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(45) **Date of Patent:** Apr. 14, 2015

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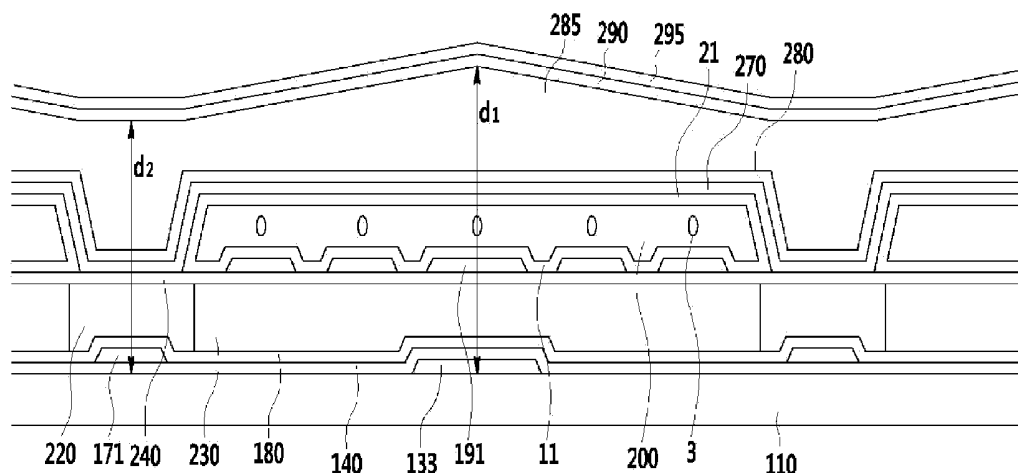
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Provided are a display device capable of reducing a weight, a thickness, a cost, and a process time and having a durable structure, and a manufacturing method thereof. The display device includes: a substrate including a plurality of pixel areas; a thin film transistor formed on substrate; a first electrode connected to the thin film transistor to be formed in the pixel area; an organic layer formed on the first electrode so as to be connected along the adjacent pixel areas in a first direction among the pixel areas; a space positioned on the first electrode, of which parts of the upper surface and the side are surrounded by the organic layer; a liquid crystal formed to fill the space; and an overcoat formed to cover the rest side of the space which is not covered by the organic layer, in which a height of the upper surface of the organic layer is gradually lowered toward both edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area.

17 Claims, 24 Drawing Sheets



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FIG. 1

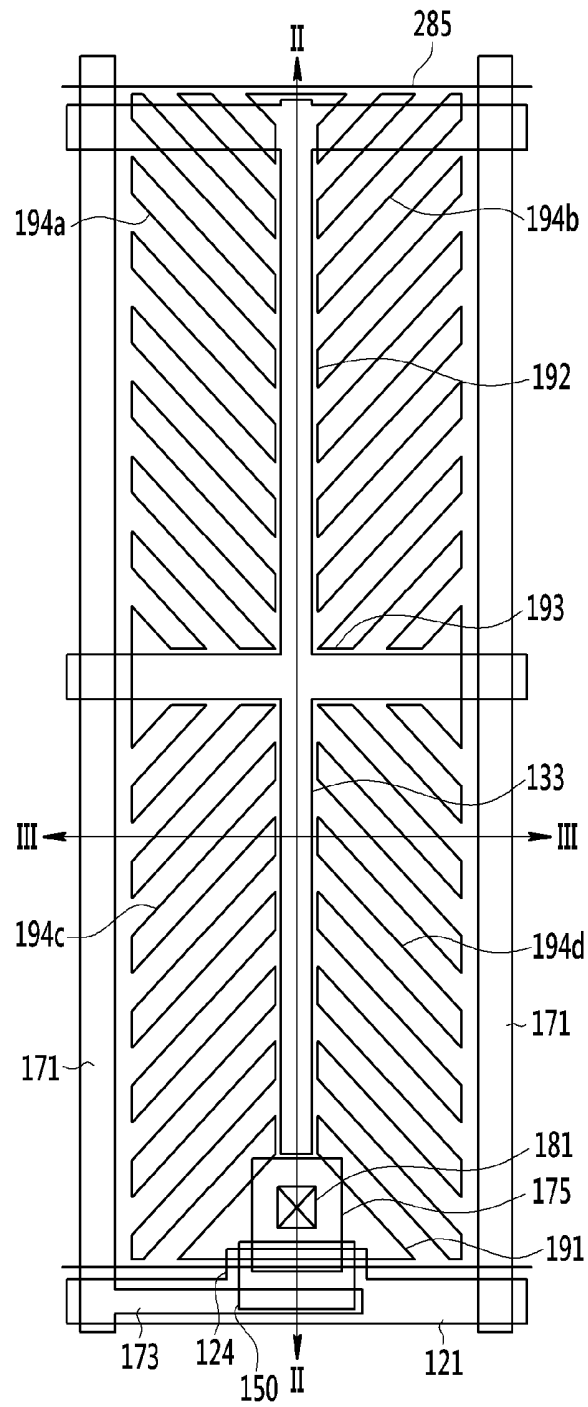


FIG. 2

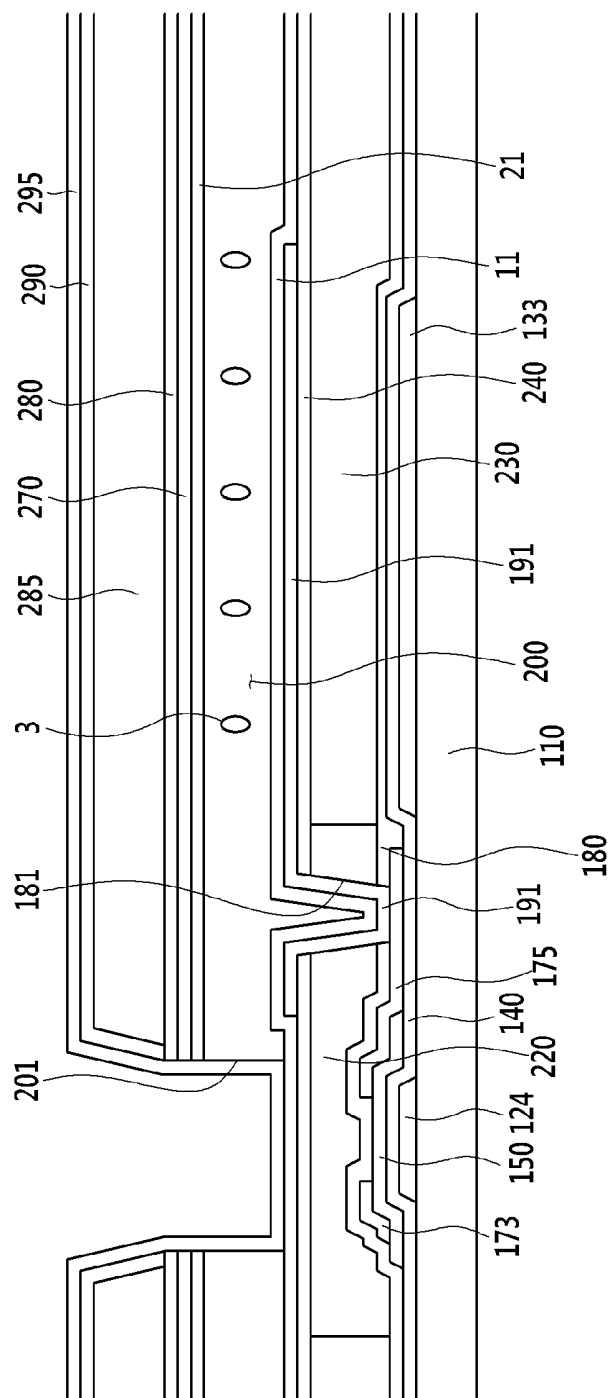


FIG. 3

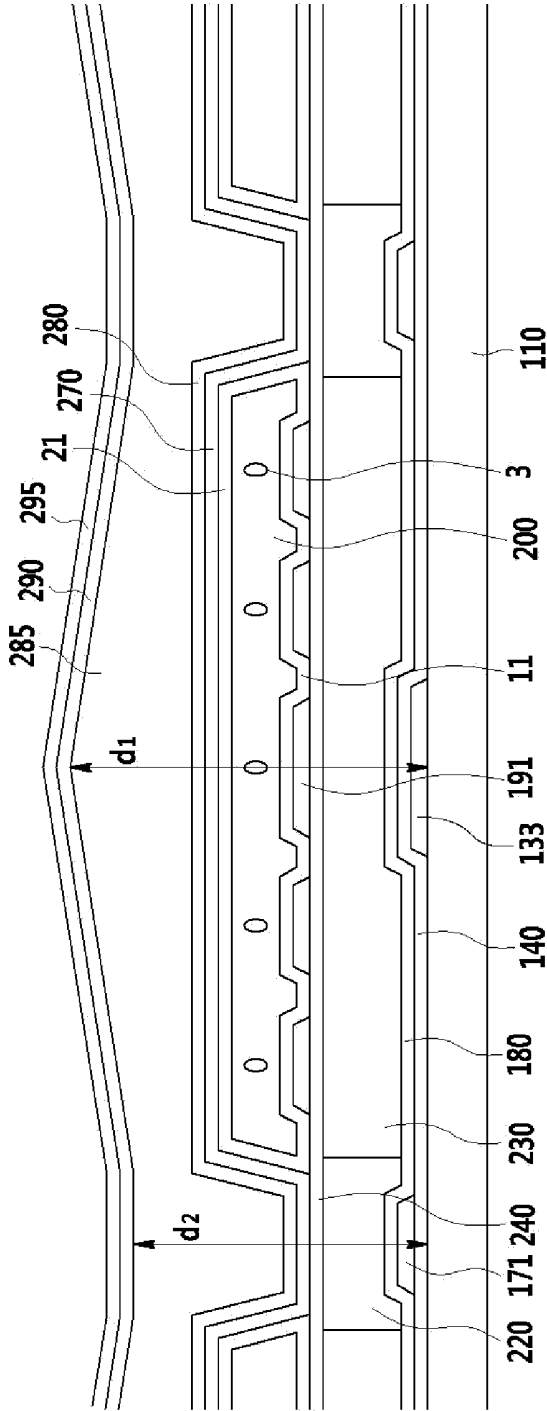


FIG. 5

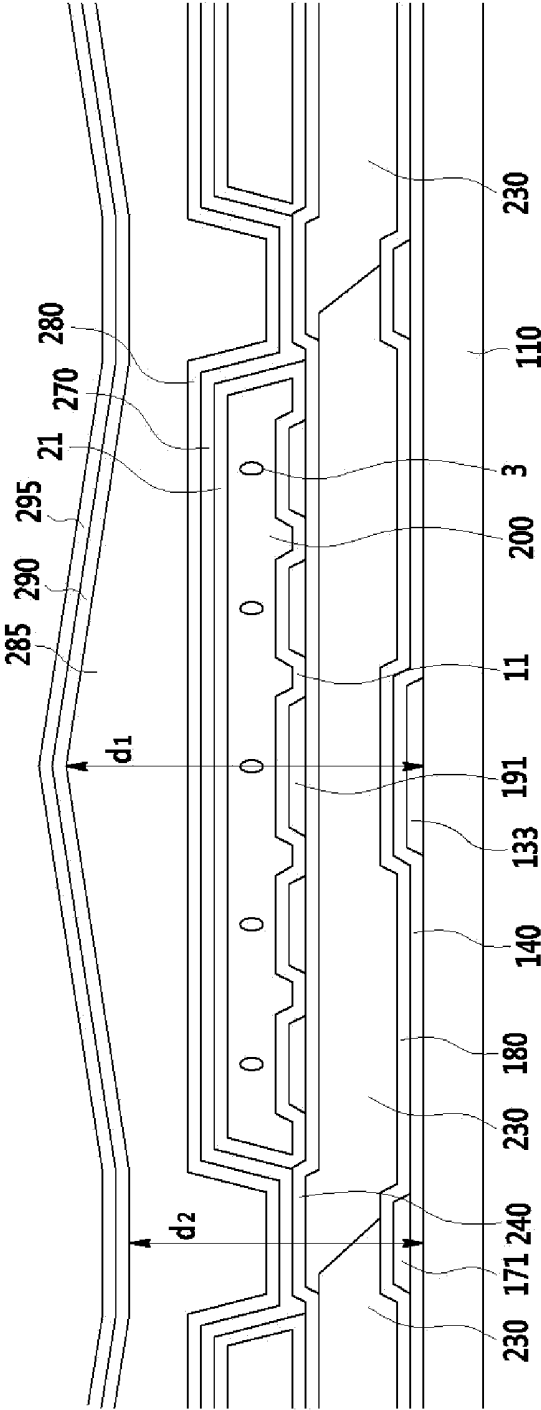


FIG. 6

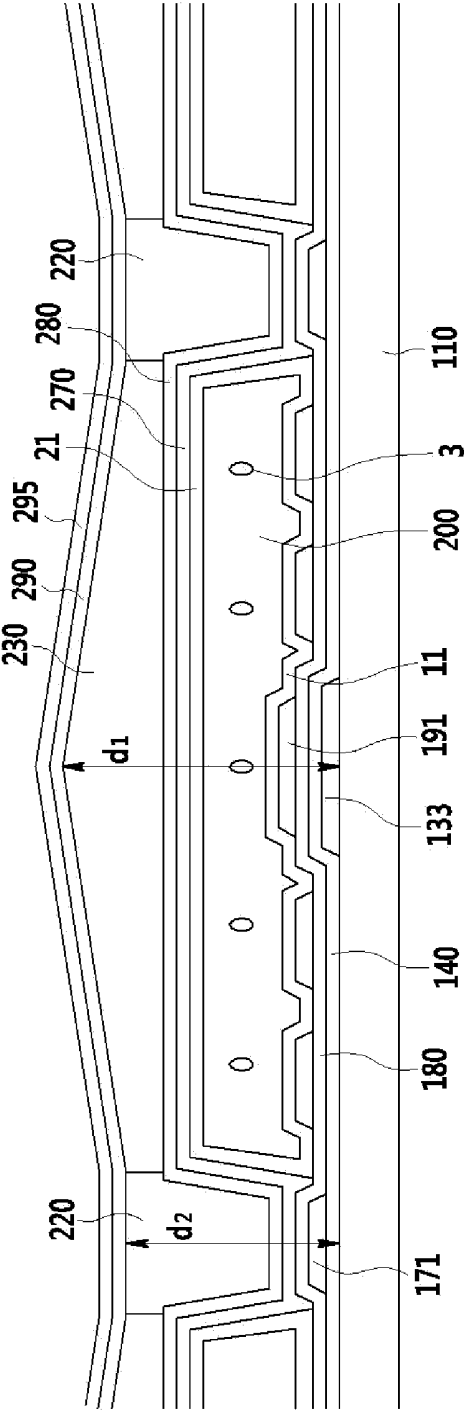


FIG. 7

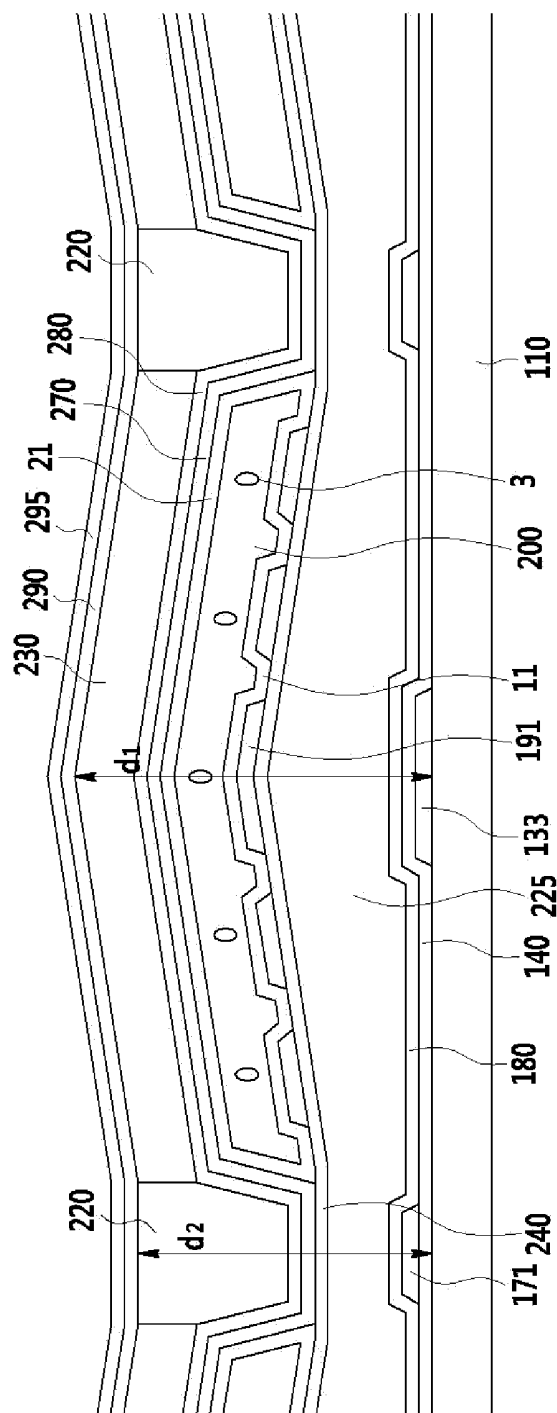


FIG. 8

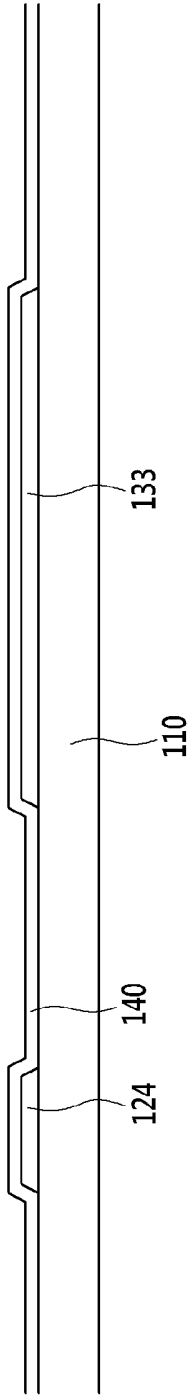


FIG. 9

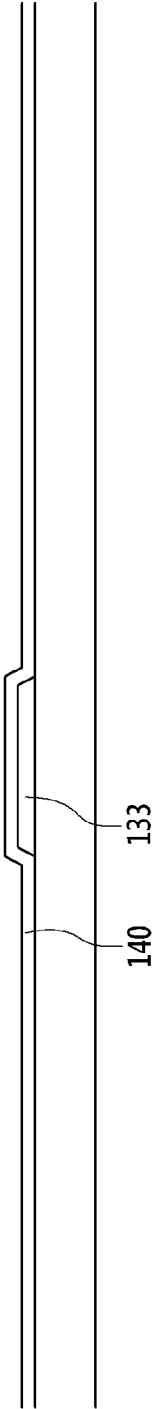


FIG.10

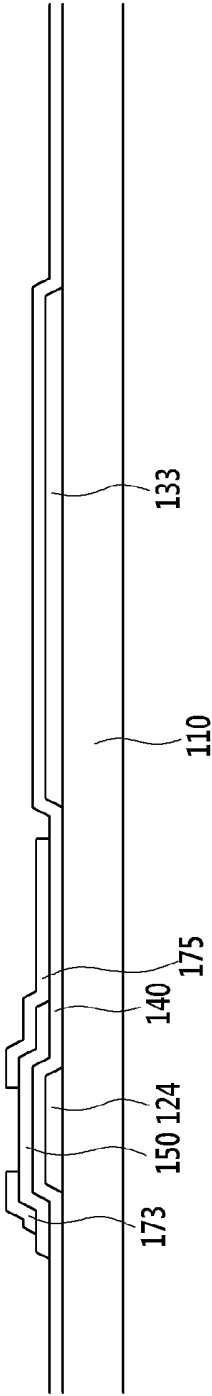


FIG. 11

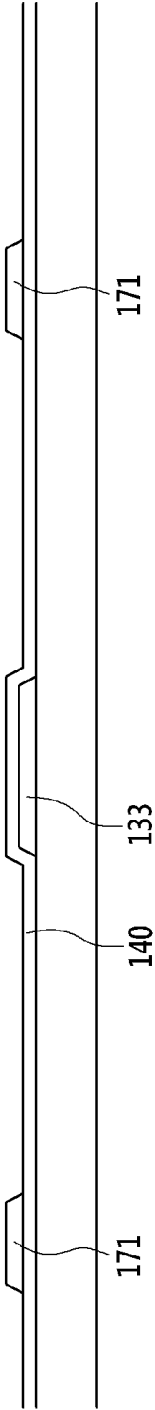


FIG.12

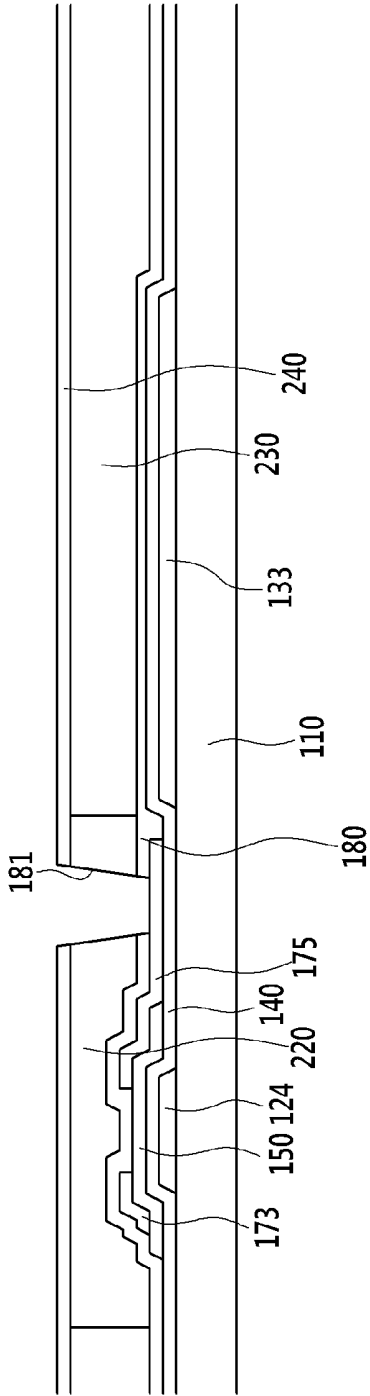


FIG.13

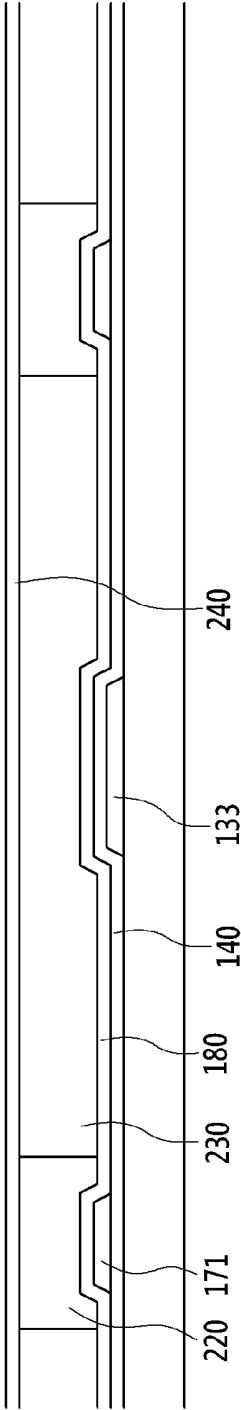


FIG.14

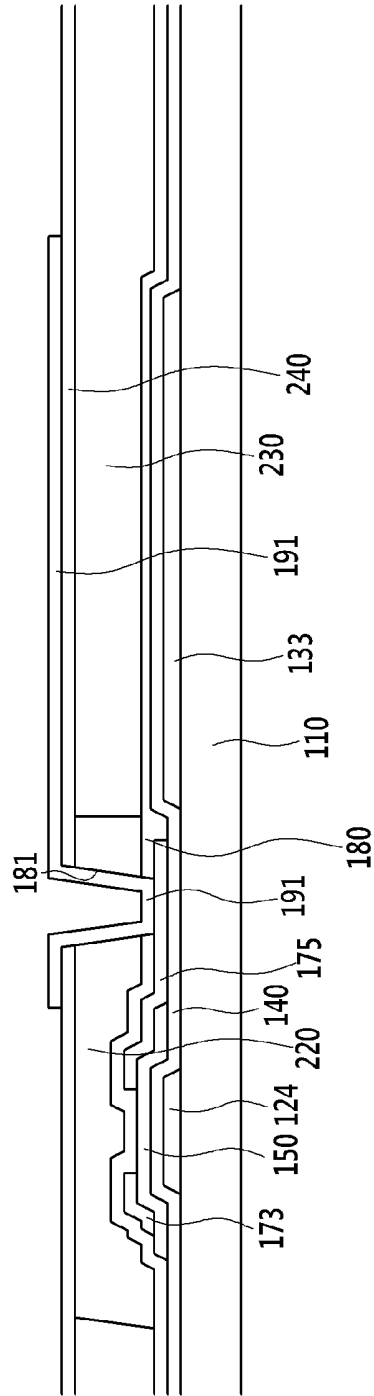


FIG.15

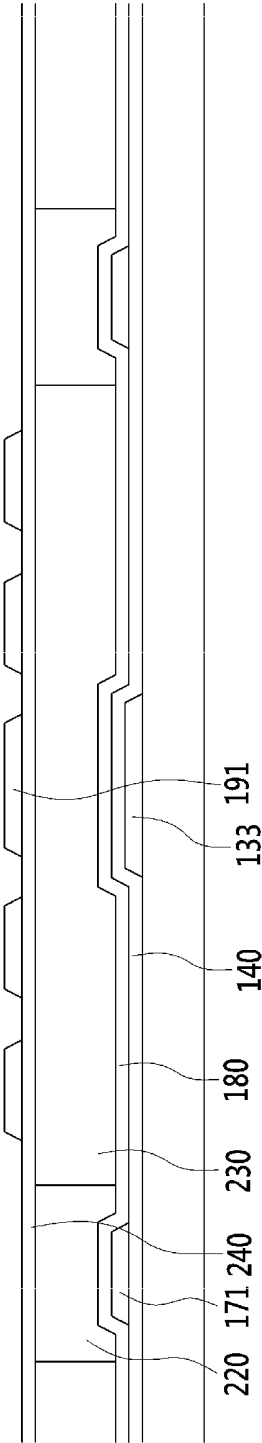


FIG.16

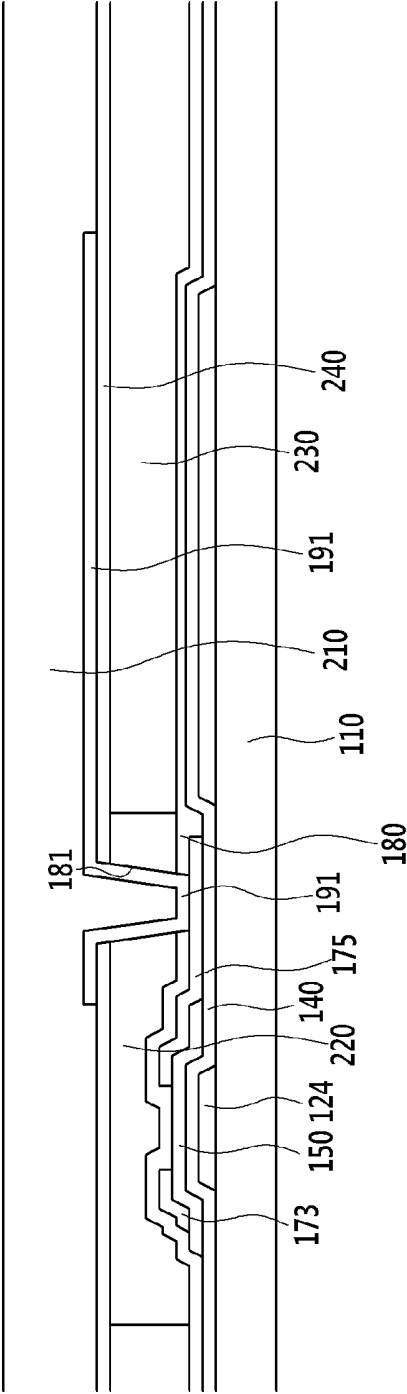


FIG.17

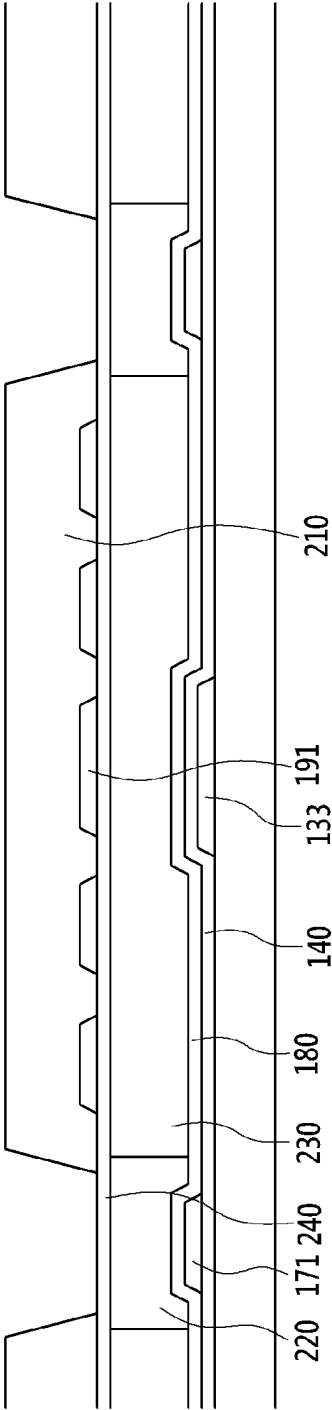


FIG. 18

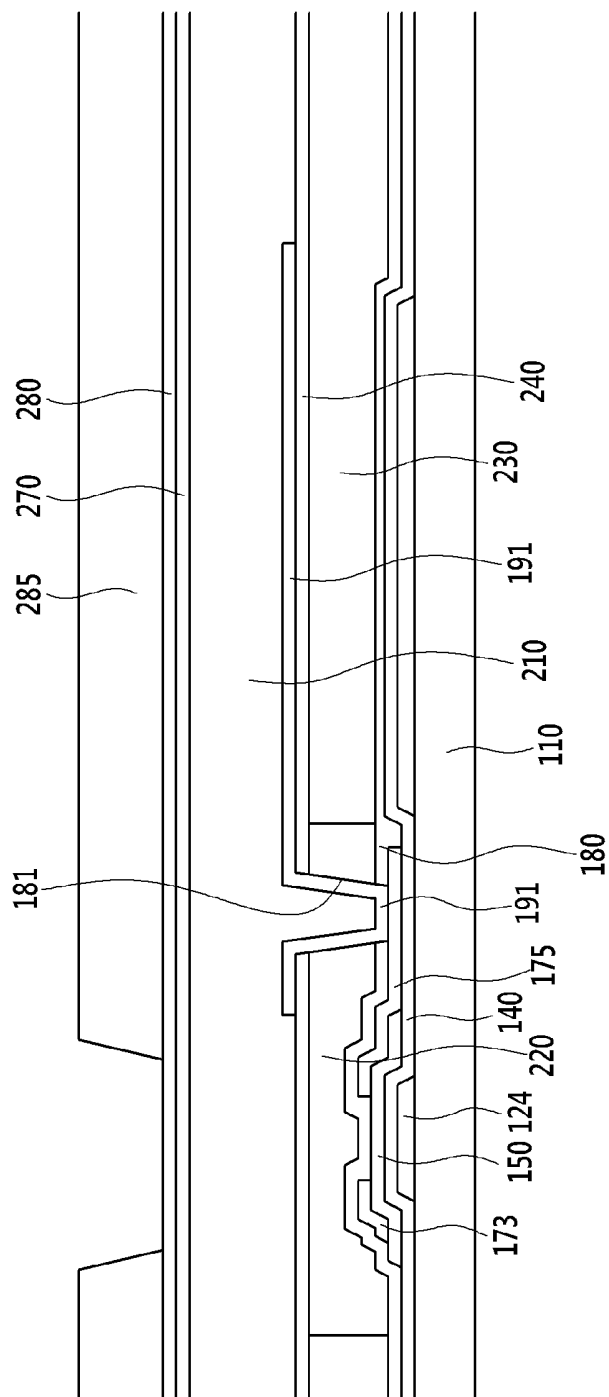


FIG.19

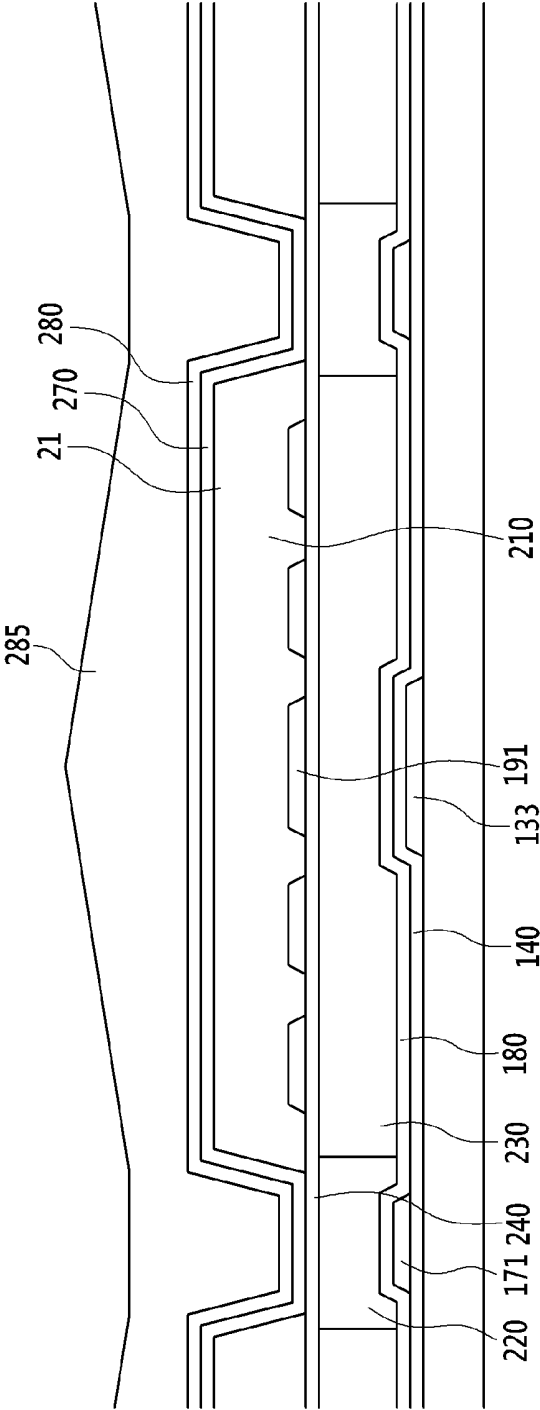


FIG. 20



FIG.21

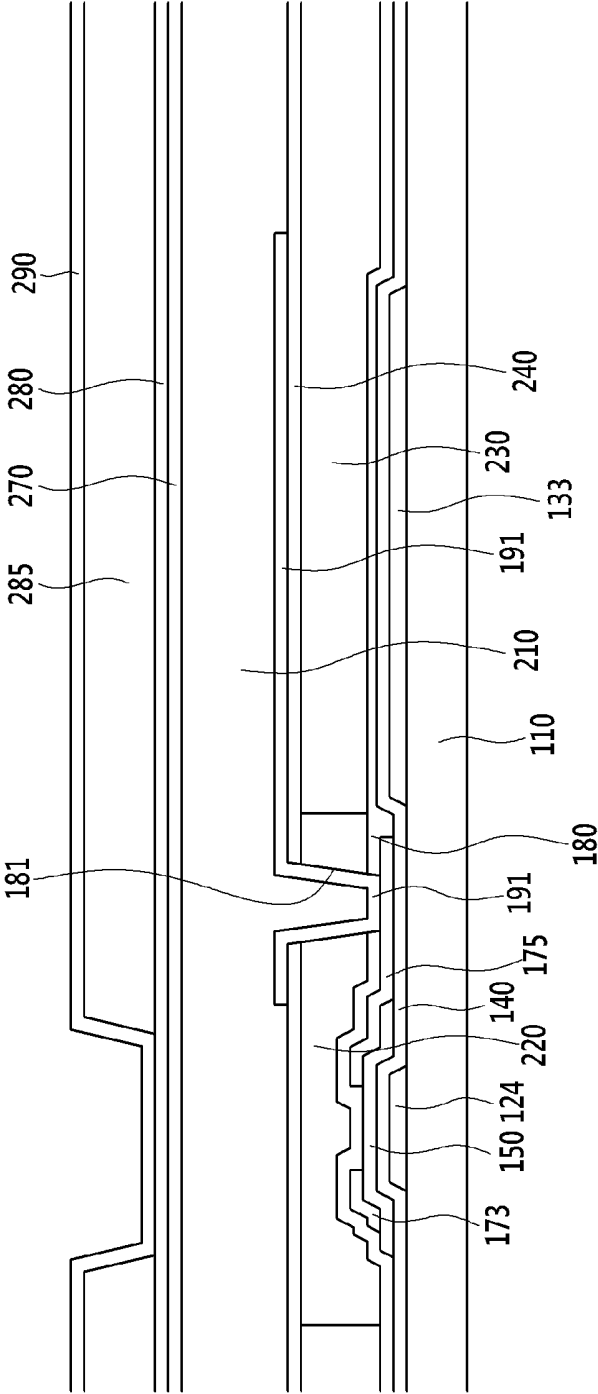


FIG. 22

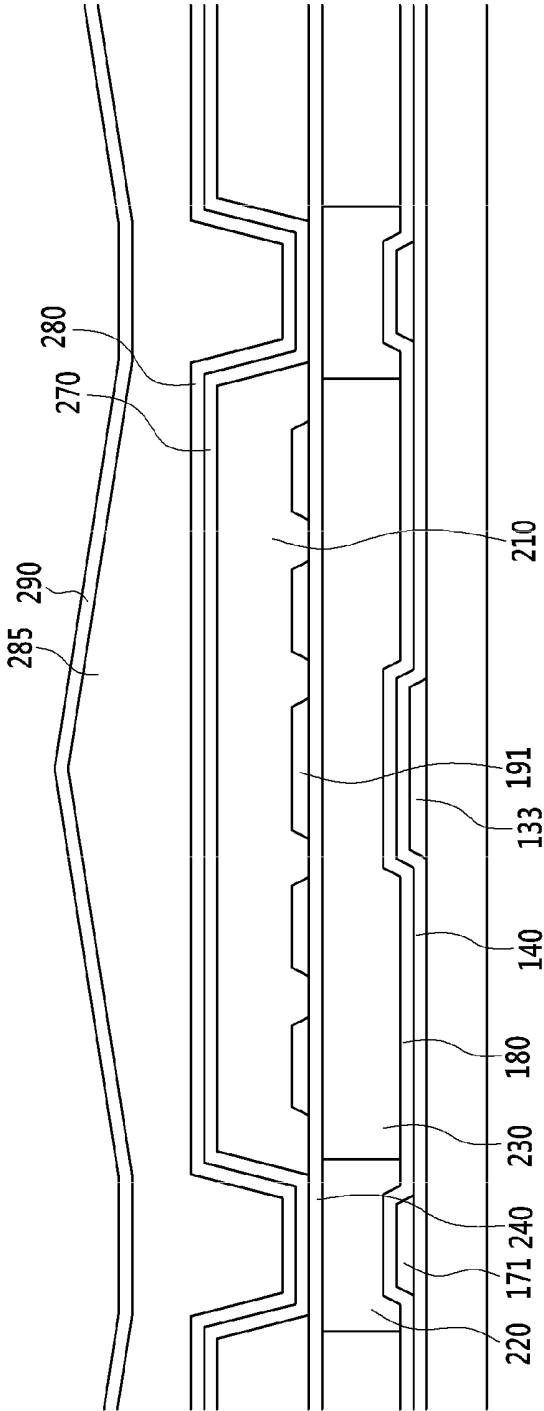
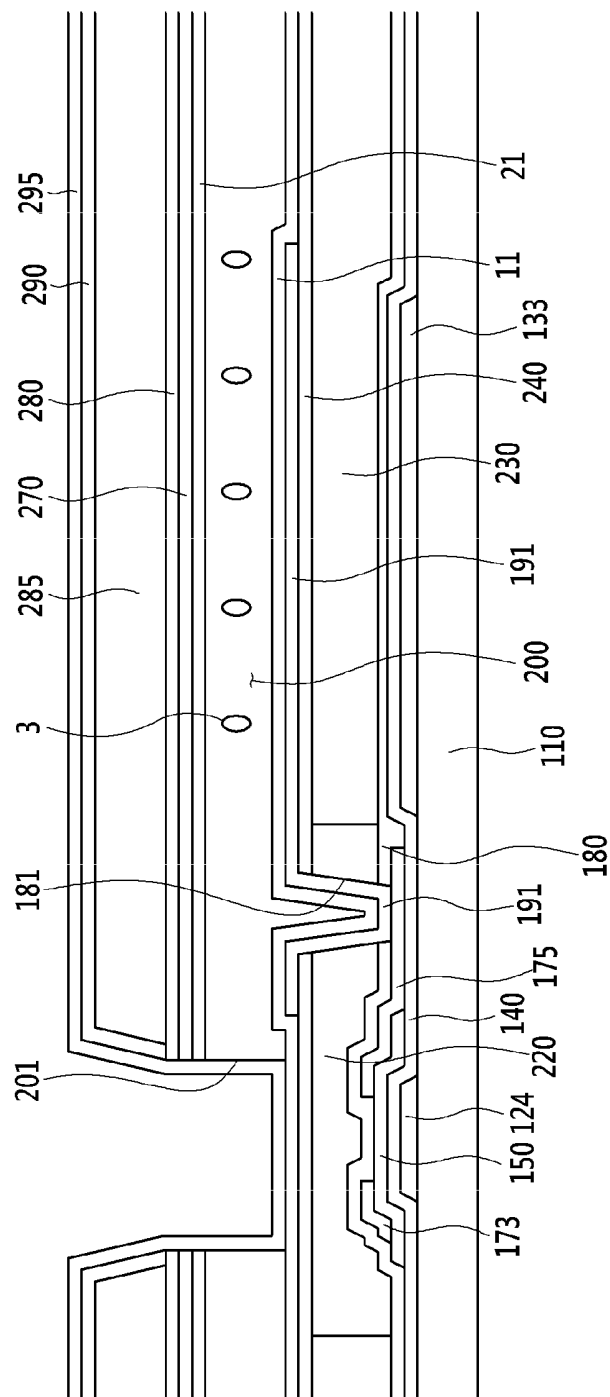


FIG. 23



DISPLAY DEVICE AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority to and the benefit of Korean Patent Application No. 10-2012-0044845 filed in the Korean Intellectual Property Office on Apr. 27, 2012, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(a) Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a display device and a manufacturing method thereof, and more particularly, to a display device having a substantially durable structure and a manufacturing method thereof.

(b) Description of the Related Art

A liquid crystal display, which is one of the most common types of flat panel displays currently in use, typically includes two panels with field generating electrodes, such as a pixel electrode and a common electrode, and a liquid crystal layer interposed therebetween. The liquid crystal display generates electric fields in the liquid crystal layer by applying voltage to the field generating electrodes, with the direction(s) of liquid crystal molecules of the liquid crystal layer being determined by the generated electric field, thereby controlling polarization of incident light so as to display images.

The two panels may include a thin film transistor array panel and an opposite panel. The thin film transistor array panel may include a gate line configured for transferring a gate signal, a data line crossing the gate line and configured for transferring a data signal, a thin film transistor connected with the gate line and the data line, a pixel electrode connected with the thin film transistor, and one or more other components. A light blocking member, a color filter, a common electrode, and one or more other components may be disposed at the opposite panel. In some cases, the light blocking member, the color filter, and the common electrode may be disposed at the thin film transistor array panel.

Since a conventional liquid crystal display device typically requires the aforementioned two panels and the aforementioned constituent elements associated with the two panels, the liquid crystal display device may be undesirably heavy, may be undesirably thick, may require undesirably high manufacturing costs, and may require undesirably long manufacturing time.

The above information disclosed in this Background section is only for enhancement of understanding of the background of the invention. The Background may contain information that does not form the prior art, which is already known in this country to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An embodiment of the present invention is related to a display device that includes a substrate, a pixel electrode overlapping the substrate, a common electrode overlapping the pixel electrode, and an organic layer overlapping the common electrode. The organic layer may include a first surface (e.g., an upper surface) and a second surface (e.g., a lower surface). The second surface may be disposed between the first surface and the substrate. The first surface may include a first portion (e.g., a center portion and/or ridge portion) and a second portion (e.g., an edge portion or a valley portion). A distance between the first portion and the substrate

in a direction perpendicular to the substrate may be greater than a distance between the second portion and the substrate.

The first surface may be slanted with respect to the substrate to form a substantially robust structure of the organic layer that can effectively withstand pressure. Given the substantially robust structure of the organic layer, the display device may require only a minimum amount of enforcement or protection parts. Advantageously, the manufacturing cost, the manufacturing time, and/or the thickness of the display device may be minimized.

In one or more embodiments, the second portion may be disposed at an angle with respect to the substrate. The angle being greater than or equal to 1 degree and being less than or equal to 10 degrees.

In one or more embodiments, the first surface may further include a third portion (e.g., an intermediate portion) disposed between the first portion and the second portion. The distance between the first portion and the substrate may be greater than a distance between the third portion and the substrate. The distance between the third portion and the substrate may be greater than the distance between the second portion and the substrate. The distance between the first surface and the substrate may gradually decrease from the first portion to the second portion.

In one or more embodiments, the first surface further includes a third portion (e.g., another edge portion or another valley portion). The first portion may be disposed between the second portion and the third portion. The distance between the first portion and the substrate may be greater than a distance between the third portion and the substrate.

In one or more embodiments, the first portion may overlap a center portion of the pixel electrode.

In one or more embodiments, the pixel electrode may include a stem and a plurality of branches; the stem may overlap the first portion.

In one or more embodiments, the display device may further include a set of liquid crystal material. The first portion may overlap a center portion of the set of liquid crystal material. The second portion may overlap an edge portion of the set of liquid crystal material.

In one or more embodiments, the second surface may include a third portion (e.g., a center portion) and a fourth portion (e.g., an edge portion). The third portion may be aligned with the first portion. The fourth portion may be aligned with the second portion. A distance between the third portion and the substrate in the direction perpendicular to the substrate may be greater than a distance between the fourth portion and the substrate. In one or more embodiments, the fourth portion may be disposed at an angle with respect to the substrate; the angle may be greater than or equal to 1 degree and may be less than or equal to 10 degrees.

In one or more embodiments, the display device may include a color filter overlapping the common electrode. The color filter may include a third surface (e.g., an upper surface) and a fourth surface (e.g., a lower surface). The fourth surface may be disposed between the third surface and the substrate. The third surface may include a third portion and a fourth portion. The third portion may be aligned with the first portion. The fourth portion may be aligned with the second portion. A distance between the third portion and the substrate in the direction perpendicular to the substrate may be greater than a distance between the fourth portion and the substrate.

In one or more embodiments, the pixel electrode may include a third surface (e.g., an upper surface) and a fourth surface (e.g., a lower surface). The fourth surface may be disposed between the third surface and the substrate. The third surface may include a third portion and a fourth portion.

The third portion may be aligned with the first portion. A distance between the third portion and the substrate in the direction perpendicular to the substrate may be greater than a distance between the fourth portion and the substrate. In one or more embodiments, the fourth surface may include a fifth portion and a sixth portion. A distance between the fifth portion and the substrate in the direction perpendicular to the substrate may be greater than a distance between the sixth portion and the substrate.

In one or more embodiments, the organic layer may be configured to filter light for displaying a predetermined color. The predetermined color may be one of red, green, blue, cyan, magenta, and yellow. In one or more embodiments, the display device may include a light blocking member. The second portion may be disposed between the light blocking member and the first portion. In one or more embodiments, the second surface may include a third portion and a fourth portion. A distance between the third portion and the substrate in the direction perpendicular to the substrate may be greater than a distance between the fourth portion and the substrate.

In one or more embodiments, the pixel electrode may include a first stem and a second stem that is perpendicular to the first stem. Each of the first stem and the second stem may overlap the first portion.

An embodiment of the invention is related to a method for manufacturing a display device. The method may include forming a pixel electrode that overlaps a substrate. The method may further include forming a common electrode that overlaps the common electrode. The method may further include forming an organic layer that overlaps the common electrode. The organic layer may include a first surface (e.g., an upper surface) and a second surface (e.g., a lower surface). The second surface may be disposed between the first surface and the substrate. The first surface may include a first portion (e.g., a center portion and/or ridge portion) and a second portion (e.g., an edge portion or a valley portion). A distance between the first portion and the substrate in a direction perpendicular to the substrate may be greater than a distance between the second portion and the substrate.

In one or more embodiments, the forming the organic layer may include using a mask for shaping a set of organic material. The mask may include a first transmissive portion, a second transmissive portion, and a third transmissive portion, each being configured to transmit light. The first transmissive portion may be positioned between the second transmissive portion and the third transmissive portion. Each of the second transmissive portion and the third transmissive portion may be wider than the first transmissive portion, for providing a higher etching rate.

In one or more embodiments, the method may include aligning the first transmissive portion with a center portion of the set of organic material.

In one or more embodiments, the method may include aligning the first transmissive portion with a center portion of the pixel electrode.

One or more embodiments of the present invention may be related a display device having advantages of minimum weight, thickness, cost, and manufacturing time. One or more embodiments of the invention may be related to a method for manufacturing the display device.

One or more embodiments of the present invention may be related to a display device having a durable structure that can withstand external pressure. One or more embodiments of the invention may be related to a method for manufacturing the display device.

An embodiment of the present invention is related to a display device. The display device may include a substrate

including a plurality of pixel areas. The display device may further include a thin film transistor formed on the substrate. The display device may further include a pixel electrode connected to the thin film transistor to be formed in the pixel area. The display device may further include an organic layer formed on the pixel electrode so as to be connected along the adjacent pixel areas in a first direction among the pixel areas. The display device may further include a space positioned on the pixel electrode, of which the upper surface and a part of the side are surrounded by the organic layer. The display device may further include a liquid crystal formed to fill the space. The display device may further include an overcoat formed to cover the rest of the sides of the space which is not covered by the organic layer, in which a height of the upper surface of the organic layer is gradually lowered toward both edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area.

The display device may further include a common electrode formed to be spaced apart from the pixel electrode, in which the common electrode may be formed to cover the upper surface and a part of the side of the space, and be connected along the adjacent pixel areas in the first direction among the pixel areas.

The display device may further include a common electrode formed to be spaced apart from the pixel electrode, in which the common electrode may be formed below the space, and the pixel electrode and the common electrode may have rod shapes, and the plurality of pixel electrodes and common electrodes may be alternately arranged in one pixel area.

The overcoat may be formed to cover the entire surface on the substrate and may seal the space for each pixel area.

The upper surface of the organic layer and the substrate may be gradually closer toward both edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area.

An angle between the substrate and the upper surface of the organic layer is 1 degree or more and 10 degrees or less.

An angle between the substrate and the upper surface of the organic layer may be 1.5 degrees or more and 2 degrees or less.

The display device may further include a color filter formed below the pixel electrode.

A height of the upper surface of the color filter may be gradually lowered toward both edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area.

The display device may further include a light blocking member formed on a boundary of the pixel area and the thin film transistor. The color filters may be overlapped with each other on the boundary of the pixel area and the thin film transistor.

The organic layer may include a color filter formed in the pixel area; and a light blocking member formed on a boundary of the pixel area and the thin film transistor.

The display device may further include an insulating layer formed below the pixel electrode and made of an organic insulating material.

An embodiment of the present invention is related to a manufacturing method of a display device. The method may include forming a thin film transistor on a substrate including a plurality of pixel areas. The method may further include forming a pixel electrode in the pixel area so as to be connected with the thin film transistor. The method may further include forming a sacrificial layer on the pixel electrode so that the adjacent pixel areas in a first direction among the pixel areas are separated from each other and the sacrificial layer is connected along the adjacent pixel areas in a second direction; forming an organic layer on the common electrode with an organic material. The method may further include patterning the organic layer so that a height of the upper surface of

the organic layer is gradually lowered toward both edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area and forming a liquid crystal injection hole by patterning the organic layer and the common electrode so that a part of the sacrificial layer is exposed at the upper and lower edges of the pixel area; forming a space between the pixel electrode and the common electrode by removing the sacrificial layer. The method may further include injecting a liquid crystal into the space through the liquid crystal injection hole; and sealing the space for each pixel area by forming an overcoat on the organic layer, in which in the forming of the liquid crystal injection hole, the common electrode is connected along the adjacent pixel areas in the first direction and is separated along the adjacent pixel areas in the second direction.

The method may further include forming a common electrode so as to cover the upper surface and a part of the side of the sacrificial layer, after forming the sacrificial layer.

The method may further include forming a common electrode so as to be spaced apart from the pixel electrode, before forming the sacrificial layer, in which the pixel electrode and the common electrode may have rod shapes, and the plurality of pixel electrodes and common electrodes may be alternately arranged in one pixel area.

In the patterning of the organic layer, the organic layer may be patterned so that the upper surface of the organic layer and the substrate becomes gradually closer toward both edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area.

The organic layer may be patterned so that an angle between the substrate and the upper surface of the organic layer is 1 degree or more and 10 degrees or less.

The organic layer may be patterned so that an angle between the substrate and the upper surface of the organic layer is 1.5 degrees or more and 2 degrees or less.

In the patterning of the organic layer, the organic layer may be patterned by using a mask including a plurality of mask region corresponding to the plurality of pixel areas, in which the mask region includes a plurality of transmissive portions and a plurality of opaque portions, the plurality of opaque portions may have the same width, and the plurality of transmissive portions may have widths which are gradually widened toward both edges of the mask region from the center of the mask region.

The display device and the manufacturing method thereof according to one or more embodiments of the present invention have the following effects.

According to one or more embodiments of the present invention, the display device is manufactured using only one substrate, such that it is possible to reduce weight, thickness, cost, and manufacturing time thereof.

The organic layer is formed to include slanted portions that are slanted with respect to the substrate, for forming a substantially robust structure. A force applied to the display device from the outside may be effectively dispersed, such that damage to the display device may be avoided.

The organic layer may be patterned using a mask including transmissive portions having widths which are gradually widened toward both edges from the center, such that the organic layer may be formed with a substantially robust structure that includes slanted portions.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a plan view illustrating a pixel of a display device according to one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view taken along line II-II of FIG. 1 for illustrating the pixel of the display device according to one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken along line III-III of FIG. 1 for illustrating the pixel of the display device according to one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view illustrating a display device according to one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view illustrating a display device according to one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view illustrating a display device according to one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view illustrating a display device according to one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIGS. 8 to 19 and FIGS. 21 to 24 are process cross-sectional views illustrating one or more manufacturing methods of a display device according to one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 20 is a plan view illustrating a mask used for performing processes illustrated in FIGS. 18 and 19 according to one or more embodiments of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

The present invention will be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which exemplary embodiments of the invention are illustrated. As those skilled in the art would realize, the described embodiments may be modified in various different ways, all without departing from the spirit or scope of the present invention.

In the drawings, the thickness of layers, films, panels, regions, etc., may be exaggerated for clarity. Like reference numerals may designate like elements throughout the specification. It will be understood that when a first element such as a layer, film, region, or substrate is referred to as being "on" a second element, it can be directly on the other element, or intervening elements may also be present between the first element and the second element. In contrast, when a first element is referred to as being "directly on" a second element, there are no intervening elements present between the first element and the second element.

First, a display device according to one or more embodiments of the present invention will be described below with reference to the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1 is a plan view illustrating a pixel of a display device according to one or more embodiments of the present invention. FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view taken along line II-II of FIG. 1 for illustrating the pixel of the display device according to one or more embodiments of the present invention. FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken along line III-III of FIG. 1 for illustrating the pixel of the display device according to one or more embodiment of the present invention.

The display device includes gate lines 121 extending in a first direction and data lines 171 extending in a second direction. The gate lines 121 and the data lines 171 may cross each other and may be disposed on a substrate 110, which may be formed of glass or plastic.

The substrate 110 includes a plurality of pixel areas. The plurality of pixel areas may be defined by the gate lines 121 and the data lines 171.

The gate lines 121 mainly extend in a horizontal direction and are configured to transfer gate signals. A gate electrode

124 may protrude from a gate line **121**. A gate signal is applied to the gate electrode **124** through the gate line **121**.

A storage electrode **133** may be formed in the pixel area without being electrically connected with the gate line **121** and the gate electrode **124**. As illustrated in FIG. 1, the storage electrode **133** may be including two portions substantially parallel to the gate line **121** and substantially parallel to the data line **171**, respectively. In one or more embodiments, the storage electrode **133** may include a portion parallel with the gate line **121** without including a portion parallel with the data line **171**. A plurality of storage electrodes **133** formed in adjacent pixel areas may be electrically connected to each other. A predetermined voltage such as common voltage is applied to the storage electrode **133**.

A gate insulating layer **140** is formed (directly) on the gate line **121**, the gate electrode **124**, and the storage electrode **133**. The gate insulating layer **140** may be made of an inorganic insulating material such as one or more of silicon nitride (SiNx) and silicon oxide (SiOx). The gate insulating layer **140** may have a single layer structure or a multilayer structure.

A semiconductor layer **150** is formed (directly) on the gate insulating layer **140**. The semiconductor layer **150** may overlap the gate electrode **124**. The semiconductor layer **150** may extend below at least a portion of the data line **171**. The semiconductor layer **150** may be made of one or more of amorphous silicon, polycrystalline silicon, metal oxide, etc.

On the semiconductor layer **150**, a source electrode **173** protruding from the data line **171** and a drain electrode **175** spaced apart from the source electrode **173** are formed.

The data lines **171** mainly extend in a vertical direction and are configured to transfer data signals. The data signal transferred to a data line **171** is applied to the source electrode **173**.

The gate electrode **124**, the semiconductor layer **150**, the source electrode **173**, and the drain electrode **175** may form a thin film transistor. When the thin film transistor is turned on, the data signal applied to the source electrode **173** is transferred to the drain electrode **175**.

A passivation layer **180** is formed on and directly contacts a portion the semiconductor layer **150** that is exposed by the data line **171**, the source electrode **173**, and the drain electrode **175**. The passivation layer **180** may be made of an organic insulating material or an inorganic insulating material and may have a single layer structure or a multilayer structure.

A color filter **230** in each pixel area is formed (directly) on the passivation layer **180**. Each color filter **230** may display one of primary colors, such as one of the three primary colors of red, green, and blue. In one or more embodiments, the color filter **230** may display one or more of cyan, magenta, yellow, and white-based colors.

A light blocking member **220** is formed in a region between adjacent color filters **230**. The light blocking member **220** is formed on a boundary of the pixel area and the thin film transistor to prevent light leakage.

A first insulating layer **240** may be formed on the color filter **230** and the light blocking member **220**. The first insulating layer **240** may be made of an inorganic insulating material, such as one or more of silicon nitride (SiNx) and silicon oxide (SiOx). The first insulating layer **240** serves to protect the color filter **230** (made of an organic material) and the light blocking member **220**. In one or more embodiments, the first insulating layer **240** may be omitted.

A contact hole **181** is formed in and/or formed through the first insulating layer **240**, the light blocking member **220**, and the passivation layer **180** so that a part of the drain electrode

175 is exposed. In one or more embodiments, the contact hole **181** may be formed in the color filter **230** instead of the light blocking member **220**.

A pixel electrode **191** is electrically connected with the drain electrode **175** through the contact hole **181** and is formed on the first insulating layer **240**. The pixel electrode **191** is formed in each pixel area and is electrically connected with the drain electrode **175** to receive the data signal from the drain electrode **175** when the thin film transistor is turned on. The pixel electrode **191** may be made of a transparent metal material, such as one or more of indium tin oxide (ITO) and indium zinc oxide (IZO).

The pixel electrode **191** includes a horizontal stem **193**, a vertical stem **192** substantially orthogonal (or substantially perpendicular) to the horizontal stem **193**, and a plurality of first to fourth minute branches **194a**, **194b**, **194c**, and **194d**.

The horizontal stem **193** may be substantially parallel to the gate line **121**. The vertical stem **192** may be substantially parallel to the data line **171**. The horizontal stem **193** may be substantially in the middle between two adjacent gate lines **121**. The vertical stem **192** may be substantially in the middle between two adjacent data lines **171**.

One pixel area is divided into a first subpixel area, a second subpixel area, a third subpixel area, and a fourth subpixel area by the horizontal stem **193** and the vertical stem **192**. The first subpixel area is positioned at the left portion of the horizontal stem **193** and the upper portion of the vertical stem **192**. The second subpixel area is positioned at the right portion of the horizontal stem **193** and the upper portion of the vertical stem **192**. The third subpixel area is positioned at the left portion of the horizontal stem **193** and the lower portion of the vertical stem **192**. The fourth subpixel area is positioned at the right portion of the horizontal stem **193** and the lower portion of the vertical stem **192**.

The first minute branch **194a** is formed in the first subpixel area. The second minute branch **194b** is formed in the second subpixel area. The third minute branch **194c** is formed in the third subpixel area. The fourth minute branch **194d** is formed in the fourth subpixel area.

The first minute branch **194a** extends obliquely in an upper left direction from the horizontal stem **193** and/or from the vertical stem **192**. The second minute branch **194b** extends obliquely in an upper right direction from the horizontal stem **193** and/or from the vertical stem **192**. The third minute branch **194c** extends obliquely in a lower left direction from the horizontal stem **193** and/or from the vertical stem **192**. The fourth minute branch **194d** extends obliquely in a lower right direction from the horizontal stem **193** and/or from the vertical stem **192**.

Each of the first to the fourth minute branches **194a** to **194d** may be formed so as to form an angle of substantially 45 degrees or 135 degrees with respect to the gate line **121** or the horizontal stem **193**. Two of the first to the fourth minute branches **194a** to **194d** of adjacent subpixel areas may be formed to be perpendicular to each other.

The shape of the pixel electrode **191** illustrated in FIG. 1 may be variously modified in one or more embodiments. In one or more embodiments, a pixel area may be divided into more than four areas. In one or more embodiments, a pixel area may not be divided into a plurality of subpixel areas.

A common electrode **270** is formed to overlap the pixel electrode **191** and is spaced apart from the pixel electrode **191** with a predetermined distance. A space **200** is formed between the pixel electrode **191** and the common electrode **270**. The width and the area of the space **200** may be determined according to the resolution of the display device.

A liquid crystal material **3** is filled in the space **200**. The liquid crystal material **3** includes a plurality of liquid crystal molecules, and may be oriented in a direction substantially vertical to the substrate **110** when no electric field is applied to the liquid crystal material **3**. That is, a vertical alignment may be formed. In one or more embodiments, a horizontal alignment may be formed when no electric field is applied to the liquid crystal material **3**.

The liquid crystal material **3** may be made of or may include one or more of nematic, smectic, cholesteric, chiral, and BMD liquid crystal materials. The liquid crystal material **3** may be made of a negative liquid crystal material or a positive liquid crystal material.

In one or more embodiments, pixel electrode **191** is formed below the space **200**, and the common electrode **270** is formed above the space **200** as described above. In one or more embodiments, both the pixel electrode **191** and the common electrode **270** may be formed below the space **200**. In one or more embodiments, the pixel electrode **191** and the common electrode **270** may be formed on the same layer. In one or more embodiments, the pixel electrode **191** and the common electrode **270** may be formed on different layers with an insulating layer disposed between the pixel electrode **191** and the common electrode **270**. In one or more embodiments, the liquid crystal material **3** may be formed in the space **200** so as to lie in a direction parallel to the substrate **110**.

A first alignment layer **11** is formed on the pixel electrode **191**. The first alignment layer **11** may be formed on and may directly contact a portion of the first insulating layer **240** that is not covered by the pixel electrode **191**.

A second alignment layer **21** is formed below the common electrode **270** so as to face the first alignment layer **11**.

The first alignment layer **11** and the second alignment layer **21** may be vertical alignment layers and may be made of one or more of polyamic acid, polysiloxane, and polyimide. The first and second alignment layers **11** and **12** may be connected with each other at an edge of the pixel area.

As illustrated in FIG. 3, the space **200** is surrounded by the first insulating layer **240**, the pixel electrode **191**, and the common electrode **270**. The common electrode **270** is formed to directly contact a portion of the first insulating layer **240** that overlaps the data line **171**, thereby confining the left side and the right side of the space **200** at positions corresponding to the data lines **171**. The common electrode **270** is continuous along adjacent pixel areas in a row direction.

As can be appreciated from FIG. 2, the common electrode **270** may not overlap the gate line **121** and may not cover the upper side and the lower side of pixel beyond the space **200** at a portion adjacent to the gate line **121**. A liquid crystal injection hole **201** may be formed on at least one of the upper side and the lower side of the space **200** for injecting the liquid crystal material **3**. In one or more embodiments, a plurality of liquid crystal injection holes **201** may be formed along the gate line **121**, and the liquid crystal material **3** may be injected into the space **200** through the liquid crystal injection holes **201**.

In one or more embodiments, the common electrode **270** covers and/or confines the left side and the right side of the space **200**, but does not cover the upper side and the lower side of the space **200**. In one or more embodiments, the common electrode **270** may cover at least one of the upper side and the lower side of the space **200**. In one or more embodiments, the common electrode **270** may cover the upper side and the lower side of the space **200**, but may not cover the left side and/or the right side thereof. In one or more embodiments, a plurality of liquid crystal injection holes **201** may be formed along the data line **171**.

A second insulating layer **280** may be formed on the common electrode **270**. The second insulating layer **280** may be made of an inorganic insulating material, such as one or more of silicon nitride (SiN_x) and silicon oxide (SiO_x). In one or more embodiments, the second insulating layer **280** may be omitted.

An organic layer **285** is formed on the second insulating layer **280**. The organic layer **285** may be made of an organic material. The organic layer may function as a protective layer. The lower surface of the organic layer **285** is disposed between the substrate **110** and the upper surface of the organic layer **285**. The upper surface of the organic layer **285** is formed to include one or more portions that are slanted (or oblique) with respect to the substrate **110**. In one or more embodiments, the upper surface of the organic layer **285** may include a plurality of portions slanted with respect to the substrate **110**. A height of the upper surface of the organic layer **285** may be formed to be gradually lowered toward left and right edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area. Accordingly, the upper surface of the organic layer **285** and the substrate **110** may gradually become closer toward the left and right edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area.

The upper surface of the organic layer **285** may include a first portion (e.g., a ridge portion) and a second portion (e.g., a valley portion). The first portion may overlap at least one of the vertical stem electrode **192**, the horizontal stem electrode **193**, the storage electrode **133**, a center portion of the liquid crystal material **3**, and a center portion of the space **200**. The second portion may overlap at least one of a data line **171**, an edge portion of the liquid crystal material **3**, and an edge portion of the space **200**. The distance between the first portion and the substrate **110** may be greater than the distance between the second portion and the substrate **110**. The distance between the upper surface of the organic layer **285** and the substrate **110** may gradually decrease from the first portion to the second portion.

The organic layer **285** may include a first portion (e.g., a ridge portion) that has a first thickness and overlaps at least one of the vertical stem electrode **192**, the horizontal stem electrode **193**, the storage electrode **133**, a center portion of the liquid crystal material **3**, and a center portion of the space **200**. The organic layer **285** may include a second portion (e.g., a valley portion) that has a second thickness and overlaps an edge portion of the liquid crystal material **3** and/or an edge portion of the space **200** in the pixel. The first thickness may be greater than the second thickness.

Assuming a case where organic layer **285** were flat and parallel to the substrate **110**, when a pressing force is applied to the organic layer **285**, the space **200** (positioned below the organic layer **285**) would not provide sufficient support to the organic layer **285**, and as a result, the organic layer **285** might not stand the external pressure and might be broken.

In one or more embodiments, since the upper surface of the organic layer **285** include one or more portions that are slanted with respect to the substrate **110**, when a pressing force is applied to the organic layer **285**, at least a portion of the pressing force may be dispersed to the (left and right) edges of the organic layer **285**. The left and right edges of the organic layer **285** may not have a space disposed below and may be supported by the light blocking member **220** to effectively stand against the external pressure.

An angle between the substrate **110** and the upper surface of the organic layer **285** may be no less than 1 degree and no more than 10 degrees. In the case where the angle between the substrate **110** and the upper surface of the organic layer **285** is less than 1 degree, an effect to disperse the external pressure

to the edges of the organic layer **285** may be insufficient. In the case where the angle between the substrate **110** and the upper surface of the organic layer **285** is more than 10 degrees, there may be problems, such as bubble generation, in a manufacturing process of the display device. For example, a bubble may be generated in a sealing process of the liquid crystal injection hole **201** or in an adhering process of a polarizing plate. More preferably, the angle between the substrate **110** and the upper surface of the organic layer **285** may be no less than 1.5 degrees and no more than 2 degrees.

In one or more embodiments, the height of the upper surface of the organic layer **285** (with respect to the substrate **110**) may be (gradually) lowered toward the left and right edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area. Alternatively or additionally, the height of the upper surface of the organic layer **285** (relative to the substrate **110**) may be (gradually) lowered toward the upper and lower edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area. In one or more embodiments, the upper surface of the organic layer **285** and the substrate **110** may gradually become closer toward the upper and lower edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area.

A third insulating layer **290** may be further formed on the organic layer **285**. Since the third insulating layer **290** is formed on the organic layer **285** that has slanted portions, the third insulating layer **290** may be formed to include one or more portions that are slanted with respect to the substrate **110**, like the organic layer **285**.

The third insulating layer **290** may be made of an inorganic insulating material, such as at least one of silicon nitride (SiNx) and silicon oxide (SiOx). The third insulating layer **290** may be formed to cover the entire upper surface and the sides of the organic layer **285**. The third insulating layer **290** serves to protect the organic layer **285**, which is made of the organic material. In one or more embodiment, the third insulating layer **290** may also be omitted.

An overcoat **295** may be formed on the third insulating layer **290**. As illustrated in FIG. 2, the overcoat **295** may cover the liquid crystal injection hole **201**, where the space **200** is exposed. That is, the liquid crystal injection hole **201** may be sealed so that the liquid crystal material **3** is confined in the space **200**. Since the overcoat **295** may contact the liquid crystal material **3**, the overcoat **295** may be made of a material that does not chemically react with the liquid crystal material **3**. For example, the overcoat **295** may be made of perylene.

Since the overcoat **295** is formed on the slanted third insulating layer **290**, the overcoat **295** may also be formed to include one or more portions that are slanted with respect to the substrate **110**, like the third insulating layer **290**. In one or more embodiments, the overcoat **295** may include a substantially flat upper surface configured to planarize the substrate **110**. In one or more embodiments, the overcoat **295** may include an organic layer.

Next, a display device according to one or more embodiments of the present invention will be described below with reference to FIG. 4.

The display device discussed with reference to FIG. 4 may include elements that are analogous to elements of the display device discussed with reference to FIGS. 1-3. In one or more embodiments, as illustrated in FIG. 4, the upper surface of the color filter **230** may include one or more portions that are slanted with respect to the substrate **110**.

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view illustrating a display device according to one or more embodiments of the present invention.

In the display device illustrated in FIG. 4, constituent elements may be laminated in the same order as elements of the display device discussed with reference to FIGS. 1-3.

In one or more embodiments, as illustrated in FIG. 3, the color filter **230** may have an upper surface that is parallel to the substrate **110**. In one or more embodiments, the upper surface of the color filter **230** may include one or more portions that are slanted with respect to the substrate **110**. As illustrated in FIG. 4, the upper surface of the color filter **230** may include a plurality of portions slanted with respect to the substrate **110**.

A height of the upper surface of the color filter **230** may be gradually lowered toward left and right edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area. Accordingly, the upper surface of the color filter **230** and the substrate **110** may gradually become closer toward the left and right edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area.

The upper surface of the color filter **230** may include a first portion (e.g., a ridge portion) and a second portion (e.g., an edge portion). The second portion may be disposed between the first portion and the light blocking member **220**. The first portion may overlap at least one of the vertical stem electrode **192**, the horizontal stem electrode **193**, the storage electrode **133**, a center portion of the liquid crystal material **3**, and a center portion of the space **200**. The second portion may overlap at least one of an edge portion of the liquid crystal material **3** and an edge portion of the space **200**. The distance between the first portion and the substrate **110** may be greater than the distance between the second portion and the substrate **110**. The distance between the upper surface of the color filter **230** and the substrate **110** may gradually decrease from the first portion to the second portion.

The color filter **230** may include a first portion (e.g., a ridge portion) that has a first thickness and corresponds to at least one of the vertical stem electrode **192**, the horizontal stem electrode **193**, the storage electrode **133**, a center portion of the liquid crystal material **3**, and a center portion of the space **200**. The organic layer **285** may include a second portion (e.g., an edge portion) that has a second thickness and corresponds to an edge portion of the liquid crystal material **3** and/or an edge portion of the space **200** in the pixel. The second portion may be disposed between the first portion and the light blocking member **220**. The first thickness may be greater than the second thickness. An angle between the substrate **110** and the upper surface of the color filter **230** may be at least 1 degree and at most 10 degrees. In one or more embodiments, an angle between the substrate **110** and the upper surface of the color filter **230** may be at least 1.5 degrees and at most 2 degrees.

In one or more embodiments, the height of the upper surface of the color filter **230** (with respect to the substrate **110**) may be (gradually) lowered toward the left and right edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area. Alternatively or additionally, the height of the upper surface of the color filter **230** (relative to the substrate **110**) may be (gradually) lowered toward the upper and lower edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area. In one or more embodiments, the upper surface of the color filter **230** and the substrate **110** may gradually become closer toward the upper and lower edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area.

Since the upper surface of the color filter **230** is formed to include one or more portions that are slanted with respect to the substrate **110**, the upper surface of the organic layer **285**, which is formed on the color filter **230**, may also be formed to include one or more portions that are slanted with respect to the substrate **110**.

13

Advantageously, as discussed above, the organic layer **285** may have a substantially robust structure and may effectively stand against external pressure.

In one or more embodiments, one or more of the first insulating layer **240**, the pixel electrode **191**, the first alignment layer **11**, the second alignment layer **21**, the common electrode **270**, the second insulating layer **280**, the third insulating layer **290**, the overcoat **295**, etc., which are laminated on the color filter **230**, may also be formed to include one or more portions that are slanted with respect to the substrate **110**.

Next, a display device according to one or more embodiments of the present invention will be described below with reference to FIG. 5.

The display device discussed with reference to FIG. 5 may include elements that are analogous to elements of the display device(s) discussed with reference to one or more of FIGS. 1-4. In one or more embodiments, as illustrated in FIG. 5, the display device may not include additional light blocking members between the color filters **230**.

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view illustrating a display device according to one or more embodiments of the present invention.

In the display device, a thin film transistor is formed on the substrate **110**, and the passivation layer **180** is formed on the thin film transistor.

In one or more embodiments, as illustrated in FIG. 3, the color filter **230** is formed only in a pixel area on the passivation layer **180**. In one or more embodiments, as illustrated in FIG. 5, the color filter **230** is formed in the pixel area on the passivation layer **180** and at a boundary of the pixel area. In one or more embodiments, no light blocking member is disposed between the color filters **230**.

The color filters **230** are formed to overlap each other on the boundary of the pixel area (and on the thin film transistor). The color filters **230** may include color filters that have the same color along a column direction of the plurality of pixel areas and may include color filters that have different colors along a row direction of the pixel areas. The color filters **230** may include a first-colored color filter, a second-colored color filter, and a third-colored color filter. The first-colored color filter **230** and the second colored color filter **230** may be adjacent to each other in the row direction and may overlap each other on the boundary of the pixel areas (and on the thin film transistor). The second-colored color filter **230** may overlap the third-colored color filter **230**. The light blocking member may be replaced by overlapping the different-colored color filters **230**. For example, an overlap portion that includes a portion of the first-colored color filter and a portion of the second-colored color filter have a substantially dark combined color and may effectively block potential light leakage. The portion of the first-colored color filter may be disposed between the portion of the second-colored color filter and a data line **171**.

Next, a display device according to one or more embodiments of the present invention will be described below with reference to FIG. 6.

The display device discussed with reference to FIG. 6 may include elements that are analogous to the display device(s) discussed with reference to one or more of FIGS. 1-5. In one or more embodiments, as illustrated in FIG. 6, the color filter **230** and the light blocking member **220** are formed on the common electrode **270** to serve as the organic layer **285** illustrated in FIG. 3.

FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view illustrating a display device according to one or more embodiments of the present invention.

14

In the display device, a thin film transistor is formed on the substrate **110**, and the passivation layer **180** is formed on the thin film transistor.

In one or more embodiments, as illustrated in FIG. 3, the color filter **230** is formed on the passivation layer **180**, the first insulating layer **240** is formed on the color filter **230**, and the pixel electrode **191** is formed on the first insulating layer **240**. In one or more embodiments, as illustrated in FIG. 6, the pixel electrode **191** is formed directly on the passivation layer **180**.

The common electrode **270**, which is spaced apart from the pixel electrode **191** by the space **200**, overlaps the pixel electrode **191**. The second insulating layer **280** is formed on the common electrode **270**.

The color filter **230** in each pixel area is formed on the second insulating layer **280**, and the light blocking member **220** is formed in a region between adjacent color filters **230**. At least a portion of the common electrode **270** may be disposed between the liquid crystal material **3** and the color filter **230**.

The upper surface of the color filter **230** is formed to have one or more portions that are slanted with respect to the substrate **110**. A height of the upper surface of the color filter **230** may be gradually lowered toward left and right edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area. Accordingly, the upper surface of color filter **230** and the substrate **110** may gradually become closer toward the left and right edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area.

The upper surface of the color filter **230** may include a first portion (e.g., a ridge portion) and a second portion (e.g., an edge portion). The second portion may be disposed between the first portion and the light blocking member **220**. The first portion may overlap at least one of the vertical stem electrode **192**, the horizontal stem electrode **193**, the storage electrode **133**, a center portion of the liquid crystal material **3**, and a center portion of the space **200**. The second portion may overlap at least one of an edge portion of the liquid crystal material **3** and an edge portion of the space **200**. The distance between the first portion and the substrate **110** may be greater than the distance between the second portion and the substrate **110**. The distance between the upper surface of the color filter **230** and the substrate **110** may gradually decrease from the first portion to the second portion.

The color filter **230** may include a first portion (e.g., a ridge portion) that has a first thickness and corresponds to at least one of the vertical stem electrode **192**, the horizontal stem electrode **193**, the storage electrode **133**, a center portion of the liquid crystal material **3**, and a center portion of the space **200**. The organic layer **285** may include a second portion (e.g., an edge portion) that has a second thickness and corresponds to an edge portion of the liquid crystal material **3** and/or an edge portion of the space **200** in the pixel. The second portion may be disposed between the first portion and the light blocking member **220**. The first thickness may be greater than the second thickness.

An angle between the substrate **110** and the upper surface of the color filter **230** may be at least 1 degree and at most 10 degrees. In one or more embodiments, an angle between the substrate **110** and the upper surface of the color filter **230** may be at least 1.5 degrees and at most 2 degrees.

In one or more embodiments, the height of the upper surface of the color filter **230** (with respect to the substrate **110**) may be (gradually) lowered toward the left and right edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area. Alternatively or additionally, the height of the upper surface of the color filter **230** (relative to the substrate **110**) may be (gradually) lowered toward the upper and lower edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area. In one or more embodi-

15

ments, the upper surface of the color filter **230** and the substrate **110** may gradually become closer toward the upper and lower edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area.

As illustrated in FIG. 6, an additional organic layer is not required, and the color filter **230** and the light blocking member **220** are formed on the common electrode to serve the function of the organic layer **285** illustrated in FIG. 3. Advantageously, the manufacturing cost of the display device and the thickness of the display device may be minimized.

Next, a display device according to one or more embodiments of the present invention will be described below with reference to FIG. 7.

The display device discussed with reference to FIG. 7 may include elements that are analogous to elements of the display device(s) discussed with reference to one or more of FIGS. 1-6. In one or more embodiments, as illustrated in FIG. 7, insulating layers **225** and **240** are formed between the passivation layer **180** and the pixel electrode **191**, for enhancing electrical insulation between the pixel electrode **191** and at least the storage electrode **133**.

FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view illustrating a display device according to one or more embodiments of the present invention.

In the display device, a thin film transistor is formed on the substrate **110**, and the passivation layer **180** is formed on the thin film transistor.

In one or more embodiments, as illustrated in FIG. 6, the pixel electrode **191** is formed directly on the passivation layer **180**. In one or more embodiments, as illustrated in FIG. 7, a fourth insulating layer **225** is formed on the passivation layer **180**, the first insulating layer **240** is formed on the fourth insulating layer **225**, and the pixel electrode **191** is formed on the first insulating layer **240**.

The fourth insulating layer **225** may be made of an organic insulating material, and the first insulating layer **240** may be made of an inorganic insulating material.

The upper surface of the fourth insulating layer **225** is formed to include one or more portions that are slanted (or oblique) with respect to the substrate **110**. In one or more embodiments, the upper surface of the organic layer **285** may include a plurality of portions slanted with respect to the substrate **110**. A height of the upper surface of the fourth insulating layer **225** may be gradually lowered toward left and right edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area. Accordingly, the upper surface of the fourth insulating layer **225** and the substrate **110** may gradually become closer toward the left and right edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area.

The upper surface of the fourth insulating layer **225** may include a first portion (e.g., a ridge portion) and a second portion (e.g., a valley portion). The first portion may overlap at least one of the vertical stem electrode **192**, the horizontal stem electrode **193**, the storage electrode **133**, a center portion of the liquid crystal material **3**, and a center portion of the space **200**. The second portion may overlap at least one of a data line **171**, an edge portion of the liquid crystal material **3**, and an edge portion of the space **200**. The distance between the first portion and the substrate **110** may be greater than the distance between the second portion and the substrate **110**. The distance between the upper surface of the fourth insulating layer **225** and the substrate **110** may gradually decrease from the first portion to the second portion.

The fourth insulating layer **225** may include a first portion (e.g., a ridge portion) that has a first thickness and overlaps at least one of the vertical stem electrode **192**, the horizontal stem electrode **193**, the storage electrode **133**, a center portion of the liquid crystal material **3**, and a center portion of the

16

space **200**. The fourth insulating layer **225** may include a second portion (e.g., a valley portion) that has a second thickness and overlaps at least one of a data line **171**, an edge portion of the liquid crystal material **3**, and an edge portion of the space **200** in the pixel. The first thickness may be greater than the second thickness.

An angle between the substrate **110** and the upper surface of the fourth insulating layer **225** may be at least 1 degree and at most 10 degrees. In one or more embodiments, an angle between the substrate **110** and the upper surface of the fourth insulating layer **225** may be at least 1.5 degrees and at most 2 degrees.

In one or more embodiments, the height of the upper surface of the fourth insulating layer **225** (with respect to the substrate **110**) may be (gradually) lowered toward the left and right edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area. Alternatively or additionally, the height of the upper surface of the fourth insulating layer **225** (relative to the substrate **110**) may be (gradually) lowered toward the upper and lower edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area. In one or more embodiments, the upper surface of the fourth insulating layer **225** and the substrate **110** may gradually become closer toward the upper and lower edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area.

Since the upper surface of the fourth insulating layer **225** is formed to include one or more portions that are slanted with respect to the substrate **110**, the upper surface of the color filter **230**, which is formed on the fourth insulating layer **225**, may also be formed to include one or more portions that are slanted to the substrate **110**. Advantageously, the color filter **230** may have a substantially robust structure and may effectively stand against external pressure.

In one or more embodiments, one or more of the first insulating layer **240**, the pixel electrode **191**, the first alignment layer **11**, the second alignment layer **21**, the common electrode **270**, the second insulating layer **280**, the third insulating layer **290**, the overcoat **295**, etc., which are laminated on the fourth insulating layer **225**, may also be formed to include one or more portions that are slanted with respect to the substrate **110**.

Next, a manufacturing method of a display device, for example, a display device discussed with reference to FIGS. 1-3, according to one or more embodiments of the present invention will be described below with reference to FIGS. 8 to 22. Methods analogous to the method discussed with reference to FIGS. 8-22 but with slight changes may be used for manufacturing display devices in accordance with one or more embodiments of the invention.

FIGS. 8 to 19 and FIGS. 21 to 24 are process cross-sectional views illustrating a manufacturing method of a display device according to one or more embodiments of the present invention. FIGS. 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 21 and 23 illustrate cross-sectional views taken along a same line. FIGS. 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 22, and 24 illustrate cross-sectional views taken along a same line. FIG. 20 is a plan view illustrating a mask used to perform processes illustrated in FIGS. 18 and 19 according to one or more embodiments of the present invention.

Referring to FIGS. 8 and 9, at least a gate line (not shown) extending in a first direction and a gate electrode **124** protruding from the gate line are formed on a substrate **110** made of glass and/or plastic. A storage electrode **133** is formed to be spaced apart from the gate line and the gate electrode **124**. The storage electrode **133** may be formed of the same material as the gate line and the gate electrode **124**.

Subsequently, a gate insulating layer **140** is formed using an inorganic insulating material, such as silicon oxide or

silicon nitride, on the entire surface of the substrate **110** to cover the gate line, the gate electrode **124**, and the storage electrode **133**. The gate insulating layer **140** may have a single layer structure or a multilayer structure.

Referring to FIGS. **10** and **11**, a semiconductor layer **150** is formed by depositing a semiconductor material (such as amorphous silicon, polycrystalline silicon, and metal oxide) on the gate insulating layer **140** and then patterning the deposited semiconductor material. The semiconductor layer **150** may be formed to be positioned on (and/or overlap) the gate electrode **124**.

Next, a metal material is deposited and patterned to form a data line **171** extending in a second direction. A source electrode **173**, which protrudes from the data line **171** onto the semiconductor layer **150**, and a drain electrode **175**, which is spaced apart from the source electrode **173**, are formed. The metal material may have a single layer structure or a multilayer structure.

The semiconductor material and the metal material may be continuously deposited and then simultaneously patterned to form the semiconductor layer **150**, the data line **171**, the source electrode **173**, and the drain electrode **175**. In one or more embodiments, the semiconductor layer **150** may extend below the data line **171**.

The gate electrode **124**, the semiconductor layer **150**, the source electrode **173**, and the drain electrode **175** may form a thin film transistor. The gate line and the data line **171** may cross each other, and a plurality of pixel areas may be defined by a plurality of gate lines and a plurality of data lines **171**.

Referring to FIGS. **12** and **13**, a passivation layer **180** is formed to cover a portion of the semiconductor layer **150** that is exposed by the source electrode **173** and the drain electrode **175**; the passivation layer **180** also covers the source electrode **173** and the drain electrode **175**. The passivation layer **180** may be made of an organic insulating material or an inorganic insulating material. The passivation layer **180** may have a single layer structure or a multilayer structure.

Next, a color filter **230** in each pixel area is formed on the passivation layer **180**. Same-colored color filters **230** may be formed along a column direction of the plurality of pixel areas. In one or more embodiments, for forming three sets (or columns) of colored color filters **230**, a set of first-colored color filters **230** is first formed, and then a mask is shifted to form a set of second-colored color filter **230**. Subsequently, the set of second-colored color filters **230** is formed, and then the mask is shifted to form a set of third-colored color filters **230**.

Next, a light blocking member **220** is formed on a boundary of each pixel area and the thin film transistor on the passivation layer **180**.

In one or more embodiments, the color filter **230** is formed, and then the light blocking member **220** is formed. In one or more embodiments, the light blocking member **220** may be first formed, and then the color filter **230** may be formed.

Next, first insulating layers **240** made of an inorganic insulating material, such as at least one of silicon nitride (SiNx) and silicon oxide (SiOx), are formed on the color filter **230** and the light blocking member **220**.

Next, a contact hole **181** is formed by etching the first insulating layer **240**, the light blocking member **220**, and the passivation layer **180** so that a part of the drain electrode **175** is exposed.

Referring to FIGS. **14** and **15**, a transparent metal material, such as at least one of indium thin oxide (ITO) and indium zinc oxide (IZO), is deposited and then patterned on the first insulating layer **240** to form a pixel electrode **191** in the pixel

area. The pixel electrode **191** is formed to be electrically connected with the drain electrode **175** through the contact hole **181**.

Referring to FIGS. **16** and **17**, a sacrificial layer **210** made of an organic insulating material is formed on the pixel electrode **191** and the first insulating layer **240**. The sacrificial layer **210** is patterned to include separated portions corresponding to pixel areas that are adjacent to each other in the first direction and to include continuous or connected portions along or corresponding to pixel areas that are adjacent to each other in the second direction. For example, the sacrificial layer **210** may be formed to include separated portions corresponding to pixel areas that are adjacent to each other in the gate line direction and to include continuous or connected portions along or corresponding to pixel areas that are adjacent to each other in the data line **171** direction. In one or more embodiments, portions of the sacrificial layer **210** that overlap the data lines **171** may be removed.

The sacrificial layer **210** may be made of a photosensitive polymer material and may be patterned by performing a photo process.

Referring to FIGS. **18** and **19**, a common electrode **270** is formed by depositing a metal material on the sacrificial layer **210**.

Next, a second insulating layer **280** made of an inorganic insulating material, such as at least one of silicon oxide or silicon nitride, is formed on the common electrode **270**.

Next, an organic layer **285** made of an organic material is formed on the second insulating layer **280**. The upper surface of the organic layer **285** is formed to include one or more portions that are slanted with respect to the substrate **110** by patterning the organic layer **285**. A height of the upper surface of the organic layer **285** may be gradually lowered toward left and right edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area. Accordingly, the upper surface of the organic layer **285** and the substrate **110** may gradually become closer toward the left and right edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area.

The upper surface of the organic layer **285** may include a flat portion that overlaps the data line **171**. A portion of the organic layer **285** that overlaps the gate line may be removed.

The organic layer **285** may be patterned by using a mask **500** illustrated in FIG. **20**. The mask **500** used for patterning the organic layer **285** includes a plurality of mask regions corresponding to each of the plurality of pixel areas on the substrate **110**. FIG. **20** illustrates one mask region.

The mask region includes a plurality of transmissive portions **510** and a plurality of opaque portions **520**. The plurality of opaque portions **520** has the same width, and the plurality of transmissive portions **510** has different widths. That is, the mask region includes multiple slits having different widths. The widths of the plurality of transmissive portions **510** are gradually widened toward both edges of the mask region from (near) the center of the mask region. A width **t2** of a transmissive portion disposed at the second from the center is larger than a width **t1** of a transmissive portion closest to a transmissive portion positioned at the center. Further, a width **t3** of a transmissive portion disposed at the third from the center is larger than the width **t2** of the transmissive portion disposed at the second from the center. A width **t4** of a transmissive portion disposed at the fourth from the center, a width **t5** of a transmissive portion disposed at the fifth therefrom, a width **t6** of a transmissive portion disposed at the sixth therefrom, a width **t7** of a transmissive portion disposed at the seventh therefrom are gradually widened.

When the mask **500** is positioned on the organic layer **285**, exposed and then developed (or etched), the organic layer **285**

disposed at the center of the pixel area which receives slight light is slightly developed (etched), and the organic layer **285** disposed at the edge of the pixel area which receives a large amount of light is much developed (or etched). Accordingly, a thickness of the organic layer **285** becomes gradually thinner toward the edge from the center of the pixel area.

An angle between the substrate **110** and the upper surface of the organic layer **285** may be controlled by controlling the widths of the transmissive portions. An angle between the substrate **110** and the upper surface of the organic layer **285** may be at least 1 degree and at most 10 degrees. In one or more embodiments, the angle between the substrate **110** and the upper surface of the organic layer **285** may be at least 1.5 degrees and at most 2 degrees.

Referring to FIGS. **21** and **22**, a third insulating layer **290** made of an inorganic insulating material, such as at least one of silicon nitride (SiNx) and silicon oxide (SiOx), is formed on the organic layer **285**. Since the third insulating layer **290** is formed on the inclined organic layer **285**, the third insulating layer **290** may be formed to include one or more portions that are slanted with respect to the substrate **110**.

Referring to FIGS. **21**, **22**, **23**, and **24**, a portion of the third insulating layer **290**, a portion of the second insulating layer **280**, and a portion of the common electrode **270** that overlap the gate line are removed by patterning the third insulating layer **290**, the second insulating layer **280**, and the common electrode **270**. Accordingly, the sacrificial layer **210** positioned below the remaining portion of the common electrode **270** is exposed.

Oxygen plasma is supplied for removing the sacrificial layer **210**. Alternatively or additionally, the sacrificial layer **210** is fully removed by supplying a developing solution. After the sacrificial layer **210** has been removed, a space **200** is generated at a place where the sacrificial layer **210** was positioned

The pixel electrode **191** and the common electrode **270** are spaced apart from each other with the space **200** disposed between the pixel electrode **191** and the common electrode **270**.

The space **200** is exposed at an opening where the common electrode **270** is not formed. The opening is referred to as a liquid crystal injection hole **201**. In one or more embodiments, the liquid crystal injection hole **201** is formed along the gate line. In one or more embodiments, the liquid crystal injection hole **201** may be formed along the data line **171**.

Next, an aligning agent containing an alignment material may be dropped on the substrate **110** using a spin coating method or an inkjet method, and the aligning agent is injected into the space **200** through the liquid crystal injection hole **201**. A curing process is performed after the aligning agent has been injected into the space **200**, a solution component of the aligning agent is evaporated, and the alignment material is left on the wall surface in the space **200**.

Accordingly, a first alignment layer **11** may be formed on the pixel electrode **191**, and a second alignment layer **21** may be formed below the common electrode **270**. The first alignment layer **11** and the second alignment layer **21** face each other, enclose the space **200**, and connect with each other at the edge of the pixel area. The common electrode **270** has side walls that cover sides of the space **200** in a direction parallel to the data lines **171**, and the alignment material is also disposed on the inner surfaces of the side walls.

In one or more embodiments, the alignment material of the first alignment layer **11** and the alignment material of second alignment layer **12**, except the alignment material at the side of the space **200**, are aligned in a direction vertical to the substrate **110**. In one or more embodiments, a process of

irradiating UV to the first and second alignment layers **11** and **12** is performed, and thus the alignment material may be aligned in a direction parallel to the substrate **110**.

Next, a liquid crystal material **3** including liquid crystal molecules may be dropped on the substrate **110** using an inkjet method or a dispensing method, and the liquid crystal material **3** is injected into the space **200** through the liquid crystal injection hole **201**. In one or more embodiments, the liquid crystal material **3** may drop into the liquid crystal injection holes **201** formed along an odd numbered gate line and may not drop into the liquid crystal injection holes **201** formed along an even numbered gate line. In one or more embodiments, the liquid crystal **3** may drop into the liquid crystal injection holes **201** formed along an even numbered gate line and may not drop into the liquid crystal injection holes **201** formed along an odd numbered gate line.

When the liquid crystal **3** drops into a liquid crystal injection hole **201** formed along an odd numbered gate line, the liquid crystal **3** may enter into space **200** through the liquid crystal injection hole **201** according to a capillary force. In one or more embodiments, air in the space **200** is discharged through a liquid crystal injection hole **201** formed along an even numbered gate line, such that the liquid crystal **3** may enter into the space **200** with minimum resistance.

Next, an overcoat **295** is formed by depositing a material that does not (chemically) react with the liquid crystal material **3** on the third insulating layer **290**. The overcoat **295** is formed to cover the liquid crystal injection hole **201**, thereby sealing the space **200** for each pixel area. The overcoat **295** may be made of a material that does not (chemically) react with the liquid crystal material **3**, such as perylene.

In one or more embodiments, the overcoat **295** may be formed to planarize the substrate **110**. Alternatively or additionally, an additional organic insulator may be formed on the overcoat **295** to planarize the substrate **110**.

In one or more embodiments, the overcoat **295** may be formed by dropping the material that does not react with the liquid crystal **3** on the third insulating layer **290** using an inkjet method and then curing the material.

In one or more embodiments, the overcoat **295** may be formed by adhering a film-shaped material onto the third insulating layer **290**.

While this invention has been described in connection with what is presently considered to be practical exemplary embodiments, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiments. The invention is intended to cover various modifications and equivalent arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

<Description of symbols>

3: Liquid crystal material	11: First alignment layer
21: Second alignment layer	121: Gate line
124: Gate electrode	133: Storage electrode
140: Gate insulating layer	150: Semiconductor layer
171: Data line	173: Source electrode
175: Drain electrode	180: Passivation layer
181: Contact hole	191: Pixel electrode
192: Vertical stem (electrode)	193: Horizontal stem (electrode)
194a: First minute branch	194b: Second minute branch
194c: Third minute branch	194d: Fourth minute branch
200: Space	201: Liquid crystal injection hole
210: Sacrificial layer	220: Light blocking member
225: Fourth insulating layer	230: Color filter
240: First insulating layer	270: Common electrode
280: Second insulating layer	285: Organic layer
290: Third insulating layer	295: Overcoat

21

-continued

<Description of symbols>

500: Mask

510: Transmissive portion

520: Opaque portion

What is claimed is:

1. A display device, comprising:

a substrate including a plurality of pixel areas;

a thin film transistor formed on the substrate;

a first electrode connected to the thin film transistor to be formed in the pixel area;

an organic layer formed on the first electrode to be spaced apart from the first electrode with a plurality of cavities interposed therebetween;

a liquid crystal layer filling the cavities; and

an overcoat formed on the organic layer so as to seal the cavities,

wherein a height of the center of the pixel area of the organic layer is higher than heights of both edges of the pixel area of the organic layer.

2. The display device of claim 1, wherein:

the organic layer is connected along the adjacent pixel areas in a first direction among the pixel areas.

3. The display device of claim 1, wherein:

the upper surface and a part of the side of the space are surrounded by the organic layer.

4. The display device of claim 1, further comprising:

a second electrode formed to be spaced apart from the first electrode,

wherein the second electrode

is formed to cover the upper surface and a part of the side of the space, and

is connected along the adjacent pixel areas in the first direction among the pixel areas.

5. The display device of claim 1, further comprising:

a second electrode formed to be spaced apart from the first electrode,

wherein the second electrode

is formed below the space, and

the first electrode and the second electrode have rod shapes, and the plurality of first electrodes and second electrodes are alternately arranged in one pixel area.

6. The display device of claim 1, wherein:

the upper surface of the organic layer and the substrate is gradually closer toward both edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area.

22

7. The display device of claim 1, wherein:

an angle between the substrate and the upper surface of the organic layer is 1 degree or more and 10 degrees or less.

8. The display device of claim 7, wherein:

an angle between the substrate and the upper surface of the organic layer is 1.5 degrees or more and 2 degrees or less.

9. The display device of claim 1, further comprising:

a color filter formed below the first electrode.

10. The display device of claim 1, wherein:

a height of the upper surface of a color filter formed below the first electrode

is gradually lowered toward both edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area.

11. The display device of claim 10, further comprising:

a light blocking member formed on a boundary of the pixel area and the thin film transistor.

12. The display device of claim 10, wherein:

the color filters are overlapped with each other on the boundary of the pixel area and the thin film transistor.

13. The display device of claim 1, wherein:

the organic layer includes

a color filter formed in the pixel area; and

a light blocking member formed on a boundary of the pixel area and the thin film transistor.

14. The display device of claim 13, further comprising:

an insulating layer formed below the first electrode and made of an organic insulating material.

15. A display device, comprising: a substrate including a plurality of pixel areas; a thin film transistor formed on the substrate; a first electrode connected to the thin film transistor to be formed in the pixel area; a color filter formed on the first electrode to be spaced apart from the first electrode with a plurality of cavities interposed therebetween; a liquid crystal layer filling the cavities; and an overcoat formed on the color filter so as to seal the cavities, wherein a height of the center of the pixel area of the color filter is higher than heights of both edges of the pixel area of the color filter.

16. The display device of claim 15, wherein:

the upper surface of the color filter and the substrate is gradually closer toward both edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area, and

an angle between the substrate and the upper surface of the organic layer is 1 degree or more and 10 degrees or less.

17. The display device of claim 15, further comprising:

an insulating layer formed below the first electrode and made of an organic insulating material,

wherein the upper surface of the insulating layer and the substrate is gradually closer toward both edges of the pixel area from the center of the pixel area.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	显示装置及其制造方法		
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[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	三星显示有限公司		
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摘要(译)

本发明提供一种能够减轻重量，厚度，成本和处理时间并且具有耐用结构的显示装置及其制造方法。该显示装置包括：基板，包括多个像素区域；在基板上形成的薄膜晶体管；第一电极连接到要形成在像素区域中的薄膜晶体管；形成在第一电极上的有机层，以沿像素区域中的第一方向上的相邻像素区域连接；位于第一电极上的空间，其上表面和侧面的部分被有机层包围；形成的液晶填充空间；形成覆盖未被有机层覆盖的空间的剩余侧的外涂层，其中有有机层的上表面的高度从像素区域的中心朝向像素区域的两个边缘逐渐降低。

