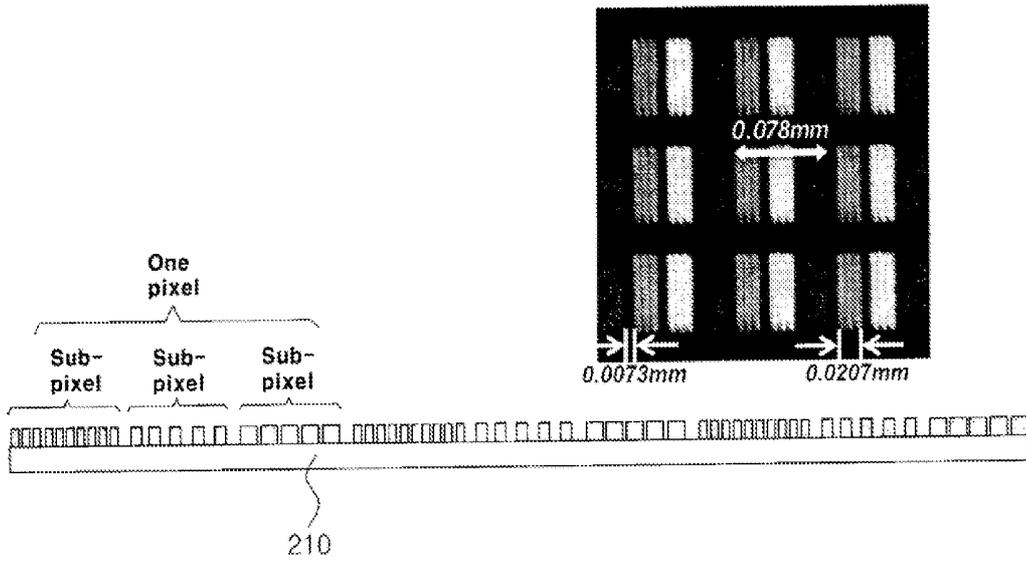


FIG. 15

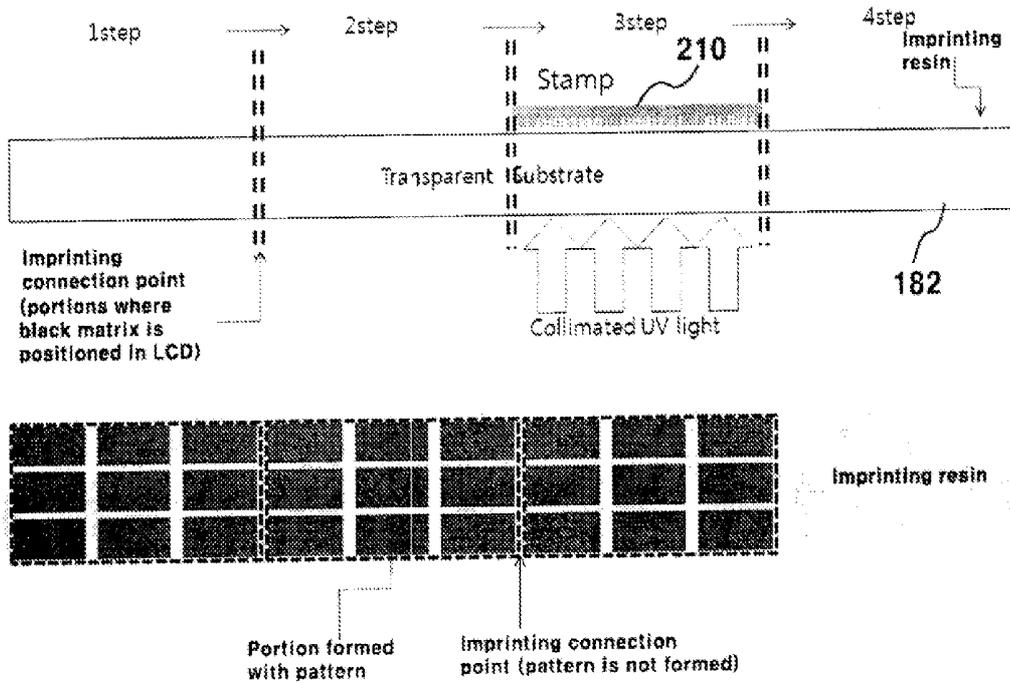


FIG. 16

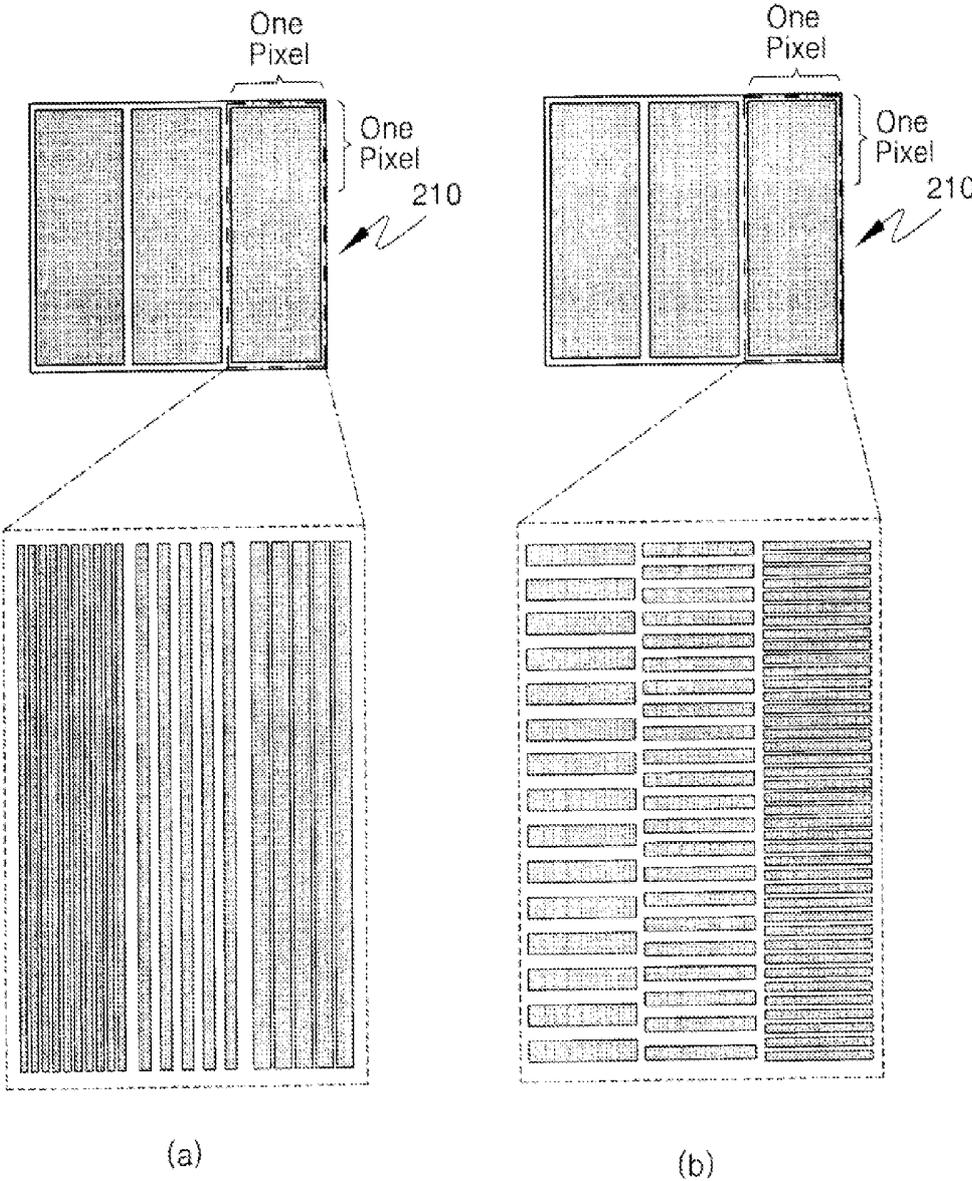


FIG. 17

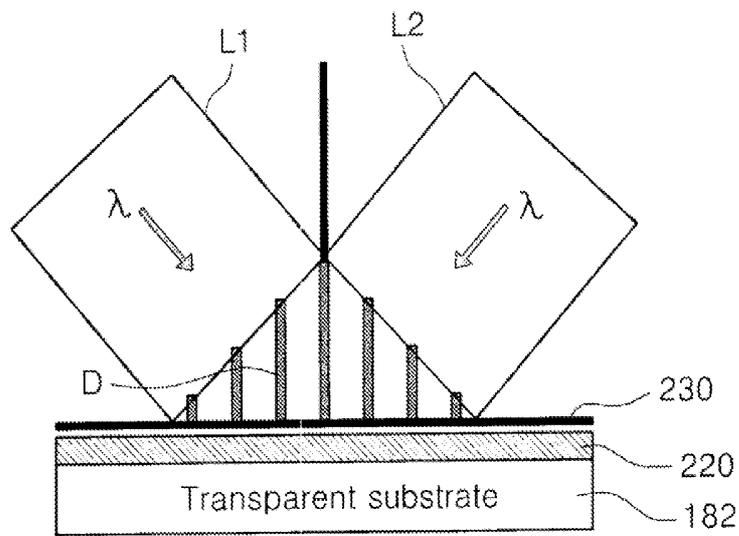


FIG. 18

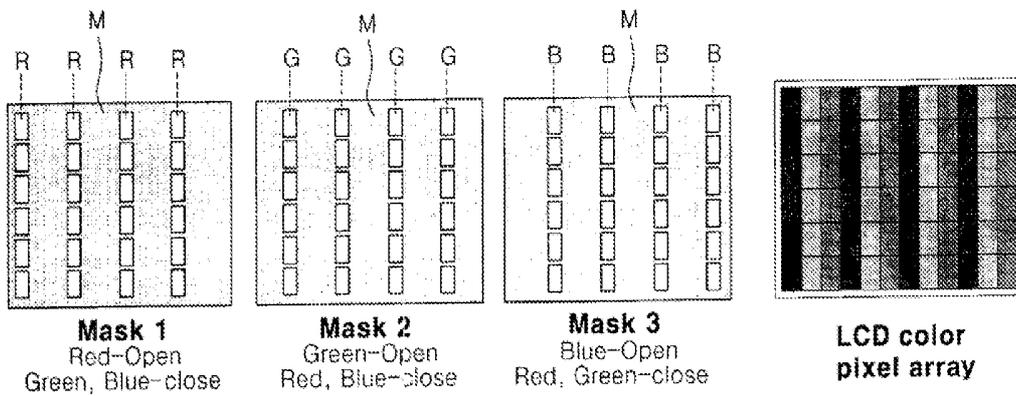
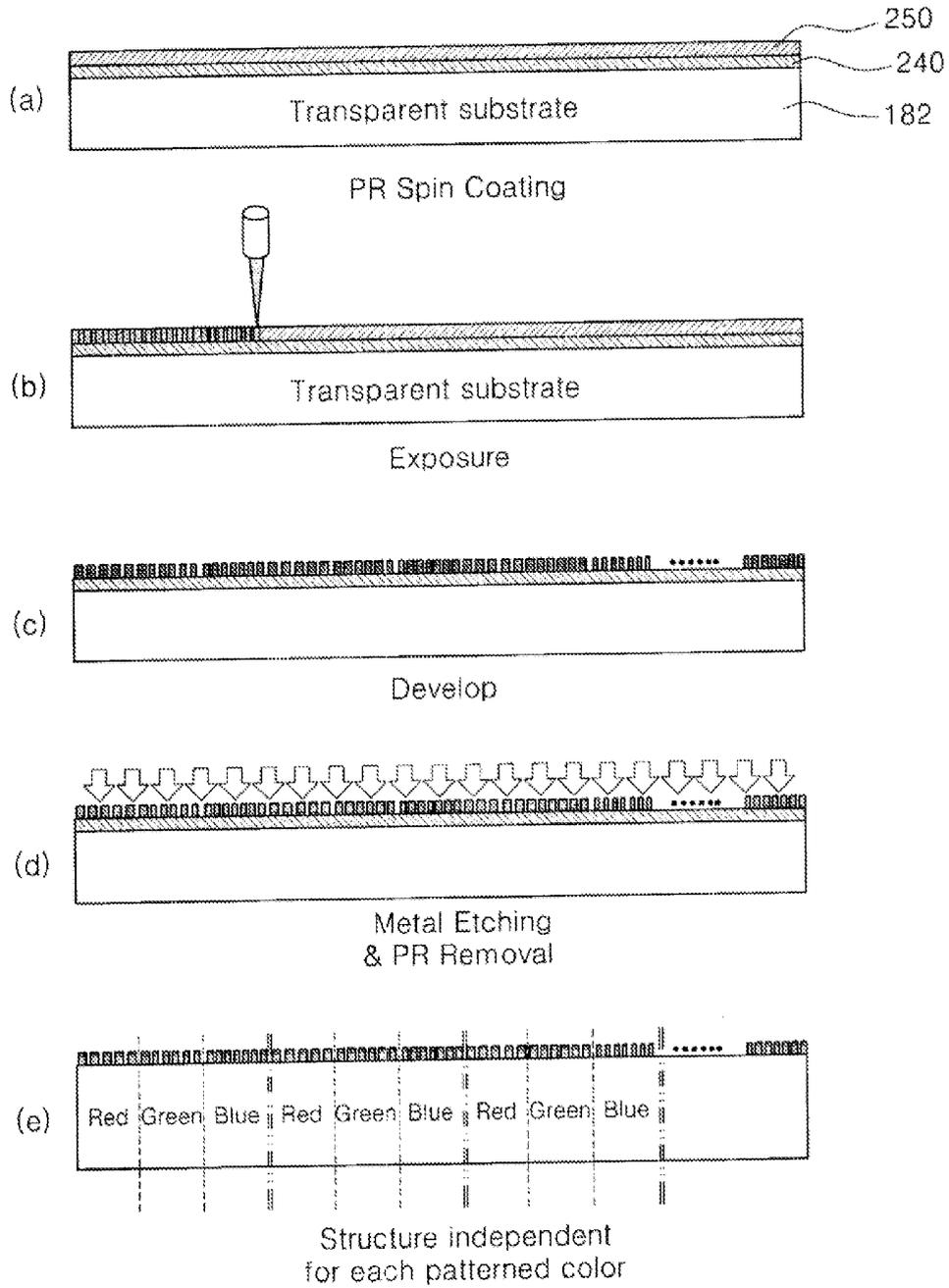


FIG. 19



**WIRE GRID POLARIZER AND METHOD
FOR FABRICATING THEREOF, LIQUID
CRYSTAL DISPLAY PANEL AND LIQUID
CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE HAVING THE
SAME**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] 1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to a wire grid polarizer capable of improving light efficiency by applying a nano-wire grid pattern optimized to a LCD panel, a method of manufacturing thereof, and a liquid crystal display panel and a liquid crystal display device provided with the wire grid polarizer.

[0003] 2. Background of the Related Art

[0004] Generally, a liquid crystal display (LCD) device is an electronic element which converts various kinds of electrical information generated by a variety of apparatuses into visual information using changes in transmittance of liquid crystal depending on an applied voltage.

[0005] Since the LCD device is advantageous in miniaturization, lightweightness and low power consumption, it is spotlighted as an alternative means that can overcome disadvantages of cathode ray tubes (CRTs) widely used in the past and is currently mounted on most of information processing devices that need a display device.

[0006] FIG. 1 is a view showing the structure of a conventional LCD device, in which the LCD device **10** includes a thin film transistor (TFT) substrate **11** formed with a gate line, a data line, TFTs and pixel electrodes, a color filter substrate **12** disposed to be opposite to the TFT substrate **11** and formed with a color filter and a common electrode, and a liquid crystal layer **13** filled between the TFT substrate **11** and the color filter substrate **12**.

[0007] The TFT substrate **11** is a transparent glass substrate formed with thin film transistors on a matrix, in which the data line is connected to the source terminal, and the gate line is connected to the gate terminal. In addition, the pixel electrodes **11a** made of transparent indium tin oxide (ITO), which is a conductive material, are formed at the drain terminal. The color filter substrate **12** is disposed over the TFT substrate **11** to face the TFT substrate **11**. The color filter substrate **12** is a substrate on which R, G, and B pixels, which are color pixels emitting a certain color when light passes through, are formed through a thin film process, and the common electrode **12a** made of ITO is formed on the front side thereof. In addition, polarizing plates **16** and **17** for polarizing unpolarized light supplied by a light source into linearly polarized light are provided under and on the TFT substrate **11** and the color filter substrate **12**, respectively. The polarizing plates **16** and **17** maintain a penetrating direction of light to be constant depending on the alignment direction of the liquid crystal layer **13**, and a reflective polarizing plate (DBEF or WGP) **20** that can enhance reusability of light by passing light of a specific polarizing direction and reflecting light of other polarizing directions is provided in addition to the polarizing plates **16** and **17**.

[0008] Meanwhile, since the liquid crystal provided in the liquid crystal layer **13** is a light receiving element, the LCD device **100** needs a part which provides light separately. A backlight unit **18** is separately formed on the rear side of the TFT substrate **11** in order to provide the light. A lamp for providing light, a light guide plate for evenly distributing the light on all over the substrate, and other films are formed in the backlight unit **18**.

[0009] The LCD device **10** configured as described above does not pass all the light provided by the backlight unit **18**, and thus brightness is very important. A variety of films are developed and used in order to improve brightness of the LCD device **10**, and a typical example thereof is a reflective polarizing film (polarizing plate).

[0010] Recently, such a reflective polarizing film takes an important role in the display industry, which is one of national core industries. There are various kinds of reflective polarizing films, and a dual brightness enhancement film (DBEF) or a diffusive reflective polarization film (DRPF) are typical examples thereof. The DBEF is a film where isotropic films and anisotropic films are repeatedly formed to have a stacked structure of hundreds of layers (about six hundreds or more layers). The light passing through the film is increased in total when the light passes through and is reflected in the stacked structure of hundreds or more layers, and thus brightness of the LCD device is improved. On the other hand, the DRPF is formed with another material having a refractive index different from that of the DRPF, and thus light passing through the film is increased since the light is reflected and refracted by the material.

[0011] Since the DBEF has the highest brightness improvement ratio among the reflective polarizing films, the DBEF is advantageous in enhancing characteristics of light efficiency when it is applied to a LCD device. However, since such a DBEF cannot be regarded as a complete polarizer element and a stacked structure of hundreds of thin film layers should be formed in manufacturing the DBEF, the manufacturing process is complicated, and the manufacturing cost is very high, and thus the DBEF is difficult to be used in a low price LCD device.

[0012] Accordingly, as is shown in Korean Laid-open Patent No. 10-2007-0101814, use of a wire grid polarizer (WGP) is proposed recently as a substitute for the DBEF, in which the WGP is a polarizer element which passes light of a specific polarizing direction and reuses light of the other polarizing directions by reflecting the light. Since such a wire grid polarizer has a high polarization splitting performance compared with those of the other polarizer, it can be advantageously used as a reflective polarizer.

[0013] FIGS. 2 and 3 are a perspective view and a side view showing a conventional wire grid polarizer (WGP). As shown in the figures, the conventional wire grid polarizer **20** is an element for generating polarized light using a conductive wire grid, which has a structure formed with a wire grid pattern **22** where a nano size wire of a conductive material is arranged in parallel at regular intervals. Since such a wire grid polarizer **20** does not generate diffraction if the interval of the wire grid is smaller than the wavelength of incident light, wire grid polarizer **20** passes components having a vibration direction perpendicular to the conductive wire grid among the incident light, i.e., transverse magnetic (TM) polarized light, and reflects components having a vibration direction parallel to the wire grid, i.e., transverse electric (TE) light.

[0014] However, the conventional wire grid polarizer **20** described above is provided with a wire grid pattern of the same shape on all the area of the substrate **21** and has a structure where a single wire grid pattern of the same shape is uniformly applied to all wavelength bands of visible light, and thus it may obtain comparatively superior light efficiency from the light of a specific wavelength. However, light efficiency of the light of the other wavelengths is not favorable. That is, as shown in FIG. 4, in the case of light polarized

through the wire grid polarizers **20a** and **20b** disposed under and on the liquid crystal layer **13** in the LCD device **10**, only the light of a specific wavelength component (e.g., arrow G in the figure) has a high transmittance, and light of the other wavelength components (e.g., arrows R and B in the figure) does not have a good transmittance, and thus light efficiency thereof is lowered. As described, the conventional wire grid polarizer **20** is not optimally designed for respective colors of red, green and blue of the color filter substrate **12**, and thus the light efficiency is favorable only in a specific wavelength band, and the overall light efficiency is lowered. Furthermore, since there is a technical limit in manufacturing a wide area nano-wire pattern, development of a reflective polarizer element of a new concept for improving light efficiency is desperately required.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0015] Therefore, the present invention has been made in view of the above problems, and it is an object of the present invention to provide a wire grid polarizer capable of improving polarization performance, efficiency of reusing light and light efficiency by applying a nano-wire grid pattern optimized for each color of a color filter substrate to a liquid crystal display, a method of manufacturing thereof, and a liquid crystal display panel and a liquid crystal display device provided with the wire grid polarizer.

[0016] To accomplish the above object, according to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a wire grid polarizer having a plurality of areas, and a shape of a wire grid pattern of an area among the plurality of areas is different from those of the other areas.

[0017] At this point, at least one of a period P, a height H, a width W and a duty cycle DC of an area among the plurality of areas may be different from those of the other areas.

[0018] In addition, the wire grid polarizer has a plurality of pixel areas, and each pixel area has a plurality of sub-pixel areas. A shape of a wire grid pattern of a sub-pixel area among the plurality of sub-pixel areas may be different from those of the other sub-pixel areas.

[0019] Then, the wire grid pattern may be formed to have an array structure parallel to a boundary surface partitioning the plurality of sub-pixel areas.

[0020] Or, the wire grid pattern may be formed to have an array structure perpendicular to a boundary surface partitioning the plurality of sub-pixel areas.

[0021] The wire grid pattern may be formed by patterning a conductive material in a wire grid shape on a glass substrate of a transparent material.

[0022] At this point, the wire grid pattern may be formed by repeatedly imprinting a stamp on imprinting resin using the stamp formed with the wire grid pattern of a different shape by a unit of a sub-pixel, a pixel or a pixel group, while the imprint resin containing a conductive material is formed on a substrate.

[0023] Or, the wire grid pattern may be formed through a lithography process of laser interference by sequentially applying a plurality of masks opened or closed for each sub-pixel area, while a photo-resist layer is formed on a substrate.

[0024] Or, the wire grid pattern may be formed by forming a wire grid pattern of a different shape for each sub-pixel area on a photo-resist layer using E-beams, forming the wire grid pattern by etching the conductive material using the photo-resist formed with the wire grid pattern as a mask, and remov-

ing remaining photo-resist, while a conductive material layer and the photo-resist layer are sequentially stacked on a substrate.

[0025] Meanwhile, according to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a liquid crystal panel provided with a TFT substrate, a color filter substrate disposed to be opposite to the TFT substrate, and a liquid crystal layer interposed between the TFT substrate and the color filter substrate. The liquid crystal panel includes a wire grid polarizer having a plurality of areas corresponding to sub-pixels of the color filter substrate, and a shape of a wire grid pattern of an area among the plurality of areas is different from those of the other areas.

[0026] Here, the wire grid polarizer may be disposed under the liquid crystal layer.

[0027] At this point, a polarizing plate may be further provided between the liquid crystal layer and the wire grid polarizer.

[0028] Or, the wire grid polarizer may be disposed over the liquid crystal layer.

[0029] Meanwhile, a sub-pixel color of the color filter substrate may be configured with red R, green G and blue B.

[0030] Or, a sub-pixel color of the color filter substrate may be configured with red R and green G or blue B and green G.

[0031] At this point, the wire grid pattern may be formed to have an array structure parallel to a boundary surface partitioning sub-pixel areas.

[0032] Or, the wire grid pattern may be formed to have an array structure perpendicular to a boundary surface partitioning sub-pixel areas.

[0033] Then, a wire width of the wire grid pattern of each color of the sub-pixel may be formed to have a size of $R > G > B$.

[0034] In addition, a wire height of the wire grid pattern of each color of the sub-pixel may be formed to have a height of $R > G > B$.

[0035] Meanwhile, according to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a liquid crystal display device comprising: a display unit including a liquid crystal panel provided with a TFT substrate, a color filter substrate disposed to be opposite to the TFT substrate, and a liquid crystal layer interposed between the TFT substrate and the color filter substrate; and a backlight unit for generating light and providing the display unit with the light. The liquid crystal display device includes a wire grid polarizer having a plurality of areas corresponding to sub-pixels of the color filter substrate, and a shape of a wire grid pattern of an area among the plurality of areas is different from those of the other areas.

[0036] Here, the wire grid polarizer may be disposed under the liquid crystal layer.

[0037] At this point, a polarizing plate may be further provided between the liquid crystal layer and the wire grid polarizer.

[0038] Or, the wire grid polarizer may be disposed over the liquid crystal layer.

[0039] Meanwhile, a sub-pixel color of the color filter substrate may be configured with red R, green G and blue B.

[0040] Or, a sub-pixel color of the color filter substrate may be configured with red R and green G or blue B and green G.

[0041] At this point, the wire grid pattern may be formed to have an array structure parallel to a boundary surface partitioning sub-pixel areas.

[0042] Or, the wire grid pattern may be formed to have an array structure perpendicular to a boundary surface partitioning sub-pixel areas.

[0043] Then, a wire width of the wire grid pattern of each color of the sub-pixel may be formed to have a size of $R > G > B$.

[0044] In addition, a wire height of the wire grid pattern of each color of the sub-pixel may be formed to have a height of $R > G > B$.

[0045] Meanwhile, according to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of manufacturing a wire grid polarizer, the method repeatedly performing, a plurality of times, a unit process of forming a wire grid pattern by a unit of at least one pixel area.

[0046] At this point, the wire grid pattern may be manufactured using a stamp having a pattern corresponding to a wire grid pattern of the at least one pixel area.

[0047] In addition, the wire grid pattern may be manufactured through a lithography process of laser interference using a mask having a pattern corresponding to a wire grid pattern of the at least one pixel area.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0048] FIG. 1 is a cross sectional view showing the structure of a conventional LCD device.

[0049] FIG. 2 is a perspective view showing the structure of a wire grid polarizer provided in the conventional LCD device.

[0050] FIG. 3 is a cross sectional view showing the wire grid polarizer of FIG. 2.

[0051] FIG. 4 is a view showing an example of a LCD device applied with a conventional wire grid polarizer in which optical transmittance is concentrated on a specific wavelength band.

[0052] FIG. 5 is a cross sectional view showing a LCD device according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0053] FIG. 6 is a plan view showing the pattern structure of a wire grid polarizer provided in a LCD device of the present invention.

[0054] FIG. 7 is a cross sectional view showing a wire grid polarizer according to the present invention (showing only one pixel).

[0055] FIG. 8 is a plan view showing the pattern structure of wire grid polarizers disposed over and under the liquid crystal layer of a LCD device according to the present invention.

[0056] FIG. 9 is a perspective view showing three-dimensional structures of the wire grid polarizers shown in FIG. 8.

[0057] FIG. 10 is a view illustrating the principle of improving light efficiency in a LCD device applied with a wire grid polarizer of the present invention.

[0058] FIG. 11 is a graph comparing performance of TM polarization transmittance of each color obtained by a wire grid polarizer of the present invention with that of a conventional wire grid polarizer.

[0059] FIG. 12 is a view showing an example of wire grid polarizers of the present invention disposed on the TFT substrate and under the color filter substrate.

[0060] FIG. 13 is a plan view showing the structure of a stamp used for manufacturing a wire grid polarizer of the present invention.

[0061] FIG. 14 is a cross sectional view showing the cross sectional structure of the stamp shown in FIG. 13.

[0062] FIG. 15 is a view showing a process of manufacturing a wire grid polarizer through an imprinting process.

[0063] FIG. 16 is a view showing an example in which a wire grid pattern can be applied by one patterning without being separated by the pixel unit, when a wire grid polarizer is manufactured through an imprinting process.

[0064] FIG. 17 is a cross sectional view showing a method of manufacturing a wire grid polarizer using a lithography process based on laser interference.

[0065] FIG. 18 is a plan view showing the structure of a mask used for a lithography process based on laser interference.

[0066] FIG. 19 is a view sequentially showing a process of manufacturing a wire grid polarizer through a lithography process using electronic beams.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0067] The preferred embodiments of the invention will be hereafter described in detail, with reference to the accompanying drawings.

[0068] FIG. 5 is a cross sectional view showing a LCD device according to an embodiment of the present invention (FIG. 5 shows only one pixel unit for convenience).

[0069] As shown in FIG. 5, the LCD device 300 according to an embodiment of the present invention is configured with a display unit 100 for displaying an image by adjusting optical transmittance of liquid crystal according to inputted image data, and a backlight unit 200 for generating light and providing the display unit 100 with the light.

[0070] The display unit 100 includes a liquid crystal display panel configured with a TFT substrate 110 formed with a gate line, a data line, thin film transistors (TFT) and pixel electrodes, a color filter substrate 120 disposed over the TFT substrate 110 to be opposite to the TFT substrate 110 and formed with a color filter and a common electrode, and a liquid crystal layer 130 interposed between the TFT substrate 110 and the color filter substrate 120.

[0071] The TFT substrate 110 is a transparent glass substrate formed with thin film transistors on a matrix, in which the data line is connected to the source terminal, and the gate line is connected to the gate terminal. In addition, the pixel electrodes 160 made of transparent indium tin oxide (ITO), which is a conductive material, are formed at the drain terminal.

[0072] The color filter substrate 120 is a substrate on which R (red), G (green), and B (blue) pixels, which are color pixels emitting a certain color when light passes through, are formed through a thin film process, and the common electrode 170 made of ITO is spread on the front side thereof. At this point, alignment films 170 and 160 for aligning liquid crystal provided in the liquid crystal layer 130 are provided under the color filter substrate 110 and on the TFT substrate 110.

[0073] Meanwhile, wire grid polarizers 180a and 180b, which are reflective polarizer elements for passing a specific polarizing component among incident light and reflecting the other polarizing components, are provided in the directions of top and bottom from the liquid crystal layer 130. (Hereinafter, it will be described by assigning reference symbol 180 to the wire grid polarizer 180b positioned under the liquid crystal layer 130 for the convenience of explanation.)

[0074] FIG. 6 is a plan view showing the pattern structure of a wire grid polarizer 180 provided in a LCD device 300 of the present invention, and FIG. 7 shows a cross sectional structure of a wire grid polarizer 180 according to the present invention, which is a cross sectional view showing a wire grid

pattern structure formed on a unit pixel. FIG. 8 is a plan view showing the pattern structure of wire grid polarizers **180a** and **180b** disposed over and under the liquid crystal layer **130** of a LCD device **300** according to the present invention, and FIG. 9 is a perspective view showing three-dimensional structures of the wire grid polarizers shown in FIG. 8.

[0075] Referring to FIGS. 6 to 9, the wire grid polarizer **180** according to the present invention is a polarizer element in which a conductive material (e.g., a metal) is disposed on a transparent substrate **182** to form a pattern of a wire grid of a nano size. The wire grid polarizer **180** has a plurality of areas (three areas in the figure) **S1**, **S2** and **S3** corresponding to three sub-pixel areas (R, G and B areas) configuring a unit pixel of the color filter substrate **120**, and the shapes of the wire grid patterns **184** formed in the plurality of areas **S1**, **S2** and **S3** are different from one another.

[0076] Specifically, as shown in FIG. 6, the wire grid polarizer **180** has a plurality of pixel areas arranged in a matrix form, and each pixel area has a plurality of sub-pixel areas **S1**, **S2** and **S3**. Here, the plurality of pixel areas corresponds to pixels of the color filter substrate **120**, and the plurality of sub-pixel areas **S1**, **S2** and **S3** corresponds to sub-pixels of the color filter substrate **120**.

[0077] Here, the color filter substrate **120** has a structure in which three color pixels, i.e., three sub-pixels corresponding to R, G and B, configure a unit pixel, and a black matrix is formed between the R, G and B sub-pixel areas. Accordingly, the plurality of pixel areas formed in the wire grid polarizer **180** has an R sub-pixel area **S1**, a G sub-pixel area **S2**, and a B sub-pixel area **S3**. At this point, the wire grid pattern **184** formed in each of the R, G and B sub-pixel areas **S1**, **S2** and **S3** has a shape different from those of the other sub-pixel areas.

[0078] FIG. 7 shows wire grid pixel patterns **184** formed in the R, G and B sub-pixel areas **S1**, **S2** and **S3** with different width **W**, height **H** and period **P** in a unit pixel **A**.

[0079] Here, the width **W** of the wire grid pattern **184** formed for each color of a sub-pixel is formed to have a size of $R > G > B$, and in addition, the height **H** of the wire grid pattern **184** can be formed to have a height of $R > G > B$.

[0080] At this point, if the period of forming the wire grid pattern **184** is **P** and the width of the wire grid pattern **184** is **W** in the wire grid pattern **184** formed in each sub-pixel area **S1**, **S2** or **S3** of each of R, G and B colors, a duty cycle (DC) for forming the wire grid pattern **184** is expressed as

$$DC = \frac{W}{P}.$$

[0081] Here, the shape of the wire grid pattern **184** is changed depending on the period **P**, width **W**, height **H** and duty cycle **DC** of the wire grid pattern **184**, and thus at least one of the period **P**, width **W**, height **H** and duty cycle of the wire grid pattern **184** is different from those of the other wire grid patterns **184** in each area. The wire grid pattern **184** can be formed in the most preferable pattern shape by appropriately designing values of the period **P**, width **W**, height **H** and **DC** for the wavelength band of each color depending on the color R, G or B of a sub-pixel.

[0082] Meanwhile, in the LCD device **300**, the wire grid polarizers **180a** and **180b** can be provided in the directions of top and bottom from the liquid crystal layer **130**.

[0083] At this point, as is shown in the shapes of the wire grid patterns shown in FIGS. 8 and 9, the wire grid pattern **184** formed on the substrate **182** may be formed to have an array structure perpendicular to the boundary surface **R** of the sub-pixels **S1**, **S2** and **S3** (FIG. 9(a)) or may be formed to have an array structure parallel to the boundary surface **R** of the sub-pixels **S1**, **S2** and **S3** (FIG. 9(b)).

[0084] That is, the polarization axis of the wire grid pattern **184** of the wire grid polarizer **180a** provided over the liquid crystal layer **130** is preferably perpendicular to the polarization axis of the wire grid pattern **184** of the wire grid polarizer **180b** provided under the liquid crystal layer **130**. This is the same as the reason that polarization axes of general polarizing plates employed over and under the liquid crystal layer **130** are perpendicular to each other.

[0085] In addition, the wire grid polarizer **180** can be used at least over or under the liquid crystal layer **130** in the LCD device **300**. For example, the wire grid polarizer **180** can be provided only under the liquid crystal layer **130**, or only over the liquid crystal layer **130**, or both over or under the liquid crystal layer **130** as shown in FIG. 5.

[0086] In addition, the wire grid polarizer **180** may substitute for a general polarizing plate or can be used together with the polarizing plate. For example, the general polarizing plate can be attached to the bottom surface of the liquid crystal panel, and the wire grid polarizer **180** of the present invention can be provided under the polarizing plate. FIG. 5 described above shows an example of the wire grid polarizer **180** used in substitution for a general polarizing plate.

[0087] In the wire grid polarizer of the present invention configured as described above, as shown in FIG. 10, the R sub-pixel area **S1** of the wire grid polarizer **180b** positioned under the liquid crystal layer **130** passes polarized light of the R wavelength band to the maximum, and the passed light passes through the liquid crystal layer **130** and arrives at the color filter of the R sub-pixel. The color filter of the R sub-pixel passes light of the R wavelength band and absorbs light of the other wavelength bands.

[0088] In the same manner, the G sub-pixel area **S2** of the wire grid polarizer **180b** positioned under the liquid crystal layer **130** passes polarized light of the G wavelength band to the maximum, and the passed light passes through the liquid crystal layer **130** and arrive at the color filter of the G sub-pixel. The color filter of the G sub-pixel passes light of the G wavelength band and absorbs light of the other wavelength bands. It is the same as described above for the B wavelength band.

[0089] As described above, when the wire grid pattern **184** is formed on the wire grid polarizer **180**, the wire grid pattern **184** is formed in a different optimized pattern shape for each color R, G or B of a sub-pixel of the color filter substrate **120**, and a superior transmittance can be obtained for each of R, G and B wavelength bands, and thus the present invention may improve characteristics of light efficiency of the LCD device **300**.

[0090] FIG. 11 is a graph comparing performance of TM polarization transmittance of each color obtained by a wire grid polarizer **180** of the present invention with that of a conventional wire grid polarizer.

[0091] As shown in FIG. 11, a result of TM polarization transmittance of the conventional wire grid polarizer of a single shape and a result of TM polarization transmittance of the wire grid polarizer **180** according to the present invention are obtained through a simulation. As a result, it is understood

that the wire grid polarizer **180** according to the present invention having an independent pattern for each of the colors R, G and B of the sub-pixels has obtained superior transmittance for each of the wavelength bands R, G and B compared with the existing wire grid polarizer of a single shape.

[0092] Here, the conventional wire grid polarizer has a single shape of a period of 200 nm, a height of 165 nm and a duty cycle of 0.4. In addition, in the wire grid polarizer **180** according to the present invention, the red (R) has a period of 270 nm, a height of 220 nm and a duty cycle of 0.3, the green (G) has a period of 200 nm, a height of 165 nm and a duty cycle of 0.4, and the blue (B) has a period of 140 nm, a height of 150 nm and a duty cycle of 0.4.

[0093] Meanwhile, FIG. 12 is a view showing an example of wire grid polarizers **180a** and **180b** of the present invention applied to different positions in the LCD device **300**. The wire grid polarizers **180a** and **180b** of the present invention can be applied on the top of the color filter substrate **120** and on the bottom of the TFT substrate **110** as shown in the embodiment of FIG. 5 described above, or the wire grid polarizers **180a** and **180b** can be disposed on the bottom of the color filter substrate **120** and on the top of the TFT substrate **110** as shown in FIG. 12.

[0094] In addition, although a structure in which the wire grid pattern **184** is directly formed on the TFT substrate **110** or the color filter substrate **120** and the glass substrate **182** is described above as an example, the LCD device can be configured by forming, on a structure of a separate film (or sheet), wire grid patterns respectively having an independent structure different from each other in the shapes described above and disposing the film (or sheet) at an appropriate position above or under the liquid crystal layer **130**.

[0095] In addition, although the LCD device **300** in which a sub-pixel color of the color filter substrate **120** is configured with three colors of red (R), green (G) and blue (B) is described as an example in the embodiment of the present invention described above, the present invention can be applied to a LCD device of a pentile method, in which the sub-pixel color of the color filter substrate **120** is configured with red (R) and green (G) or blue (B) and green (G) so that two colors of RG and BG configure one pixel, and pixels configured with RG and BG are alternately disposed.

[0096] Meanwhile, FIGS. 13 to 16 show a method of manufacturing a wire grid polarizer **180** according to a first embodiment of the present invention, which shows a method of manufacturing the wire grid polarizer **180** in an imprinting method.

[0097] Here, FIG. 13 is a plan view showing a stamp used for manufacturing the wire grid polarizer **180**, and FIG. 14 is a cross sectional view showing the cross sectional structure of the stamp shown in FIG. 13.

[0098] First, the stamp **210** shown in FIGS. 13 and 14 is a stamp **210** that may form a wire grid pattern **184** of a 3×3 pixel area, and wire grid patterns of different shapes are formed in the three sub-pixel areas configuring one pixel. At this point, the gap between the sub-pixels is an area where a black matrix is positioned in a LCD device, which is an area through which light does not pass.

[0099] FIG. 15 is a view sequentially showing a process of manufacturing a wire grid polarizer **180** through an imprinting process using a stamp **210** formed with the wire grid pattern **184** described above.

[0100] As shown in FIG. 15, the wire grid patterns **184** may be formed on the substrate **182** through the sequential

imprinting process shown in FIG. 15, using the stamp **210** formed with a wire grid pattern of a different shape for each sub-pixel area. That is, after applying imprinting resin containing a conductive material on the substrate **182** in order to form a wire grid, the stamp **210** having the wire grid patterns **184** shown in FIGS. 13 and 14 is placed on the substrate **182** where the imprinting resin is applied, and then the wire grid patterns are formed on the imprinting resin by applying pressure on the stamp **210** using a press. At this point, the wire grid patterns **184** are sequentially formed on the imprinting resin while moving the stamp **210** in the sequence of 1 step->2 step->3 step->4 step, and the wire grid polarizer is manufactured by repeatedly performing the imprinting unit process a plurality of times.

[0101] FIG. 16 is a view showing another form of the wire grid patterns applied to the stamp **210** that is used in an imprinting process. As shown in FIG. 16, if pixels in a row are not separated by the pixel unit and a wire grid pattern is formed in a connected structure when a wire grid pattern is formed on the printing surface of the stamp **210**, only one patterning needs be applied to the row of the entire pixels. In this case, the stamp can be easily manufactured since precision for forming the wire grid pattern on the stamp **210** can be lowered.

[0102] FIGS. 17 and 18 are views showing a method of manufacturing a wire grid polarizer **180** according to a second embodiment of the present invention, which show a method of manufacturing the wire grid polarizer **180** through a lithography process based on laser interference.

[0103] As shown in FIG. 17, first, a metal layer (not shown), which is a conductive material, is formed on the transparent substrate **182** to form wire grid patterns, and a photo-resist layer **220** is formed on the metal layer. A plurality of (three) masks M1, M2 and M3 opened and closed for each color R, G or B of a sub-pixel is sequentially applied as shown in FIG. 18, and wire grid patterns of different shapes are formed by radiating diffraction and interference fringes D, which are formed by the interference of laser beams L1 and L2 radiated from two light sources, on the opened sub-pixel areas of the mask. Next, the metal layer is etched using the photo-resist formed with the wire grid patterns as a mask, and manufacturing the wire grid polarizer **180** is completed by removing the photo-resist remaining on the metal layer.

[0104] Here, in a method similar to the process of FIG. 15 described above, the wire grid polarizer can be manufactured by dividing the entire area of the wire grid polarizer and repeating, a plurality of times, the laser interference lithography unit process which forms wire grid patterns by the unit of at least one pixel area. At this point, in the unit process, the patterning is accomplished using three times of laser interference, once for each mask M1, M2 and M3. If the lithography of the laser interference is used as described, the wire grid patterns **184** can be efficiently and easily formed on the substrate **182** of a large area.

[0105] Meanwhile, FIG. 19 is a view showing a method of manufacturing a wire grid polarizer **180** according to a third embodiment of the present invention, which shows a method of manufacturing the wire grid polarizer **180** through a lithography process using electronic beams (E-beams).

[0106] In the method of manufacturing a wire grid polarizer **180** using an electronic beam lithography process according to a third embodiment of the present invention, as shown in FIG. 19, first, a metal layer **240** made of a conductive material and a photo-resist layer **250** are formed on the transparent

substrate **182** in order to form a nano wire grid pattern, and then wire grid patterns respectively having a different pattern shape for each color area R, G or B of a sub-pixel are formed by radiating E-beams on the photo-resist layer **250**. Then, the metal layer **240** is etched in a dry or wet etching process using the photo-resist layer **250** formed with the wire grid patterns as a mask, and the wire grid polarizer **180** is completed by removing the photo-resist layer **250** remaining on the metal layer **240** formed with the wire grid patterns.

[0107] As described above, a wire grid pattern across the entire area of a wire grid polarizer can be formed in one process when the wire grid polarizer of the present invention is manufactured. In addition, if a large area wire grid polarizer is required in accordance with the tendency of large area display devices, the wire grid polarizer can be efficiently manufactured by dividing the entire area of the wire grid polarizer and repeatedly performing, a plurality of times, a unit process of forming a wire grid pattern by the unit of at least one pixel area. In this case, since the unit process can be performed using the space between pixel areas of the wire grid polarizer corresponding to the black matrix of the liquid display panel as a boundary, precision of arranging the wire grid patterns is superior.

[0108] Although an example of using the wire grid polarizer **180** in the LCD device **300** is described in the embodiment of the present invention described above, the present invention is not limited thereto, but the wire grid polarizer **180** of the present invention can be employed and used in a variety of devices. In addition, the method of manufacturing a wire grid polarizer of the present invention is not limited to the manufacturing methods described above, such as imprinting, laser interference lithography, E-beam lithography and the like, but the wire grid polarizer can be manufactured in a variety of methods.

[0109] In the wire grid polarizer provided in the LCD device according to the present invention configured as described above, since wire grid patterns of different shapes are formed depending on the color of each sub-pixel area of the color filter substrate, a grating pattern optimized for the color of each sub-pixel can be applied, and thus light efficiency of the LCD device can be improved.

[0110] While the present invention has been described with reference to the particular illustrative embodiments, it is not to be restricted by the embodiments but only by the appended claims. It is to be appreciated that those skilled in the art can change or modify the embodiments without departing from the scope and spirit of the present invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A wire grid polarizer having a plurality of areas, wherein a shape of a wire grid pattern of an area among the plurality of areas is different from those of the other areas.

2. The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein at least one of a period P, a height H, a width W and a duty cycle DC of an area among the plurality of areas is different from those of the other areas.

3. The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein the wire grid polarizer has a plurality of pixel areas, and each pixel area has a plurality of sub-pixel areas, wherein a shape of a wire grid pattern of a sub-pixel area among the plurality of sub-pixel areas is different from those of the other sub-pixel areas.

4. The polarizer according to claim 3, wherein the wire grid pattern has an array structure parallel to a boundary surface partitioning the plurality of sub-pixel areas.

5. The polarizer according to claim 3, wherein the wire grid pattern has an array structure perpendicular to a boundary surface partitioning the plurality of sub-pixel areas.

6. The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein the wire grid pattern is formed by patterning a conductive material in a wire grid shape on a glass substrate of a transparent material.

7. The polarizer according to claim 3, wherein the wire grid pattern is formed by repeatedly imprinting a stamp on imprinting resin using the stamp formed with the wire grid pattern of a different shape by a unit of a sub-pixel, a pixel or a pixel group, while the imprint resin containing a conductive material is formed on a substrate.

8. The polarizer according to claim 3, wherein the wire grid pattern is formed through a lithography process of laser interference by sequentially applying a plurality of masks opened or closed for each sub-pixel area, while a photo-resist layer is formed on a substrate.

9. The polarizer according to claim 3, wherein the wire grid pattern is formed by forming a wire grid pattern of a different shape for each sub-pixel area on a photo-resist layer using E-beams, forming the wire grid pattern by etching the conductive material using the photo-resist formed with the wire grid pattern as a mask, and removing remaining photo-resist, while a conductive material layer and the photo-resist layer are sequentially stacked on a substrate.

10. A liquid crystal panel provided with a TFT substrate, a color filter substrate disposed to be opposite to the TFT substrate, and a liquid crystal layer interposed between the TFT substrate and the color filter substrate, the liquid crystal panel including a wire grid polarizer having a plurality of areas corresponding to sub-pixels of the color filter substrate, wherein a shape of a wire grid pattern of an area among the plurality of areas is different from those of the other areas.

11. The liquid crystal panel according to claim 10, wherein the wire grid polarizer is disposed under the liquid crystal layer.

12. The liquid crystal panel according to claim 11, further provided with a polarizing plate between the liquid crystal layer and the wire grid polarizer.

13. The liquid crystal panel according to claim 10, wherein the wire grid polarizer is disposed over the liquid crystal layer.

14. The liquid crystal panel according to claim 10, wherein a sub-pixel color of the color filter substrate is configured with red R, green G and blue B.

15. The liquid crystal panel according to claim 10, wherein a sub-pixel color of the color filter substrate is configured with red R and green G or blue B and green G.

16. The liquid crystal panel according to claim 14, wherein the wire grid pattern has an array structure parallel to a boundary surface partitioning sub-pixel areas.

17. The liquid crystal panel according to claim 15, wherein the wire grid pattern has an array structure parallel to a boundary surface partitioning sub-pixel areas.

18. The liquid crystal panel according to claim 14, wherein the wire grid pattern has an array structure perpendicular to a boundary surface partitioning sub-pixel areas.

19. The liquid crystal panel according to claim 15, wherein the wire grid pattern has an array structure perpendicular to a boundary surface partitioning sub-pixel areas.

20. The liquid crystal panel according to claim 14, wherein a wire width of the wire grid pattern of each color of the sub-pixel is formed to have a size of $R > G > B$.

21. The liquid crystal panel according to claim **15**, wherein a wire width of the wire grid pattern of each color of the sub-pixel is formed to have a size of $R>G>B$.

22. The liquid crystal panel according to claim **14**, wherein a wire height of the wire grid pattern of each color of the sub-pixel is formed to have a height of $R>G>B$.

23. The liquid crystal panel according to claim **15**, wherein a wire height of the wire grid pattern of each color of the sub-pixel is formed to have a height of $R>G>B$.

24. A liquid crystal display device comprising:

a display unit including a liquid crystal panel provided with a TFT substrate, a color filter substrate disposed to be opposite to the TFT substrate, and a liquid crystal layer interposed between the TFT substrate and the color filter substrate; and

a backlight unit for generating light and providing the display unit with the light, wherein

the liquid crystal display device includes a wire grid polarizer having a plurality of areas corresponding to sub-pixels of the color filter substrate, and a shape of a wire grid pattern of an area among the plurality of areas is different from those of the other areas.

25. The liquid crystal panel according to claim **24**, wherein the wire grid polarizer is disposed under the liquid crystal layer.

26. The liquid crystal panel according to claim **25**, further provided with a polarizing plate between the liquid crystal layer and the wire grid polarizer.

27. The liquid crystal panel according to claim **24**, wherein the wire grid polarizer is disposed over the liquid crystal layer.

28. The liquid crystal panel according to claim **24**, wherein a sub-pixel color of the color filter substrate is configured with red R, green G and blue B.

29. The liquid crystal panel according to claim **24**, wherein a sub-pixel color of the color filter substrate is configured with red R and green G or blue B and green G.

30. The liquid crystal panel according to claim **28**, wherein the wire grid pattern has an array structure parallel to a boundary surface partitioning sub-pixel areas.

31. The liquid crystal panel according to claim **29**, wherein the wire grid pattern has an array structure parallel to a boundary surface partitioning sub-pixel areas.

32. The liquid crystal panel according to claim **28**, wherein the wire grid pattern has an array structure perpendicular to a boundary surface partitioning sub-pixel areas.

33. The liquid crystal panel according to claim **29**, wherein the wire grid pattern has an array structure perpendicular to a boundary surface partitioning sub-pixel areas.

34. The liquid crystal panel according to claim **28**, wherein a wire width of the wire grid pattern of each color of the sub-pixel is formed to have a size of $R>G>B$.

35. The liquid crystal panel according to claim **29**, wherein a wire width of the wire grid pattern of each color of the sub-pixel is formed to have a size of $R>G>B$.

36. The liquid crystal panel according to claim **28**, wherein a wire height of the wire grid pattern of each color of the sub-pixel is formed to have a height of $R>G>B$.

37. The liquid crystal panel according to claim **29**, wherein a wire height of the wire grid pattern of each color of the sub-pixel is formed to have a height of $R>G>B$.

38. A method of manufacturing a wire grid polarizer, the method repeatedly performing, a plurality of times, a unit process of forming a wire grid pattern by a unit of at least one pixel area.

39. The method according to claim **38**, wherein the wire grid pattern is manufactured using a stamp having a pattern corresponding to a wire grid pattern of the at least one pixel area.

40. The method according to claim **38**, wherein the wire grid pattern is manufactured through a lithography process of laser interference using a mask having a pattern corresponding to a wire grid pattern of the at least one pixel area.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	线栅偏振器及其制造方法，液晶显示面板和具有该线栅偏振器的液晶显示装置		
公开(公告)号	US20130300986A1	公开(公告)日	2013-11-14
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[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	康SHINILL		
申请(专利权)人(译)	康, SHINILL		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	产学合作基础延世大学		
[标]发明人	KANG SHINILL		
发明人	KANG, SHINILL		
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摘要(译)

提供一种线栅偏振器，其能够通过应用优化到LCD面板的纳米线网格图案来提高光效率，其制造方法，以及液晶显示面板和设置有线栅偏振器的液晶显示装置。本发明的线栅偏振器具有多个区域，并且多个区域中的区域的线栅图案的形状与其他区域的不同。

