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(54) **LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY HAVING MINIMIZED BEZEL AREA**

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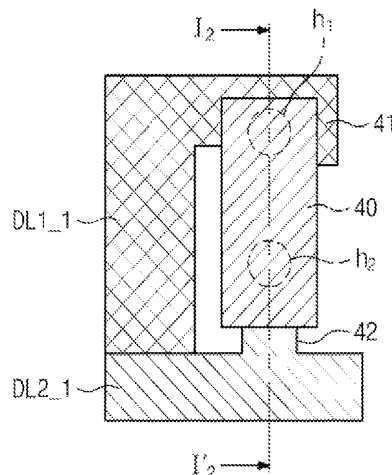
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A liquid crystal display includes a first substrate including pixels arranged in m columns by n rows, n data lines disposed, m gate lines arranged substantially parallel to the data lines, n data distribution lines arranged to cross the m gate lines and electrically connected to the data lines, respectively, source driving chips disposed on a first portion of the first substrate, and a gate driver disposed on a second portion of the first substrate. Each of the data distribution lines is connected to a subset of the pixels arranged in a corresponding row, and each of the gate lines is connected to a subgroup of the pixels arranged in a corresponding column. The source driving chips apply data signals to the pixels through the first data lines and the data distribution lines, and the gate driver applies gate signals to the pixels through the gate lines.

15 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets



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Fig. 1

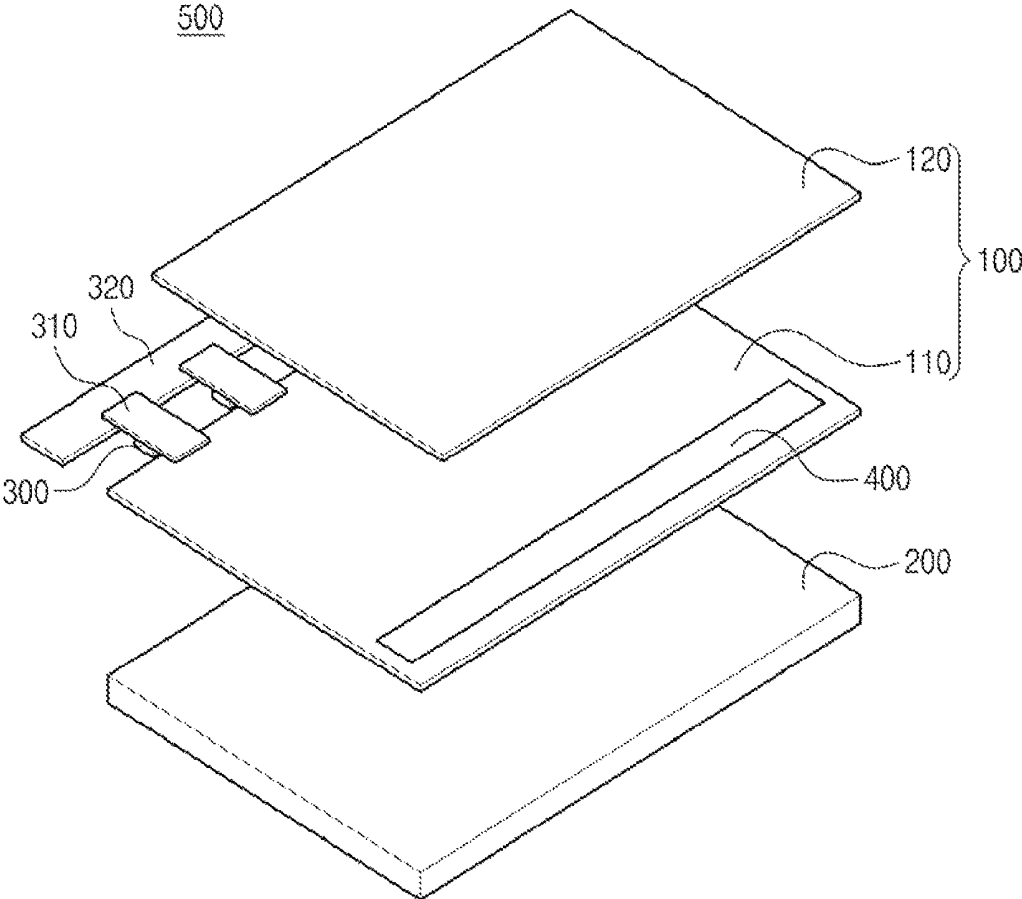


Fig. 2

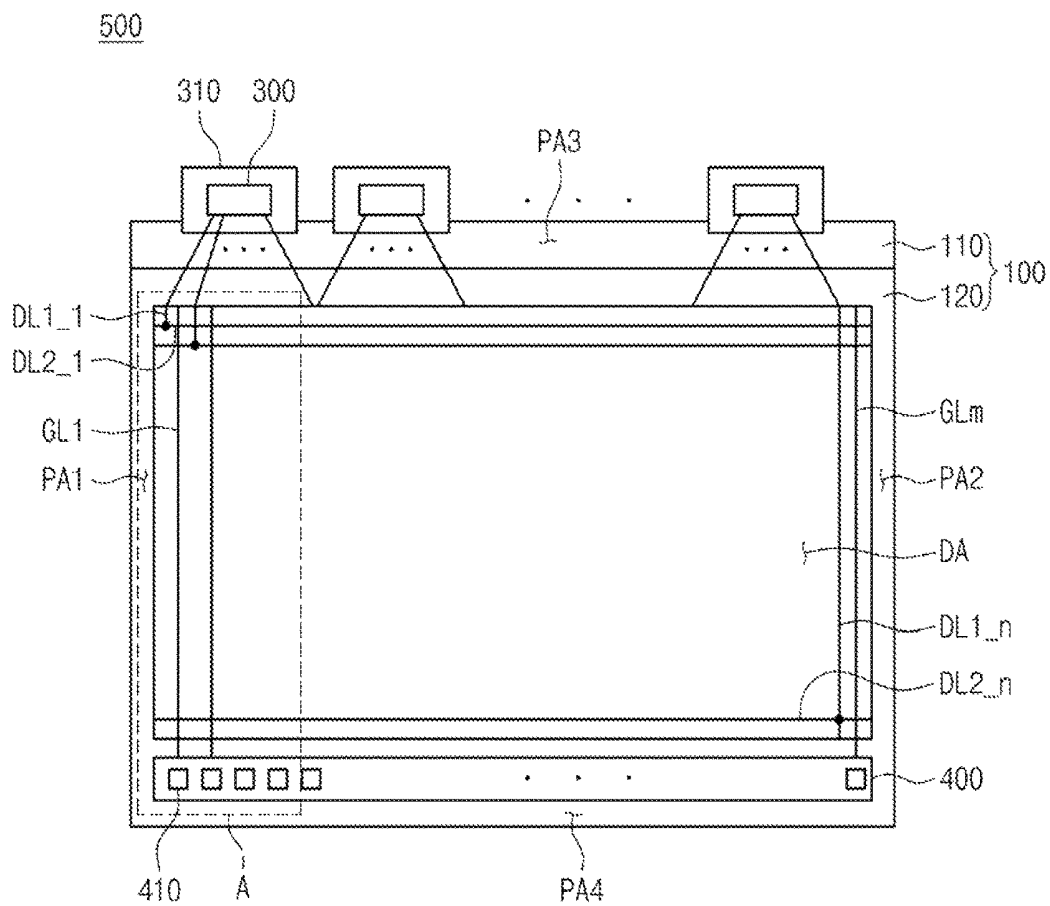


Fig. 3

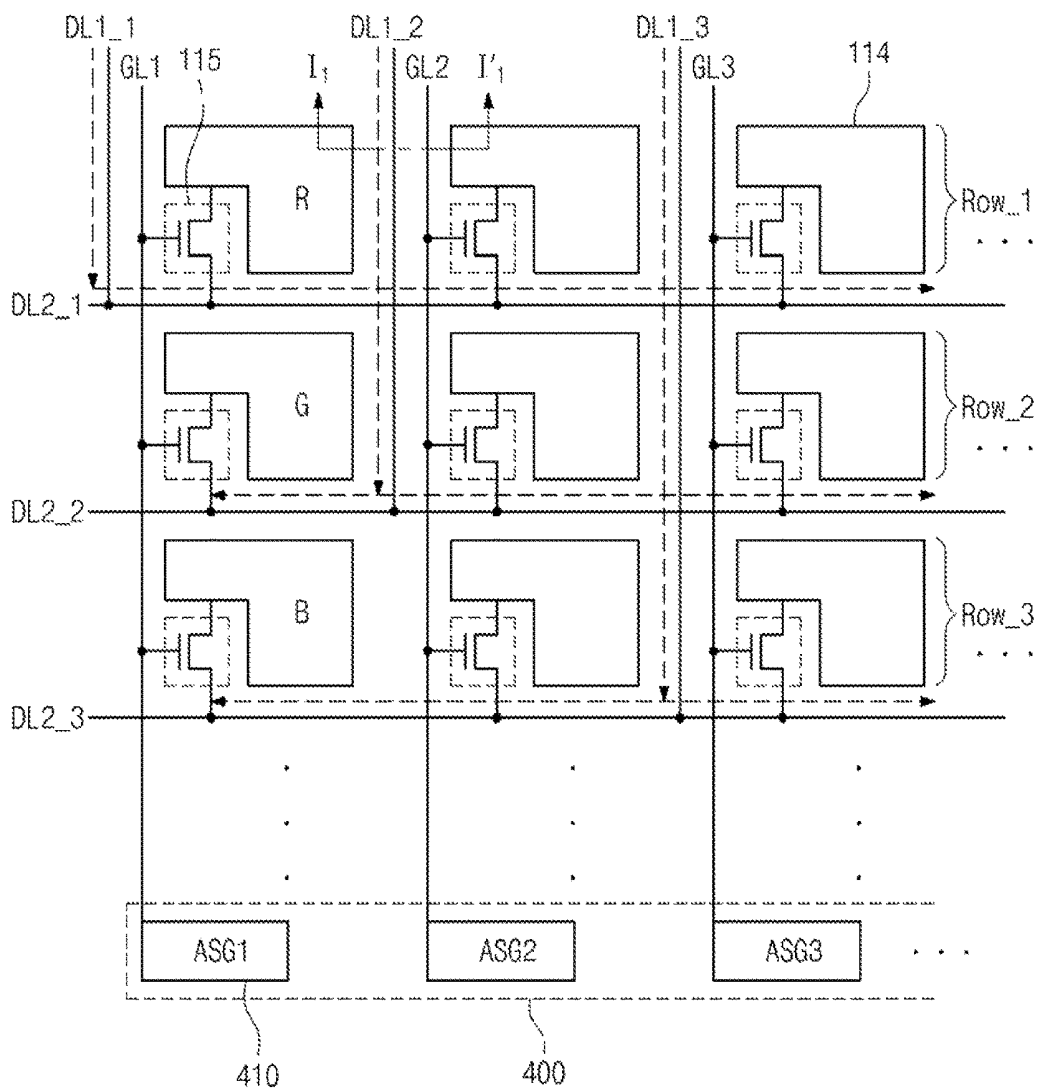


Fig. 4

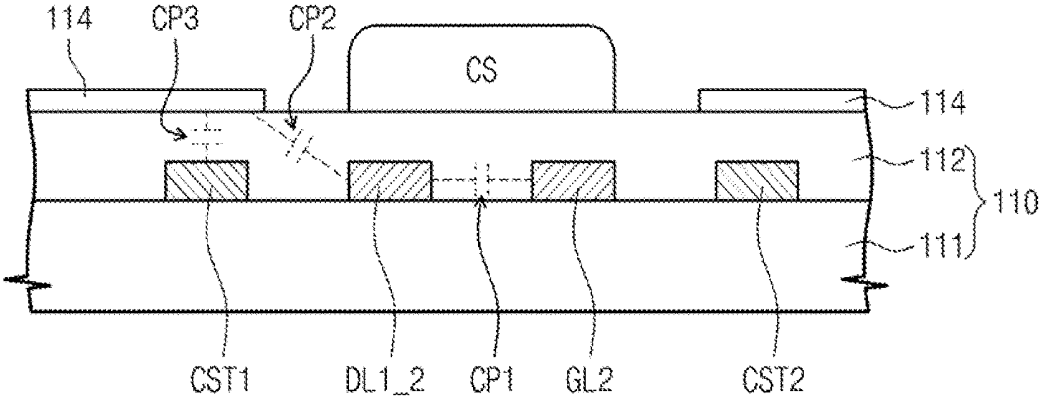


Fig. 5A

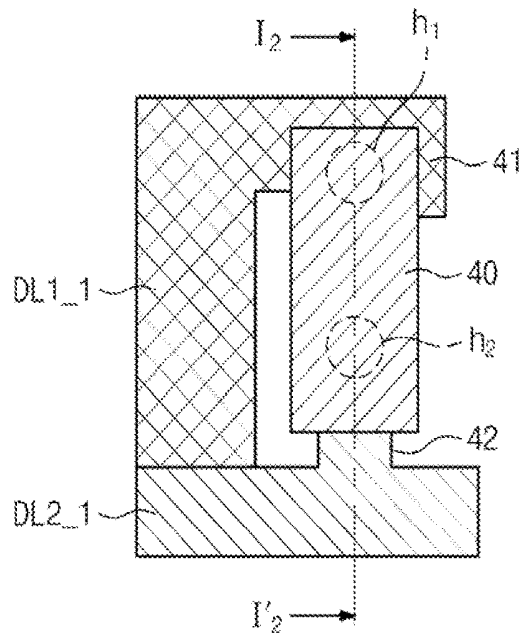


Fig. 5B

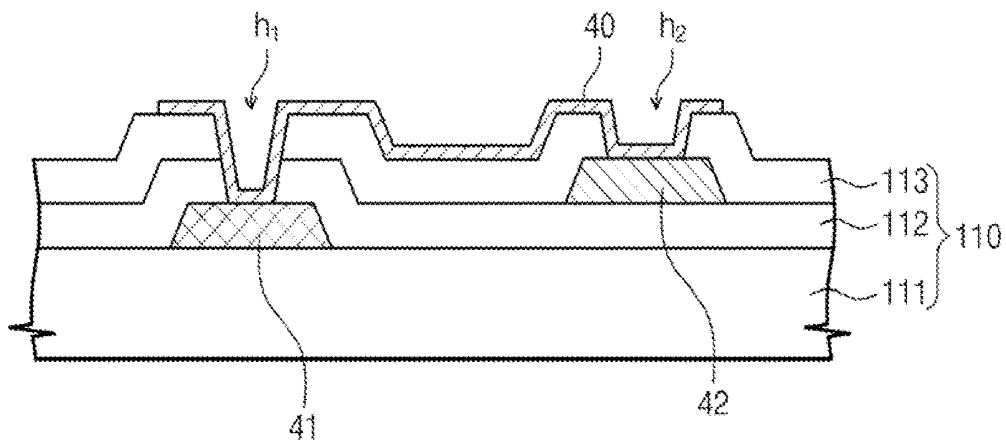


Fig. 6A

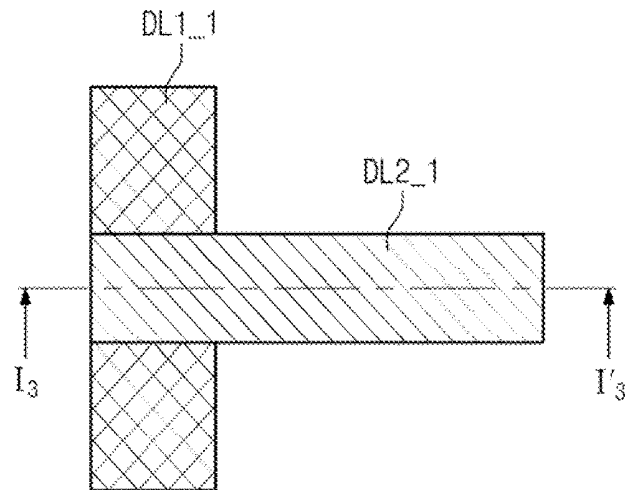


Fig. 6B

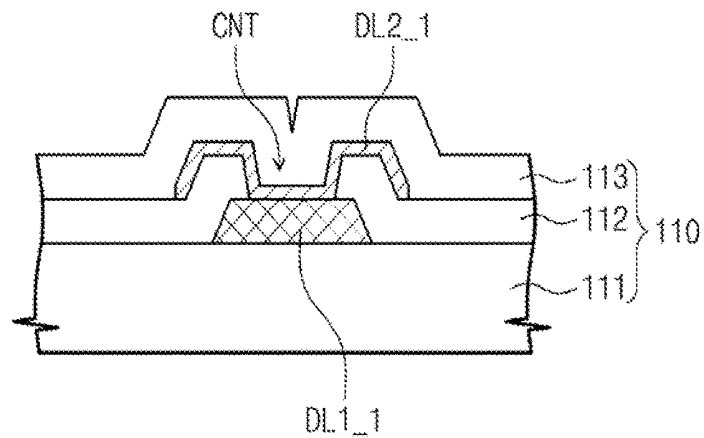


Fig. 7

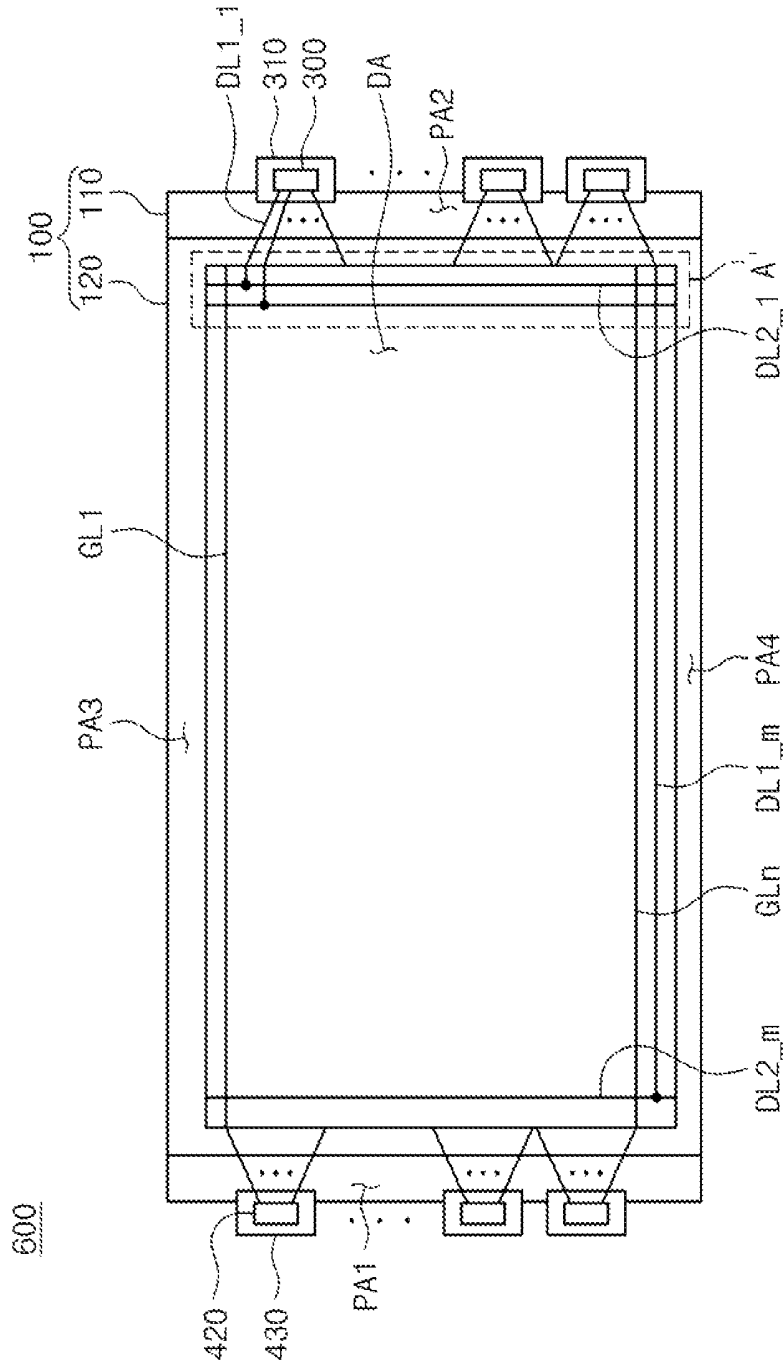


Fig. 8

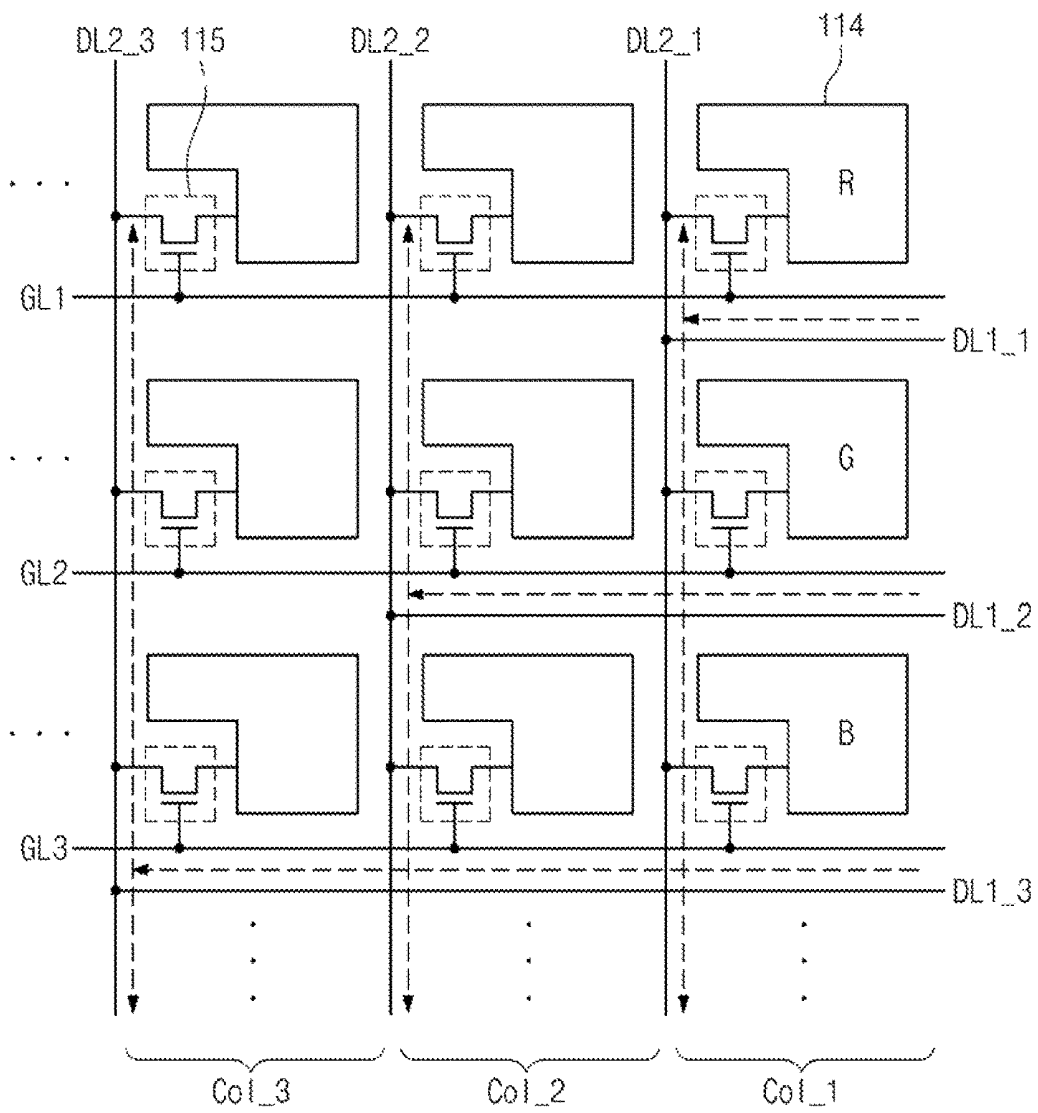


Fig. 9

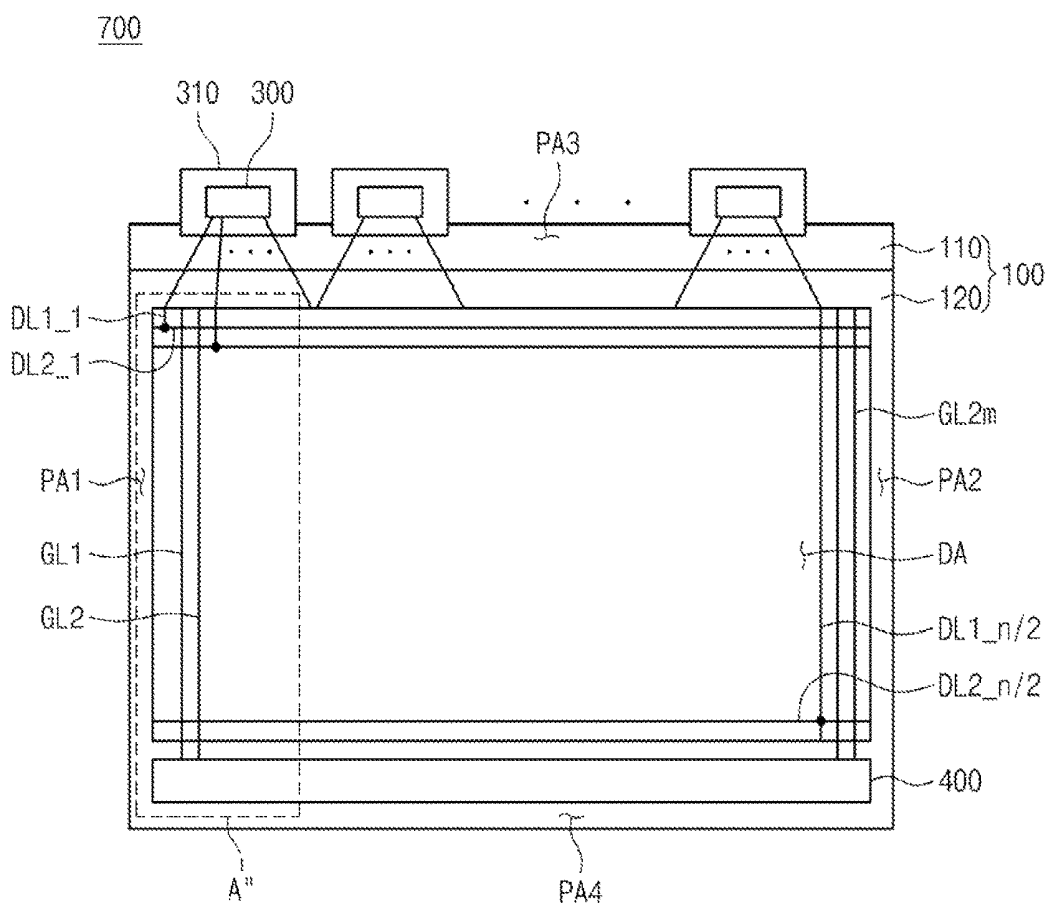
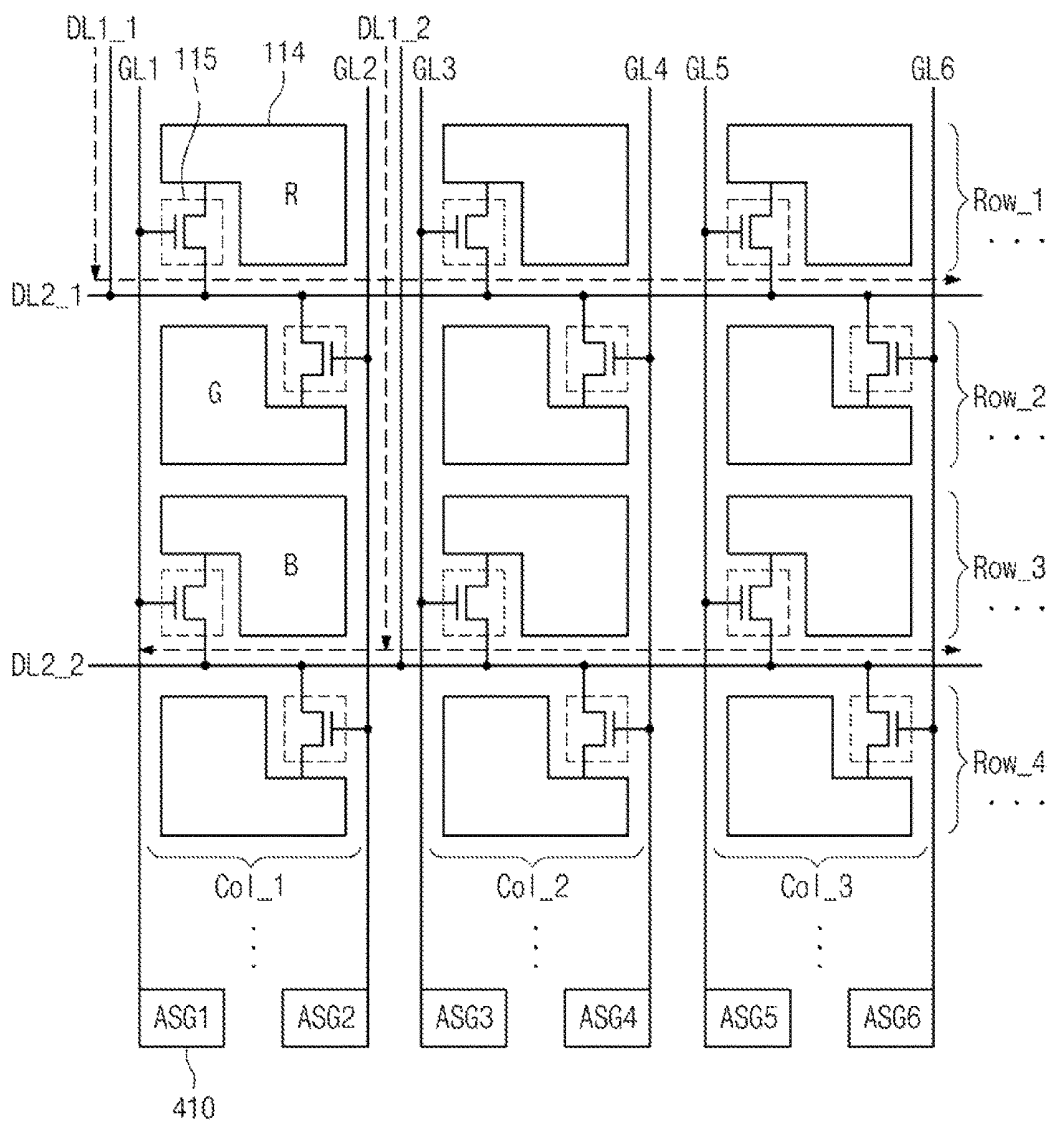


Fig. 10



LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY HAVING MINIMIZED BEZEL AREA

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/450,274 filed on Apr. 18, 2012, which claims priority to and benefit of Korean Patent Application No. 10-2011-0104248 filed on Oct. 12, 2011, which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Technical Field

The present inventive concept relates to a liquid crystal display. More particularly, the present inventive concept relates to a liquid crystal display having a minimized bezel area.

2. Description of the Related Art

In general, a liquid crystal display includes a display panel, gate and data drivers driving the display panel, and a backlight unit providing light to the display panel. The display panel includes a first substrate, a second substrate facing the first substrate, and a liquid crystal layer interposed between the first and second substrates. The first substrate serves as a thin film transistor substrate, and the second substrate serves as a color filter substrate.

The thin film transistor substrate includes gate lines, data lines crossing the gate lines, and pixels each connected to a corresponding gate line of the gate lines and a corresponding data line of the data lines. In addition, a data driver is disposed adjacent to an upper or lower side of the thin film transistor substrate, and a gate driver is disposed adjacent to a left or right side of the thin film transistor substrate. The data driver includes source driving chips to apply signals to the data lines, and the gate driver includes gate driving chips to apply signals to the gate lines. The source and gate driving chips are disposed adjacent to or mounted on the thin film transistor substrate by a chip-on-film system or a chip-on-glass system.

The color filter substrate includes plural color pixels, e.g., red, green, and blue color pixels, to display colors corresponding to amounts of the light, which are varied according to the arrangement of liquid crystal molecules of the liquid crystal layer.

The thin film transistor substrate is divided into a display area in which the pixels are arranged and a non-display area surrounding the display area. If the non-display area is increased, a bezel area covering the outside of the liquid crystal display to correspond to the non-display area is typically increased. Given a total area, the non-display area is required to be decreased so as to enlarge the display area.

Recently, an amorphous silicon gate (ASG) driver, which is directly formed on the thin film transistor substrate, has been widely used instead of conventional gate driving chips. Nevertheless, a thin film transistor substrate that includes the ASG driver may require a larger non-display area than a thin film transistor substrate that includes gate driving chips. Thus, there may be difficulties in reducing the non-display area and/or the bezel area when employing the ASG driver.

In addition, as the number of the pixels is increased, the number of the data lines is increased. As a result, the number of the source driving chips may need to be increased, and the cost of the liquid crystal display may be increased.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Embodiments of the present inventive concept are related to a liquid crystal display having a narrow bezel with a minimized bezel area.

According to one or more embodiments, a liquid crystal display includes a first substrate including a plurality of pixels arranged in m columns by n rows, n data lines disposed on the first substrate and disposed substantially parallel to the columns, m gate lines arranged substantially parallel to the data lines, n data distribution lines arranged to cross the m gate lines and vertically and electrically connected to the data lines, respectively, source driving chips disposed on a first portion of the first substrate, and a gate driver disposed on a second portion of the first substrate, which is opposite to the first portion.

Each of the data distribution lines is electrically connected to a subset of the pixels arranged in a corresponding row, and each of the gate lines is electrically connected to a subgroup of the pixels arranged in a corresponding column. The source driving chips apply data signals to the pixels through the data lines and the data distribution lines, and the gate driver applies gate signals to the pixels through the gate lines.

According to one or more embodiments, a liquid crystal display includes a first substrate including a plurality of pixels arranged in m columns by n rows, m data lines disposed on the first substrate and disposed substantially parallel to the rows, n gate lines arranged substantially parallel to the data lines, m data distribution lines arranged to cross the m gate lines and vertically and electrically connected to the data lines, respectively, source driving chips disposed on a first portion of the first substrate, and gate driving chips disposed on a second portion of the first substrate, which is opposite to the first portion.

Each of the data distribution lines is electrically connected to a subset of the pixels arranged in a corresponding column, and each of the gate lines is electrically connected to a subgroup of the pixels arranged in a corresponding row. The source driving chips apply data signals to the pixels through the data lines and the data distribution lines, and the gate driving chips apply gate signals to the pixels through the gate lines.

According to one or more embodiments, a liquid crystal display includes a first substrate including a plurality of pixels arranged in m columns by n rows, $n/2$ data lines disposed on the first substrate and disposed substantially parallel to the columns, $2m$ gate lines arranged substantially parallel to the data lines, $n/2$ data distribution lines arranged to cross the $2m$ gate lines and vertically and electrically connected to the data lines, respectively, source driving chips disposed on a first portion of the first substrate, and a gate driver disposed on a second portion of the first substrate, which is opposite to the first portion.

Each of the data distribution lines is disposed between a subset of the pixels arranged in an odd-numbered row and a subset of the pixels arranged in an even-numbered row and electrically connected to the subsets of the pixels arranged in the odd- and even-numbered rows, and each of the gate lines is electrically connected to a subgroup of the pixels arranged in a corresponding column. Two gate lines adjacent to each other among the gate lines are respectively disposed at left and right sides of a same subgroup of the pixels arranged in the same column. One gate line of the two adjacent gate lines is electrically connected to odd-numbered pixels arranged in the same column, and the other gate line of the two adjacent gate lines is electrically connected to even-numbered pixels

arranged in the same column. The source driving chips apply data signals to the pixels through the data lines and the data distribution lines, and the gate driver applies gate signals to the pixels through the gate lines.

According to embodiments of the inventive concept, a third portion of the first substrate and a fourth portion of the first substrate do not bear important components of the liquid crystal display. Therefore, the areas of the third and fourth portions may be minimized. Accordingly, given a constant size of the first substrate, a bezel area of the liquid crystal display may be advantageously widened. In addition, the number of the source driving chips employed in the liquid crystal display is reduced; advantageously, the manufacturing cost and/or the material cost of the liquid crystal display may be reduced.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above and other advantages of the present inventive concept will become readily apparent by reference to the following detailed description when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 is an exploded perspective view illustrating a liquid crystal display according to an embodiment of the present inventive concept;

FIG. 2 is a plan view showing the liquid crystal display shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is an enlarged view showing a portion A shown in FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view taken along a line I1-I' 1 shown in FIG. 3;

FIG. 5A is a plan view showing a connection of a data line and a data distribution line shown in FIG. 3 according to an embodiment of the present inventive concept;

FIG. 5B is a cross-sectional view taken along a line I2-I'2 shown in FIG. 5A;

FIG. 6A is a plan view showing a connection of a data line and a data distribution line shown in FIG. 3 according to an embodiment of the present inventive concept;

FIG. 6B is a cross-sectional view taken along a line I3-I'3 shown in FIG. 6A;

FIG. 7 is a plan view illustrating a liquid crystal display according to an embodiment of the present inventive concept;

FIG. 8 is an enlarged view showing a portion A' shown in FIG. 7;

FIG. 9 is a plan view illustrating a liquid crystal display according to an embodiment of the present inventive concept; and

FIG. 10 is an enlarged view showing a portion A" shown in FIG. 9.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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

It will be understood that, although the terms first, second, etc. may be used herein to describe various elements, components, regions, layers and/or sections, these elements, components, regions, layers and/or sections should not be limited by these terms. These terms are only used to distinguish one element, component, region, layer or section from another region, layer or section. Thus, a first element, component, region, layer or section discussed below could be termed a second element, component, region, layer or section without departing from the teachings of the present inventive concept.

Spatially relative terms, such as "beneath", "below", "lower", "above", "upper" and the like, may be used herein for ease of description to describe one element or feature's relationship to another element(s) or feature(s) as illustrated in the figures. It will be understood that the spatially relative terms are intended to encompass different orientations of the device in use or operation in addition to the orientation depicted in the figures. For example, if the device in the figures is turned over, elements described as "below" or "beneath" other elements or features would then be oriented "above" the other elements or features. Thus, the term "below" can encompass both an orientation of above and below. The device may be otherwise oriented (rotated 90 degrees or at other orientations) and the spatially relative descriptors used herein interpreted accordingly.

The terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only and is not intended to be limiting of the inventive concept. As used herein, the singular forms, "a", "an" and "the" are intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. It will be further understood that the terms "includes" and/or "including", when used in this specification, specify the presence of stated features, integers, steps, operations, elements, and/or components, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, operations, elements, components, and/or subgroups thereof.

Unless otherwise defined, all terms (including technical and scientific terms) used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this inventive concept belongs. It will be further understood that terms, such as those defined in commonly used dictionaries, should be interpreted as having a meaning that is consistent with their meaning in the context of the relevant art and will not be interpreted in an idealized or overly formal sense unless expressly so defined herein.

Hereinafter, the present inventive concept will be explained in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1 is an exploded perspective view illustrating a liquid crystal display according to a first embodiment of the present inventive concept, and FIG. 2 is a plan view showing the liquid crystal display shown in FIG. 1.

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, a liquid crystal display 500 includes a display panel 100, a gate driver 400, a plurality of source driving chips 300, a plurality of films 310 on which the source driving chips 300 are respectively mounted, a driving circuit board 320, and a backlight unit 200. The source driving chips 300 are configured to be run as a data driver. That is, the data driver includes the source driving chips 300. The gate driver 400 includes a plurality of amorphous silicon gate circuits 410 (hereinafter, referred to as ASG circuits).

The display panel 100 includes a first substrate 110 on which a plurality of pixels is formed, a second substrate 120 facing the first substrate 110, and a liquid crystal layer (not

shown) interposed between the first and second substrates **110** and **120**. The first substrate **110** is referred to as a thin film transistor substrate, and the second substrate **120** is referred to as a color filter substrate **120**.

The backlight unit **200** provides a light to the display panel **100**, and the liquid crystal layer controls a transmittance of the light provided by the backlight unit **200**. The color filter substrate **120** includes a plurality of color pixels (not shown), e.g., a red color pixel, a green color pixel, and a blue color pixel, which correspond to the pixels in a one-to-one correspondence. The light passing through the liquid crystal layer has its colors determined by the color pixels.

The pixels are disposed on the thin film transistor substrate **110** and arranged in m columns by n rows. In the present embodiment, m and n are integers greater than zero (0). In addition, each pixel includes a thin film transistor and a pixel electrode.

First data lines DL1_1 to DL1_n (hereinafter, referred to as data lines) are substantially vertically and electrically connected to second data lines DL2_1 to DL2_n (hereinafter, referred to as data distribution lines). The data distribution lines DL2_1 to DL2_n cross the gate lines GL1 to GLm, and the gate lines GL1 to GLm are disposed substantially parallel to the data lines DL1_1 to DL1_n. The pixels are connected to the data distribution lines DL2_1 to DL2_n and the gate lines DL1 to DLm. In detail, each of the data distribution lines DL2_1 to DL2_n is connected to the pixels arranged in a corresponding row, and each of the gate lines GL1 to GLm is connected to the pixels arranged in a corresponding column. The data distribution lines DL2_1 to DL2_n are arranged in a row direction, and the data lines DL1_1 to DL1_n and the gate lines GL1 to GLm are arranged in a column direction.

The ASG circuits **410** of the gate driver **400** are mounted on the lower portion of the thin film transistor substrate **110** to apply gate signals, e.g., gate on/off signals, to the pixels through the gate lines GL1 to GLm. In the present embodiment, since the number of the ASG circuits **410** corresponds to the number of the gate lines GL1 to GLm, m ASG circuits **410** are mounted on the lower portion of the thin film transistor substrate **110**.

The source driving chips **300** are mounted on the upper portion of the thin film transistor substrate **110** in a chip-on-film (COF) manner. In detail, the source driving chips **300** are mounted on signal transmission films **310**, respectively, in a tape carrier package format. The source driving chips **300** are electrically connected between the upper portion of the thin film transistor substrate **110** and the driving circuit board **320** through the signal transmission films **310**. In addition, the source driving chips **300** transmit data signals (or pixel data) through the data lines DL1_1 to DL1_n. In one or more embodiments, each source driving chip **300** transmits data signals through a plurality of data lines. The data signals are applied to the pixels through the data distribution lines DL2_1 to DL2_n respectively connected to the data lines DL1_1 to DL1_n. In other words, the data signals are applied to the pixels row-by-row. The connection configuration of the data lines DL1_1 to DL1_n, the data distribution lines DL2_1 to DL2_n, the gate lines GL1 to GLm, and the pixels will be described in detail with reference to FIG. 3.

An area in which the pixels are arranged is referred to as a display area DA, and an area surrounding the display area DA is referred to as a non-display area. The non-display area includes a first area PA1 disposed adjacent to a left side of the display area DA (between a left edge of the thin film

transistor substrate **110** and the display area DA), a second area PA2 disposed adjacent to a right side of the display area DA (between a right edge of the thin film transistor substrate **110** and the display area DA), a third area PA3 disposed adjacent to an upper side of the display area DA (between an upper edge of the thin film transistor substrate **110** and the display area DA), and a fourth area PA4 disposed adjacent to a lower side of the display area DA (between a lower edge of the thin film transistor substrate **110** and the display area DA). As shown in FIG. 2, since the ASG circuits **410** of the gate driver **400** are disposed in the lower portion of the thin film transistor substrate **110**, the first area PA1 and the second area PA2 may be minimized. In one or more embodiments, the distance between the left edge of the thin film transistor substrate **110** and a pixel of the plurality of pixels is less than or equal to 1 mm, and/or the distance between the right edge of the thin film transistor substrate **110** and another pixel of the plurality of pixels is less than or equal to 1 mm. For example, each of the first and second areas PA1 and PA2 of the non-display area has a width of about 1 mm. In addition, since the ASG circuits **410** are mounted in place of cell gap compensation patterns for the lower portion of the thin film transistor substrate **110**, of the size of the fourth area PA4 may be maintained or minimized.

Consequently, the bezel area (e.g., the first and second areas PA1 and PA2) in the left and right sides of the liquid crystal display **500** may be reduced, so the display area DA may be widened in the left and right side directions in which the first and second areas PA1 and PA2 are respectively positioned.

FIG. 3 is an enlarged view showing a portion A shown in FIG. 2. For convenience of explanation, nine pixels have been shown in FIG. 3, and a dotted arrow line indicates a movement direction of data.

Referring to FIG. 3, the pixels are configured to include red, green, and blue pixels arranged along the column direction. Each of the pixels includes a thin film transistor **115** and a pixel electrode **114**. Each of the data lines DL1_1 to DL1_n is substantially vertically and electrically connected to a corresponding data distribution line of the data distribution lines DL2_1 to DL2_n. Each of the data distribution lines DL2_1 to DL2_n is electrically connected to source electrodes of the thin film transistors **115** of the pixels arranged in a corresponding row. Each of gate lines GL1 to GLm is connected to gate electrodes of the thin film transistors **115** of the pixels arranged in a corresponding column. Drain electrodes of the thin film transistors **115** of the pixels are connected to the pixel electrodes **114**, respectively.

The data signal provided through the data line DL1_1 is applied to the source electrodes of the thin film transistors **115** of the pixels arranged in a first row Row_1 through the data distribution line DL2_1. The data signal provided through the data line DL1_2 is applied to the source electrodes of the thin film transistors **115** of the pixels arranged in a second row Row_2 through the data distribution line DL2_2. Similarly, the data signals provided through the data lines DL1_3 to DL1_n are applied to the source electrodes of the thin film transistors **115** of the pixels arranged in the corresponding rows through the data distribution lines DL2_3 to DL2_n, respectively.

As described above, since the data signal is applied to the pixels arranged in one row through one data distribution line connected to one data line, n data lines are provided on the display panel **100**.

Each of the ASG circuits **410** applies the gate signal to the gate electrodes of the thin film transistors **115** of the pixels arranged in the corresponding column through the corre-

sponding gate line of the gate lines GL1 to GLm. Thus, m gate lines are provided on the display panel 100.

If a typical prior art LCD has a resolution of 1366 by 768, the number of the data lines may be 1366×3, and the number of the gate lines may be 768. But, if the liquid crystal display 500 has a resolution of 1366 by 768, the number of the data lines may be 768×3 (corresponding to 768 subsets of R-G-B rows), and the number of the gate lines may be 1366. Thus, the number of the data lines and the number of the source driving chips may be minimized.

Consequently, the non-display area of the liquid crystal display 500 may be minimized, and thus the bezel area may be minimized. In addition, the number of the source driving chips may be minimized; advantageously, the manufacturing cost of the liquid crystal display 500 may be reduced.

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view taken along a line I1-I1' shown in FIG. 3. For convenience of explanation, a first storage capacitor line (hereinafter referred to as first CST line) CST1, a second storage capacitor line (hereinafter referred to as second CST line) CST2, and a column spacer CS, which are not shown in FIG. 3, are illustrated in FIG. 4.

Referring to FIG. 4, the thin film transistor substrate 110 includes a first base substrate 111 and a gate insulating layer 112. The first CST line CST1, the second CST line CST2, and the gate line GL2 are disposed on the first base substrate 111. The data line DL1_2 and the gate line GL2 are spaced apart from each other and disposed between the first and second CST lines CST1 and CST2. The data line DL1_2 and the gate line GL2 are formed of the same metal material.

The gate insulating layer 112 is disposed on the first base substrate 111 to cover the first CST line CST1, the data line DL1_2, the gate line GL2, and the second CST line CST2. The pixel electrode 114 overlapping the first CST line CST1 and the pixel electrode 114 overlapping the second CST line CST2 are disposed on the gate insulating layer 112 and are spaced apart from each other. Hereinafter, the pixel electrode 114 overlapped with the first CST line CST1 is referred to as a first pixel electrode, and the pixel electrode 114 overlapped with the second CST line CST2 is referred to as a second pixel electrode. The column spacer CS is disposed between the first and second pixel electrodes 114 and overlaps the data line DL1_2 and the gate line GL2.

A first parasitic capacitor CP1 is formed by the data line DL1_2 and the gate line GL2 with a first parasitic capacitance existing between the data line DL1_2 and the gate line GL2, a second parasitic capacitor CP2 is formed between/by the first pixel electrode and the data line DL1_2, and a storage capacitor CP3 is formed between/by the first pixel electrode and the first CST line CST1. The first and second parasitic capacitors CP1 and CP2 may exert influence on the operation of the display panel 100.

The column spacer CS includes a material having a low dielectric constant. In an embodiment, the column spacer CS includes an epoxy-based acrylic resin, and the dielectric constant of the column spacer CS is lower than that of the liquid crystal molecules of the liquid crystal layer. The first parasitic capacitor CP1 formed between/by the data line DL1_2 and the gate line GL2 has a capacitance proportional to the dielectric constant of the column spacer CS. When a voltage is applied to the substrates, the liquid crystal molecules of the liquid crystal layer are rearranged and the dielectric constant of the rearranged liquid crystal molecules becomes high. However, the dielectric constant of the column spacer CS is lower than the dielectric constant of the liquid crystal molecules. Thus, although the dielectric constant of the liquid crystal molecules becomes high, the

capacitance of the first parasitic capacitor CP1 remains small due to the column spacer CS having the low dielectric constant.

In addition, as the data line DL1_2 and the gate line GL2 are far away from each other, the capacitance of the first capacitor CP1 becomes small. In an embodiment, if the distance between the data line DL1_2 and the gate line GL2 is equal to or greater than four micrometers, the capacitance of the first parasitic capacitor CP1 may be negligible.

The storage capacitor CP3 compensates for electric charges discharged from a liquid crystal capacitor defined by the first pixel electrode and a common electrode (not shown) disposed on the color filter substrate 120. In an embodiment, the capacitance of the storage capacitor CP3 is greater than that of the second parasitic capacitor CP2, and thus the capacitance of the second parasitic capacitor CP2 can be disregarded.

In an embodiment, the influences by the first and second parasitic capacitors CP1 and CP2 on the operation of the display panel 100 may be disregarded.

FIG. 5A is a plan view showing a connection of a data line and a data distribution line shown in FIG. 3 according to an embodiment of the present inventive concept, and FIG. 5B is a cross-sectional view taken along a line I2-I2' shown in FIG. 5A. FIGS. 5A and 5B show one data line DL1_1 and one data distribution line DL2_1 as a representative example.

Referring to FIGS. 5A and 5B, the thin film transistor substrate 110 includes the first base substrate 111, the gate insulating layer 112, and an inter-insulating layer 113. A first branch portion 41 branched from the data line DL1_1 in the row direction is disposed on the first base substrate 111. The gate insulating layer 112 is disposed on the first base substrate 111 to cover the first branch portion 41, and a second branch portion 42 branched from the data distribution line DL2_1 in the column direction is disposed on the gate insulating layer 112 to be adjacent to the first branch portion 41. The inter-insulating layer 113 is disposed on the gate insulating layer 112 to cover the second branch portion 42. A first hole h1 is formed through the inter-insulating layer 113 and the gate insulating layer 112 to expose a portion of the first branch portion 41, and a second hole h2 is formed through the inter-insulating layer 113 to expose a portion of the second branch portion 42. A bridge 40 includes portions formed in the first hole h1, formed in the second hole h2, and formed on the inter-insulating layer 113 between the first and second holes h1 and h2, respectively; the first branch portion 41 and the second branch portion 42 are electrically connected to each other by the bridge 40.

In the example of FIGS. 5A and 5B, the first branch portion 41 and the second branch portion 42 are disposed on different layers from each other and are electrically connected to each other by the bridge 40.

FIG. 6A is a plan view showing a connection of a data line and a data distribution line shown in FIG. 3 according to an embodiment of the present inventive concept, and FIG. 6B is a cross-sectional view taken along a line I3-I3' shown in FIG. 6A. FIGS. 6A and 6B show one data line DL1_1 and one data distribution line DL2_1 as a representative example.

Referring to FIGS. 6A and 6B, the data line DL1_1 is disposed on the first base substrate 111, and the gate insulating layer 112 is disposed on the first base substrate 111 to cover the data line DL1_1. The gate insulating layer 112 is provided with a contact hole CNT formed therethrough to expose a portion of the data line DL1_1. The data distribution line DL2_1 includes portions disposed in the contact

hole CNT and disposed on a portion of the gate insulating layer **112** adjacent to the contact hole CNT, respectively, and the inter-insulating layer **113** is disposed on the gate insulating layer **112** to cover the data distribution line **DL2_1**. Since a portion of the data distribution line **DL2_1** is disposed in the contact hole CNT, the data line **DL1_1** and the data distribution line **DL2_1** are electrically connected to each other.

The contact hole CNT is formed only in an area where the data line **DL1_1** is connected to the data distribution line **DL2_1**. For instance, the data line **DL1_1** is connected to the data distribution line **DL2_1**, but another data line **DL1_2** is not connected to the data distribution line **DL2_1**. That is, the contact hole CNT is not formed in the gate insulating layer **112** disposed corresponding to the data line **DL1_2**. Accordingly, the data line **DL1_2** is separated from the data distribution line **DL2_1** by the gate insulating layer **112** so as not to be electrically connected to the data distribution line **DL2_1**.

FIG. 7 is a plan view showing a liquid crystal display according to an embodiment of the present inventive concept. In FIG. 7, the same reference numerals may denote the same elements in FIG. 2, and thus detailed descriptions of the same elements may be omitted. In a liquid crystal display **600** according to an embodiment, a gate driver includes a plurality of gate driving chips **420** and is disposed adjacent to a left side of the thin film transistor substrate **110**, and source driving chips **300** are disposed adjacent to a right side of the thin film transistor substrate **110**. In addition, the connection configuration of data lines, data distribution lines, and gate lines is different from that of the data lines, data distribution lines, and the gate lines shown in FIG. 2 since the gate driving chips and the source driving chips are disposed adjacent to the left and right sides of the thin film transistor substrate **110**, respectively. In one or more embodiments, the left and right sides of the thin film transistor substrate **110** are shorter than the upper and lower sides of the thin film transistor substrate **110**.

Referring to FIG. 7, the data lines **DL1_1** to **DL1_m** are substantially vertically and electrically connected to second data lines **DL2_1** to **DL2_m** (hereinafter, referred to as data distribution lines), respectively. The data distribution lines **DL2_1** to **DL2_m** cross the gate lines **GL1** to **GLn**, and the gate lines **GL1** to **GLn** are disposed substantially parallel to the data lines **DL1_1** to **DL1_m**. Pixels are connected to the data distribution lines **DL2_1** to **DL2_m** and the gate lines **GL1** to **GLn** in a one-to-one correspondence. In detail, each of the data distribution lines **DL2_1** to **DL2_m** is connected to the pixels arranged in a corresponding column, and each of the gate lines **GL1** to **GLn** is connected to the pixels arranged in a corresponding row. The data distribution lines **DL2_1** to **DL2_m** are arranged in the column direction, and the data lines **DL1_1** to **DL1_m** and the gate lines **GL1** to **GLn** are arranged in the row direction.

The gate driving chips **420** are connected to the left side of the thin film transistor substrate **110** in the chip-on-film manner, and the source driving chips **300** are connected to the right side of the thin film transistor substrate **110** in the chip-on-film manner. The gate driving chips **420** are configured to serve the gate driver. That is, the gate driver includes the gate driving chips **420**.

The gate driving chips **420** apply gate signals, e.g., gate on/off signals, to the pixels through the gate lines **GL1** to **GLn** by rows.

The source driving chips **300** transmit data signals, e.g., the pixel data, through the data lines **DL1_1** to **DL1_m**. Each source driving chip **300** transmits data signals to a plurality

of data lines. The data signals are applied to the pixels through the data distribution lines **DL2_1** to **DL2_m** respectively connected to the data lines **DL1_1** to **DL1_m**. That is, the data signals are applied to the pixels by columns. The connection configuration of the data lines **DL1_1** to **DL1_m**, the data distribution lines **DL2_1** to **DL2_m**, the gate lines **GL1** to **GLn**, and the pixels will be described in detail with reference to FIG. 8.

As described above, since the gate driving chips **420** of the gate driver are disposed at the left side of the thin film transistor substrate **110**, and the source driving chips **300** of the data driver are disposed at the right side of the thin film transistor substrate **110**, the size of at least one of the third area **PA3** and the fourth area **PA4** may be minimized. In one or more embodiments, the distance between the upper edge of the thin film transistor substrate **110** and a pixel of the plurality of pixels is less than or equal to 1 mm, and/or the distance between the lower edge of the thin film transistor substrate **110** and another pixel of the plurality of pixels is less than or equal to 1 mm. For example, the third and fourth areas **PA3** and **PA4** may have the size of about 1 mm in width.

In addition, since the gate driving chips **420** are employed in the thin film transistor substrate **110** instead of the ASG circuits **410**, the size of the first area **PA1** may be even smaller than a left-side non-display area including ASG circuits **410** mounted thereon. In one or more embodiments, the gate driving chips **420** of the gate driver are disposed at the right side of the thin film transistor substrate **110**, and the source driving chips **310** of the data driver are disposed at the left side of the thin film transistor substrate **110**; the size of at least one of the third area **PA3** and the fourth area **PA4** may be minimized. Further, the size of the second area **PA2** may be even smaller than a right-side non-display area including ASG circuits **410** mounted thereon (since the gate driving chips **420** are employed in the thin film transistor substrate **110** instead of the ASG circuits **410**).

Consequently, the upper and lower bezel areas of the liquid crystal display **600** according to the present embodiment may be minimized, and the left and right bezel areas of the liquid crystal display **600** may be smaller than left and right bezel areas associated with ASG circuits **410**.

FIG. 8 is an enlarged view showing a portion A' shown in FIG. 7.

Referring to FIG. 8, the data lines **DL1_1** to **DL1_m** are substantially vertically and electrically connected to the data distribution lines **DL2_1** to **DL2_m**. The data distribution lines **DL2_1** to **DL2_m** are electrically connected to the source electrodes of the thin film transistors **115** of the pixels arranged in the corresponding columns, respectively. The gate lines **GL1** to **GLn** are electrically connected to the gate electrodes of the thin film transistors **115** of the pixels arranged in the corresponding rows, respectively. Drain electrodes of the thin film transistors **115** of the pixels are respectively connected to the pixel electrodes **114**.

The data signal provided through the data line **DL1_1** is applied to the source electrodes of the thin film transistors **115** of the pixels arranged in a first column **Col_1** through the data distribution lines **DL2_1**. The data signal provided through the data line **DL1_2** is applied to the source electrodes of the thin film transistors **115** of the pixels arranged in a second column **Col_2** through the data distribution lines **DL2_2**. Similarly, the data signals provided through the data lines **DL1_3** to **DL1_m** are applied to the source electrodes of the thin film transistors **115** of the pixels arranged in the corresponding columns through the data distribution lines **DL2_3** to **DL2_m**.

Since the data signal is applied to the pixels arranged in one column through one data distribution line connected to one data line, m data lines are provided on the display panel **100**.

Each of the gate driving chips **420** applies the gate signals to the gate electrodes of the thin film transistors **115** of the pixels arranged in the corresponding row through the corresponding gate line of the gate lines **GL1** to **GL n** . Thus, n gate lines are provided on the display panel **100**.

FIG. **9** is a plan view showing a liquid crystal display according to an embodiment of the present inventive concept. In FIG. **9**, the same reference numerals may denote the same elements in FIG. **2**, and thus detailed descriptions of the same elements may be omitted. A liquid crystal display **700** according to the embodiment may have the same structure and function as those of the liquid crystal display **500** shown in FIG. **2** except for the number of the data distribution lines, the number of the gate lines, and the arrangements of the data distribution lines and the gate lines.

The data lines **DL1_1** to **DL1_ $n/2$** are connected to the data distribution lines **DL2_1** to **DL2_ $n/2$** , respectively. The data distribution lines **DL2_1** to **DL2_ $n/2$** cross the gate lines **GL1** to **GL $2m$** , and the gate lines **GL1** to **GL $2m$** are disposed substantially parallel to the data lines **DL1_1** to **DL1_ $n/2$** .

Each of the data distribution lines **DL2_1** to **DL2_ $n/2$** is disposed between the pixels arranged in an odd-numbered row and the pixels arranged in an even-numbered row, and thus each of the data distribution lines **DL2_1** to **DL2_ $n/2$** is connected to the pixels arranged in an odd-numbered row and the pixels arranged in an even-numbered row. The gate lines **GL1** to **GL m** are disposed at left and right sides of the pixels arranged in the same column in the unit of two gate lines, i.e., in gate line pairs. In detail, the two gate lines **GL1** and **GL2** are disposed at the left and right sides of the pixels arranged in the same column **Col_1**, respectively, and the two gate lines **GL3** and **GL4** are disposed at the left and right sides of the pixels arranged in the same column **Col_2**. Similarly, the other gate lines **GL3** to **GL $2m$** are disposed in the above-described manner. Among two gate lines, one gate line is connected to odd-numbered pixels in the same column and the other gate line is connected to even-numbered pixels in the same column. The data distribution lines **DL2_1** to **DL2_ $n/2$** are arranged in the row direction, and the data lines **DL1_1** to **DL1_ $n/2$** and the gate lines **GL1** to **GL $2m$** are arranged in the column direction.

The ASG circuits **410** (illustrated in FIG. **10**) of the gate driver **400** are mounted on the lower portion of the thin film transistor substrate **110**, and the source driving chips **300** are electrically connected between the upper portion of the thin film transistor substrate **110** and the driving circuit substrate **320** (illustrated in FIG. **1**) through signal transmission films **310**. That is, the arrangements of the ASG circuits **410** and the source driving chips **300** of the liquid crystal display **700** shown in FIG. **9** are the same as those of the liquid crystal display **500** shown in FIG. **2**. Thus, the left and right bezel areas of the liquid crystal display **700** may be minimized, thereby widening the display area in the left and right direction.

FIG. **10** is an enlarged view showing a portion A" shown in FIG. **9**. For convenience of explanation, twelve pixels have been shown in FIG. **10**, and a dotted arrow line indicates a movement direction of data.

Referring to FIG. **9** and FIG. **10**, the data lines **DL1_1** to **DL1_ $n/2$** are substantially vertically and electrically connected to the data distribution lines **DL2_1** to **DL2_ $n/2$** , respectively.

Each of the data distribution lines **DL2_1** to **DL2_ $n/2$** is disposed between the odd-numbered row of the pixels and the even-numbered row of the pixels. In addition, each of the data distribution lines **DL2_1** to **DL2_ $n/2$** is electrically connected to the source electrodes of the thin film transistors **115** of the pixels arranged in the odd- and even-numbered rows. The gate lines **GL1** to **GL $2m$** are disposed at the left and right sides of the pixels arranged in the same column in the unit of two gate lines, i.e., in pairs. Among two gate lines respectively disposed at the left and right sides of the pixels arranged in the same column, one gate line is electrically connected to the gate electrodes of the thin film transistors **115** of the odd-numbered pixels in the same column, and the other gate line is electrically connected to the gate electrodes of the thin film transistors **115** of the even-numbered pixels in the same column. The drain electrodes of the thin film transistors **115** of the pixels are connected to the pixel electrodes, respectively.

The data signal provided through the data line **DL1_1** is applied to the source electrodes of the thin film transistors **115** of the pixels arranged in the first row **Row_1** (one of the odd-numbered rows) and the second row **Row_2** (one of the even-numbered rows) through the data distribution line **DL2_1**. In addition, the data signal provided through the data line **DL1_2** is applied to the source electrodes of the thin film transistors **115** of the pixels arranged in the third row **Row_3** (one of the odd-numbered rows) and the fourth row **Row_4** (one of the even-numbered rows) through the data distribution line **DL2_2**. Similarly, the data signals provided through the data lines **DL1_3** to **DL1_ $n/2$** are applied to the source electrodes of the thin film transistors **115** of the pixels arranged in the odd- and even-numbered rows through the data distribution lines **DL2_3** to **DL2_ $n/2$** , respectively.

Since a data signal is applied to the pixels arranged in two rows through one data distribution line connected to one data line, $n/2$ data lines are provided on the display panel **100**, wherein n is the number of rows of pixels provided on the display panel **100**.

In addition, the gate signal provided through one gate line **GL1** of the two gate lines **GL1** and **GL2** is applied to the gate electrodes of the thin film transistors **115** of the odd-numbered pixels arranged in the first column **Col_1**. The gate signal provided through the other gate line **GL2** of the two gate lines **GL1** and **GL2** is applied to the gate electrodes of the thin film transistors **115** of the even-numbered pixels arranged in the first column **Col_1**.

That is, since the gate signal is applied to the pixels arranged in one column through two gate lines, $2m$ gate lines are provided on the display panel **100**, wherein m is the number of columns of pixels provided on the display panel **100**. In addition, since the ASG circuits **410** correspond to the gate lines **GL1** to **GL $2m$** , $2m$ ASG circuits are mounted on the lower portion of the thin film transistor substrate **110**.

As described above, the number of the data lines in the liquid crystal display **700** according to the present embodiment is reduced to about half of the number of the data lines in the liquid crystal display **500** shown in FIG. **2**, and thus the number of the source driving chips is reduced.

Consequently, the increased bezel area required by the additional m ASG circuits is substantially less than the reduced bezel area caused by the reduced number of source driving circuits. That is, the non-display area of the liquid crystal display **700** may be reduced, and thus the bezel area may be decreased. In addition, the number of the source

driving chips may be reduced; advantageously, the manufacturing cost and/or the material cost of the liquid crystal display 700 may be reduced.

Although the embodiments of the present inventive concept have been described, it is understood that the present inventive concept should not be limited to these embodiments but various changes and modifications can be made by one ordinary skilled in the art within the spirit and scope of the present inventive concept as hereinafter claimed.

What is claimed is:

1. A liquid crystal display comprising:

a display panel including a plurality of pixels connected to a plurality of gate lines extending in a first direction and a plurality of first data lines extending in the first direction, a first base substrate on which the gate lines and the first data lines are disposed, and an insulating layer disposed on the first base substrate to cover the gate lines and the first data lines;

a data driver connected to the first data lines and disposed at a first portion of the display panel;

a gate driver connected to the gate lines and mounted on a second portion of the display panel, which is opposite to the first portion of the display panel in the first direction;

a plurality of second data lines connecting the first data lines to the pixels, extending in a second direction crossing the first direction, disposed on the first base substrate, and the insulating layer covers the second data lines;

a plurality of first branch portions branched from the first data lines and extending in the same direction as the second data lines;

a plurality of second branch portions branched from the second data lines, extending in a direction different from the first branch portions, and extending in the same direction as the first data lines; and

a plurality of bridges electrically connecting the first branch portions and the second branch portions through a plurality of first holes defined in the insulating layer to expose the first branch portions and a plurality of second holes defined in the insulating layer to expose the second branch portions,

wherein the bridges are disposed on the insulating layer, extend in the first direction, and are spaced apart from the first data lines and the second data lines when viewed on a plane defined by the first direction and the second direction.

2. The liquid crystal display of claim 1, wherein the gate driver is mounted on the second portion of the display panel and comprises a plurality of amorphous silicon TFT gate driver circuits.

3. The liquid crystal display of claim 1, wherein the pixels are arranged in a plurality of columns extending in the first direction by a plurality of rows extending in the second direction, each of the second data lines connects a corresponding first data line of the first data lines to pixels arranged in a corresponding row of the rows.

4. The liquid crystal display of claim 1, wherein each of the pixels comprises:

a thin film transistor including a gate electrode connected to a corresponding gate line of the gate lines, a source electrode connected to a corresponding second data line of the second data lines, and a drain electrode; and a pixel electrode connected to the drain electrode of the thin film transistor.

5. The liquid crystal display of claim 1, wherein the display panel is divided into a display area in which the pixels are arranged and a non-display area surrounding the display area, a width of each non-display area adjacent to a left side and a right side of the display area in the second direction is less than or equal to 1 mm.

6. The liquid crystal display of claim 1, wherein the first data lines include a first data line, wherein the first branch portions include a first branch portion directly connected to the first data line, wherein the second data lines include a second data line, wherein the second branch portions include a second branch portion directly connected to the second data line, wherein the bridges include a bridge, wherein the bridge electrically connects the first branch portion to the second branch portion, and wherein the bridge is disposed between an edge of the first data line and an edge of the first branch portion in the second direction in a plan view.

7. The liquid crystal display of claim 1, wherein the display panel further comprises:

a second substrate facing the first base substrate; and a liquid crystal layer disposed between the first base substrate and the second substrate and comprising liquid crystal molecules.

8. The liquid crystal display of claim 7, wherein the display panel further comprises:

column spacers disposed on the gate insulating layer, each of the column spacers overlapping a corresponding first data line of the first data lines and overlapping a corresponding gate line of the gate lines.

9. The liquid crystal display of claim 8, wherein the first data lines comprise a same metal material as the gate lines.

10. The liquid crystal display of claim 8, wherein the column spacers have a dielectric constant lower than a dielectric constant of the liquid crystal molecules.

11. The liquid crystal display of claim 8, wherein the column spacers comprise an epoxy-based acrylic resin.

12. The liquid crystal display of claim 8, wherein each of the first data lines is spaced apart from a corresponding gate line of the gate lines by a distance equal to or greater than four micrometers.

13. The liquid crystal display of claim 7, wherein the insulating layer comprises:

a gate insulating layer disposed on the first base substrate to cover the first branch portions, the second branch portions are disposed on the gate insulating layer; an inter-insulating layer disposed on the gate insulating layer to cover the second branch portions, wherein the first holes are formed through the gate insulating layer and the inter-insulating layer to expose the first branch portions,

the second holes are formed through the inter-insulating layer to expose the second branch portions, and the bridges include portions disposed in the first holes, disposed in the second holes, and disposed on the inter-insulating layer and between the first holes and the second holes.

14. The liquid crystal display of claim 7, wherein the data driver comprises a plurality of source driving chips connected to a first portion of the first substrate corresponding to the first portion of the display panel through a plurality of signal transmission films.

15. The liquid crystal display of claim 14, wherein the gate driver is mounted on a second portion of the first substrate, which is opposite to the first portion of the first substrate.

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[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	三星显示有限公司		
申请(专利权)人(译)	三星DISPLAY CO. , LTD.		
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发明人	SONG, MIN-CHUL YOON, JUNGHOON KIM, SUNGMAN PARK, JAE HWA CHO, YOUNGJE		
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摘要(译)

一种液晶显示器，包括：第一基板，包括以m列×n行排列的像素；n条数据线，m条栅极线，与数据线基本平行；n条数据分配线，与m条栅极线交叉并电连接到数据线分别是设置在第一基板的第一部分上的源极驱动芯片，以及设置在第一基板的第二部分上的栅极驱动器。每条数据分配线连接到排列在相应行中的像素的子集，并且每条栅极线连接到排列在相应列中的像素的子组。源极驱动芯片通过第一数据线和数据分配线将数据信号施加到像素，并且栅极驱动器通过栅极线将栅极信号施加到像素。

