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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**
MIYAKE et al.(10) **Pub. No.: US 2015/0301422 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Oct. 22, 2015**(54) **DISPLAY DEVICE, DISPLAY MODULE, AND ELECTRONIC DEVICE****G02F 1/1368** (2006.01)**H01L 27/12** (2006.01)**H01L 29/786** (2006.01)(71) Applicant: **SEMICONDUCTOR ENERGY LABORATORY CO., LTD.**, Atsugi-shi (JP)(52) **U.S. Cl.**CPC **G02F 1/136286** (2013.01); **H01L 27/1225** (2013.01); **H01L 29/7869** (2013.01); **H01L 27/1255** (2013.01); **H01L 27/124** (2013.01); **G02F 1/1368** (2013.01); **G02F 1/136277** (2013.01); **G02F 1/136213** (2013.01); **G02F 1/134309** (2013.01)(72) Inventors: **Hiroyuki MIYAKE**, Atsugi (JP); **Koji KUSUNOKI**, Kawasaki (JP); **Tetsuji ISHITANI**, Atsugi (JP); **Ryo HATSUMI**, Hadano (JP)(21) Appl. No.: **14/684,661**(22) Filed: **Apr. 13, 2015**(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

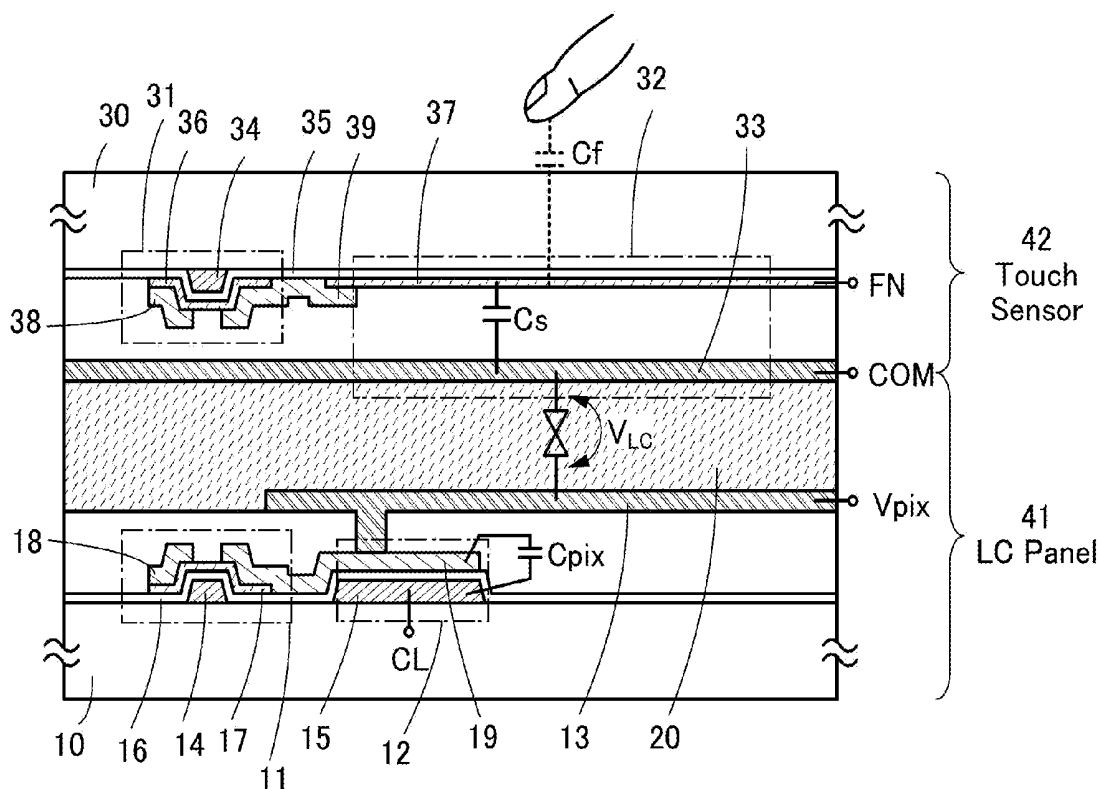
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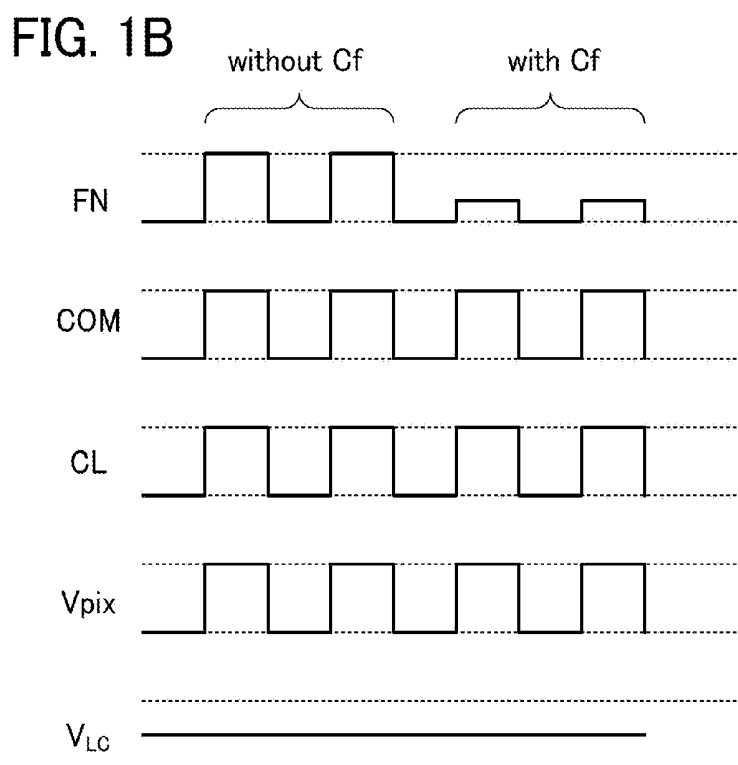
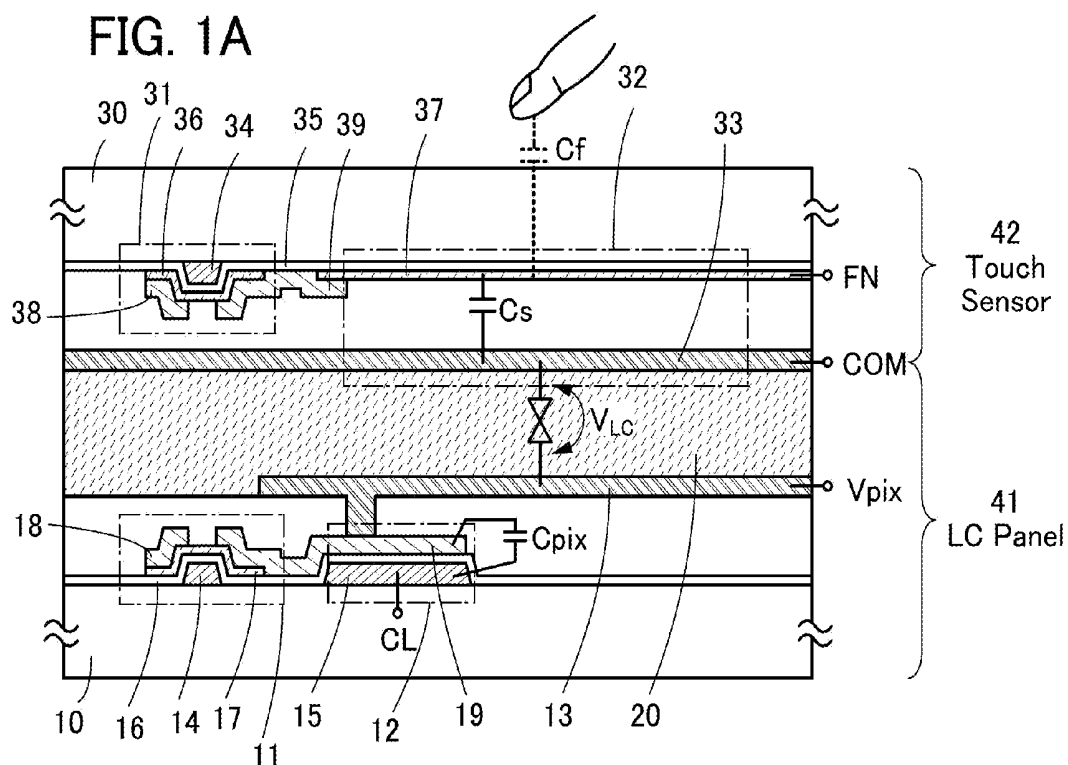
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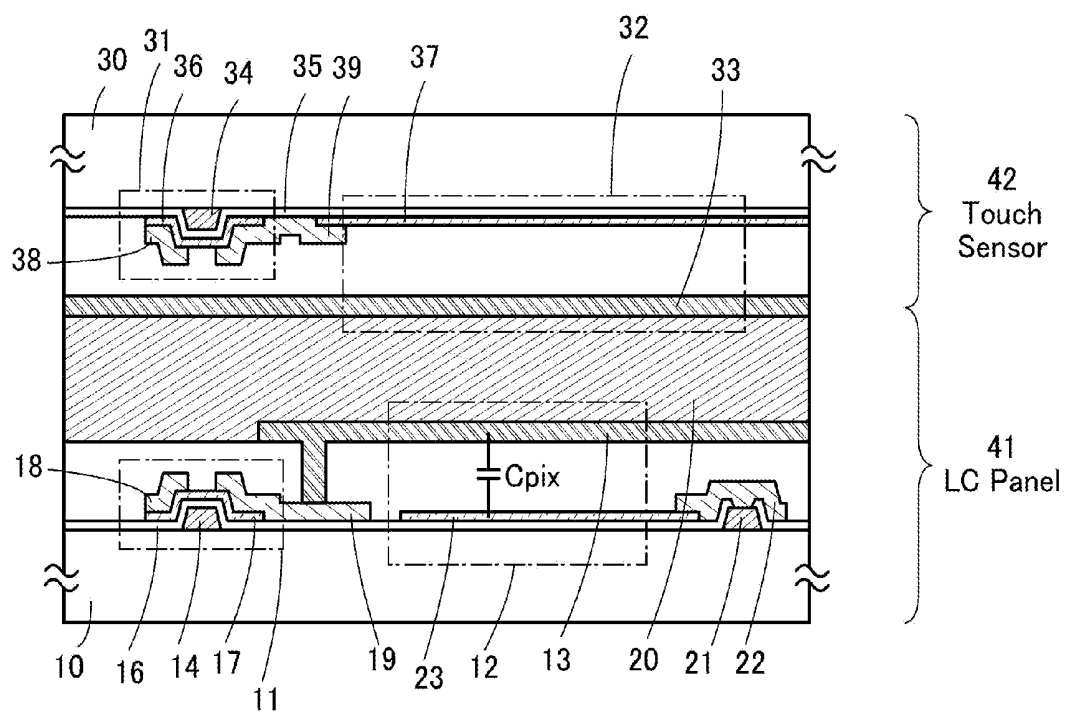
May 22, 2014 (JP) 2014-106476

Publication Classification(51) **Int. Cl.****G02F 1/1362** (2006.01)**G02F 1/1343** (2006.01)**ABSTRACT**

To provide a display device with a novel structure that can achieve both thickness reduction and favorable display quality. In a structure of a display device including a liquid crystal layer between a pixel electrode and a counter electrode, a common electrode and an electrode of a capacitor in a touch sensor on the counter electrode side are formed integrally and supplied with a pulse signal. On the element substrate side, a signal to be supplied to a capacitor line that forms a capacitance with the pixel electrode is in conjunction with the pulse signal so as to cancel a change in an electric field applied to the liquid crystal layer. Such a structure can achieve a display device with a touch sensor function that can cancel a change in an electric field applied to a liquid crystal layer even when the electric field is changed by a pulse signal.







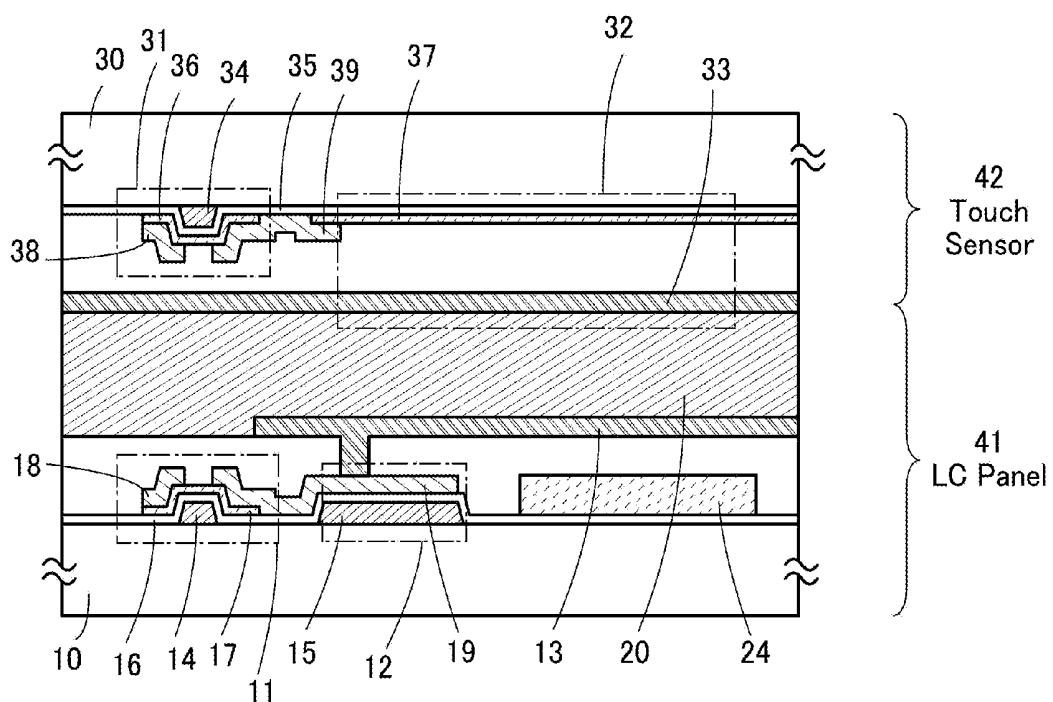


FIG. 4

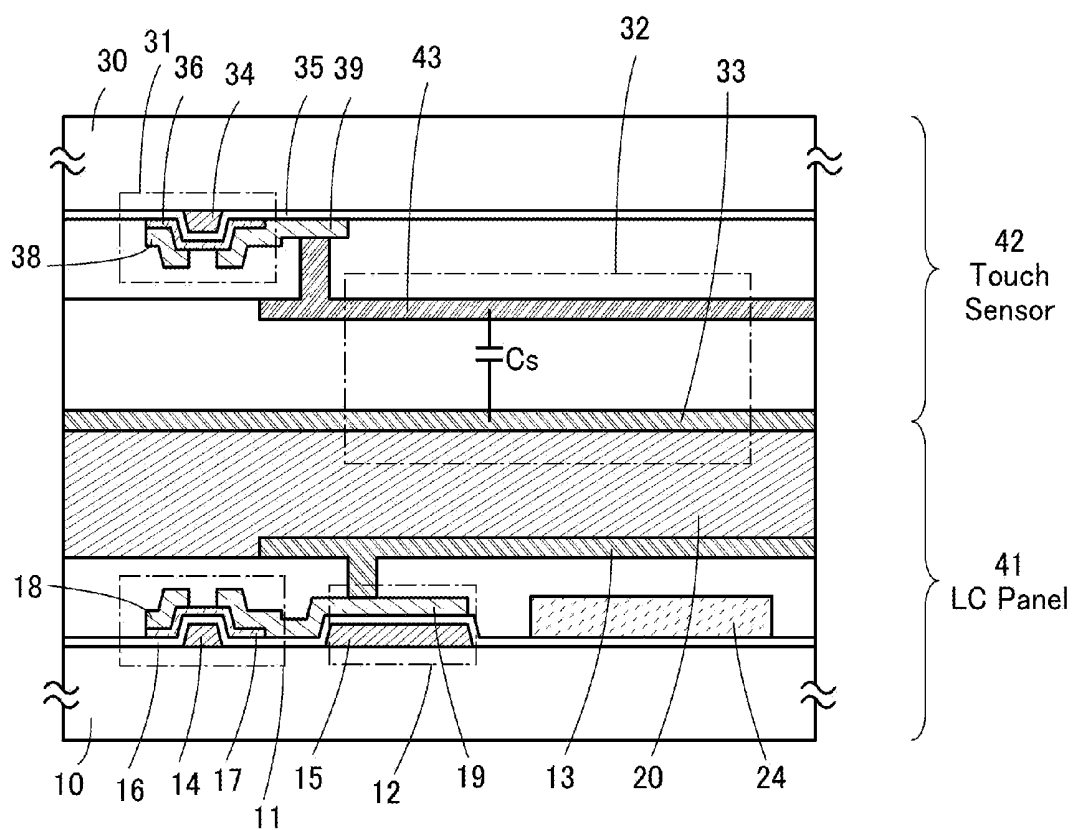


FIG. 5

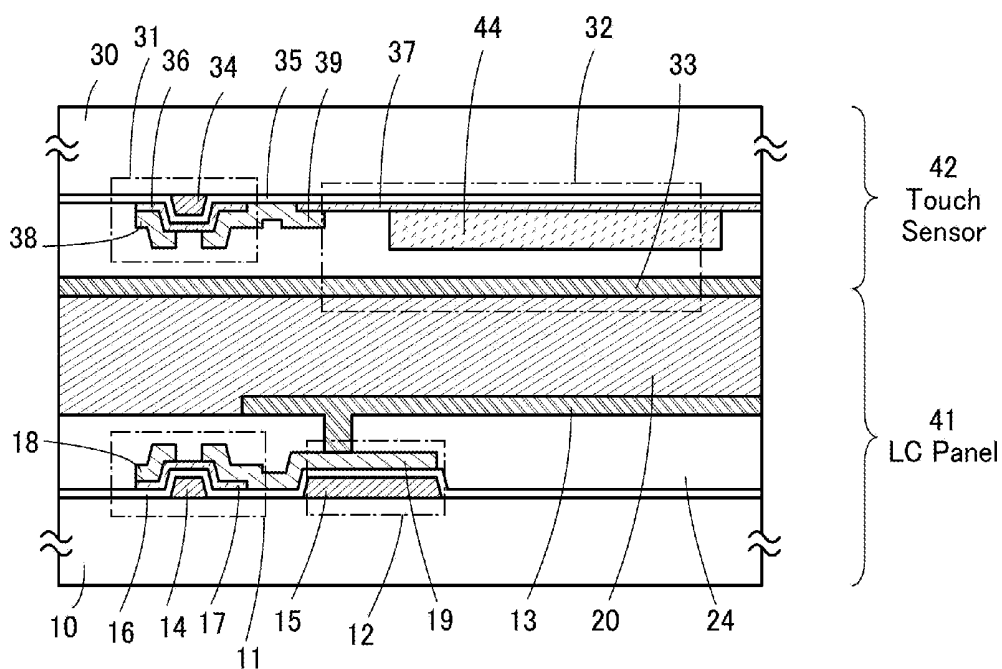


FIG. 6

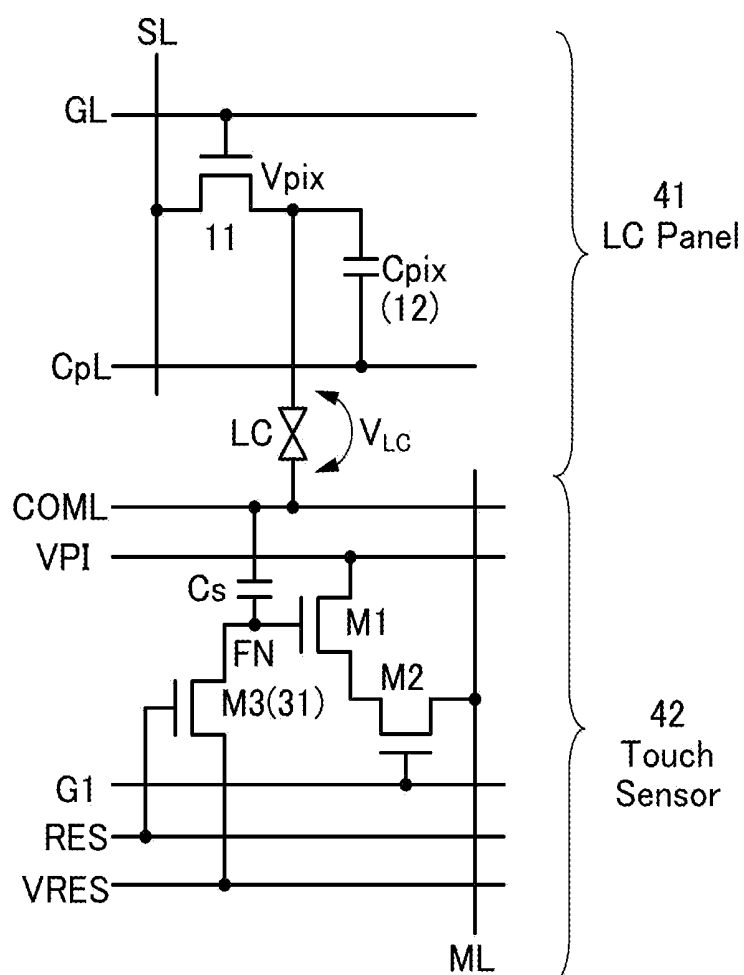
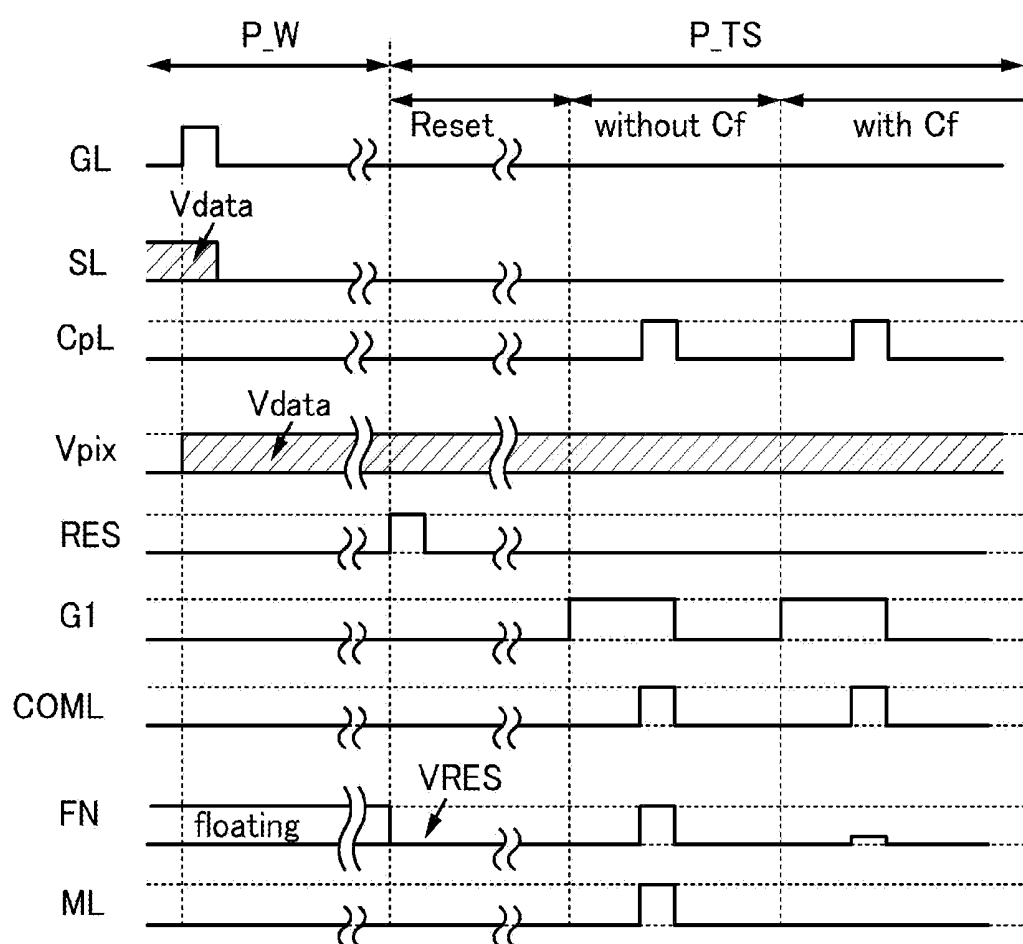
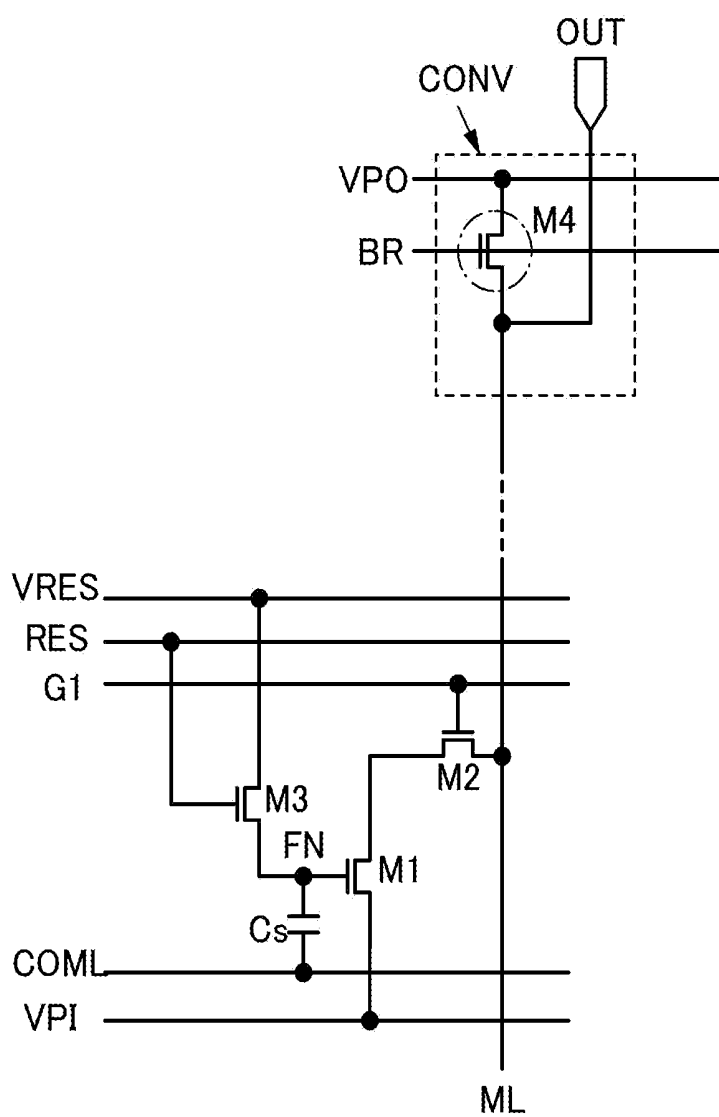


FIG. 7





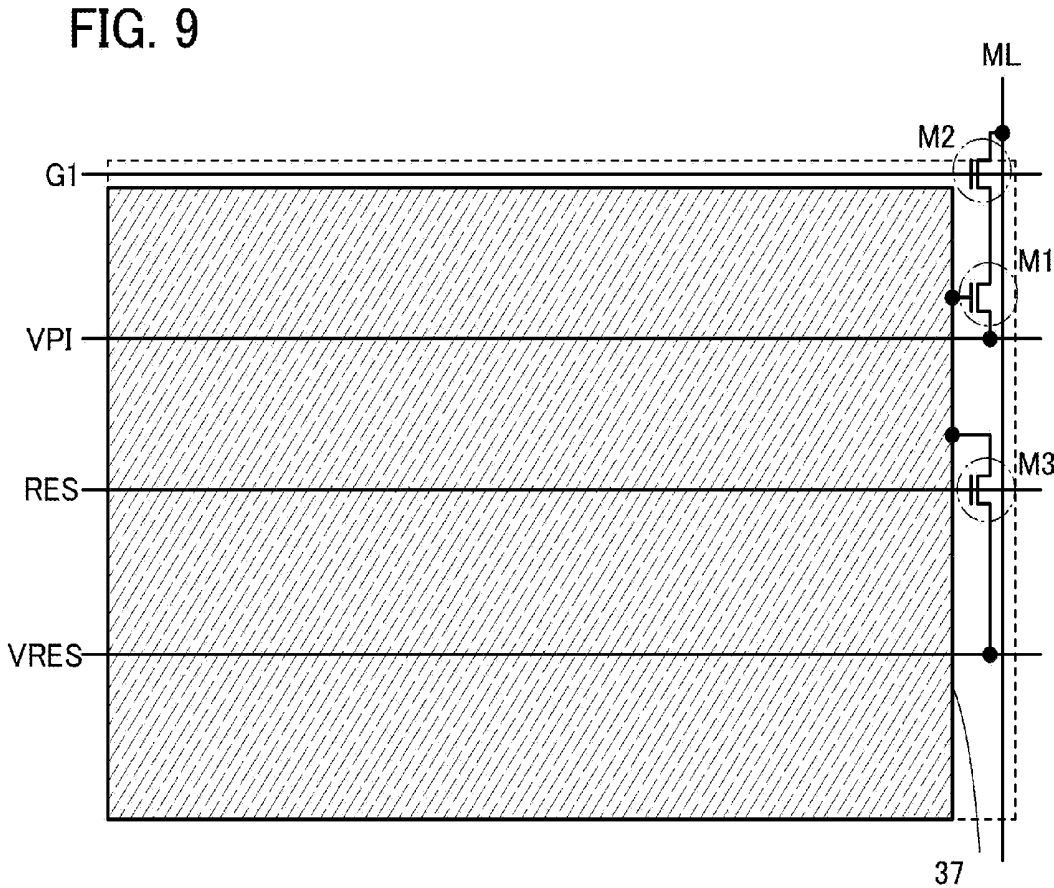


FIG. 11A

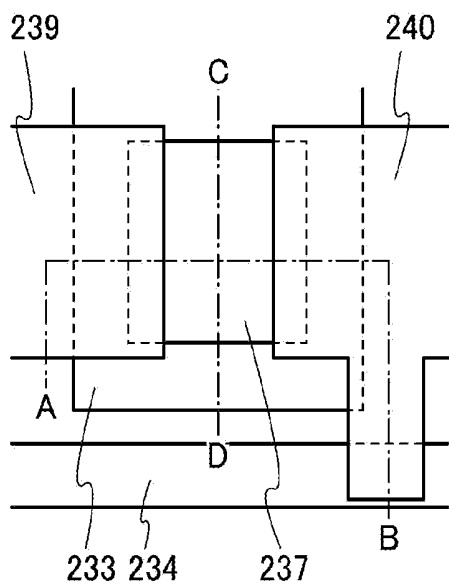


FIG. 11C

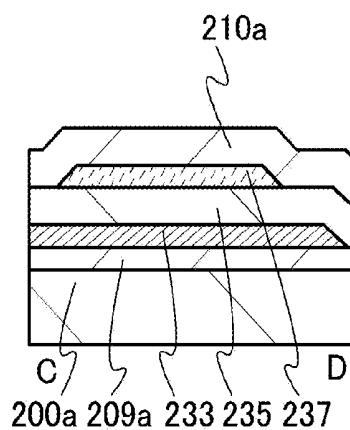


FIG. 11B

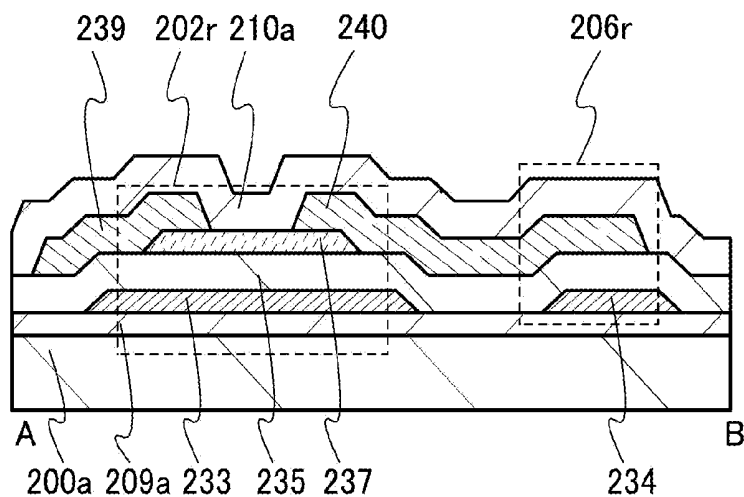


FIG. 12A

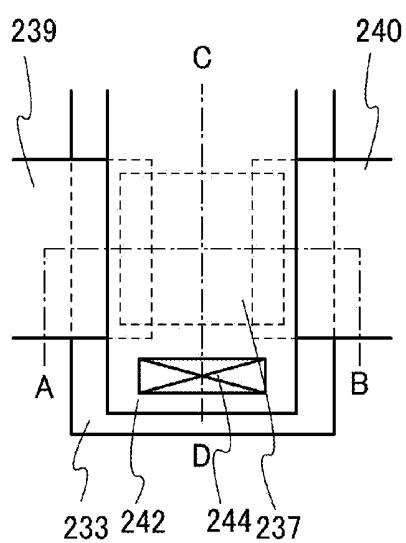


FIG. 12C

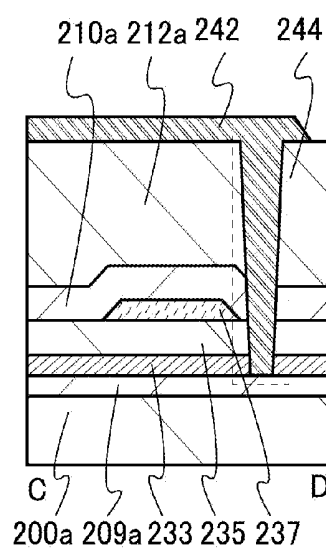


FIG. 12B

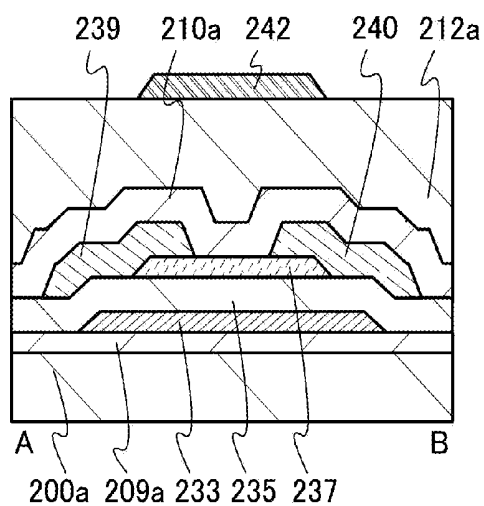


FIG. 13

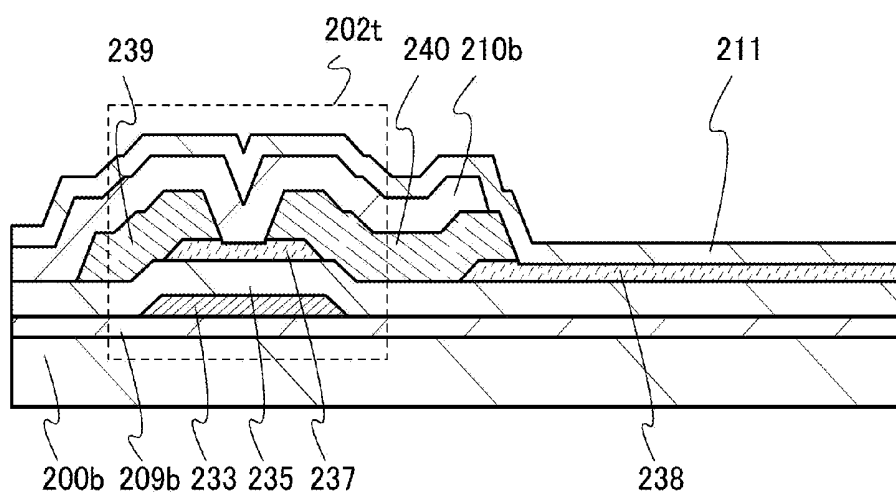


FIG. 14A

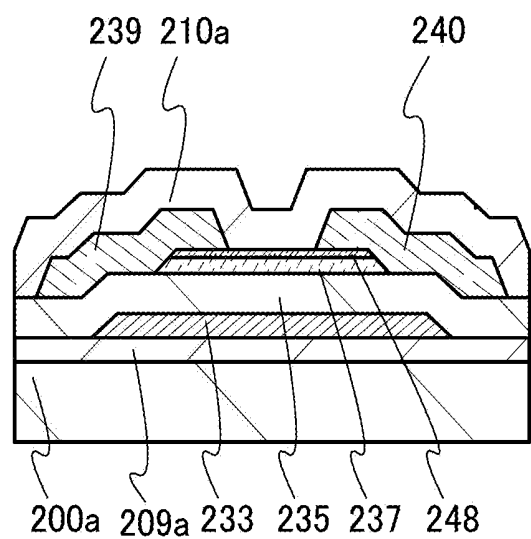


FIG. 14B

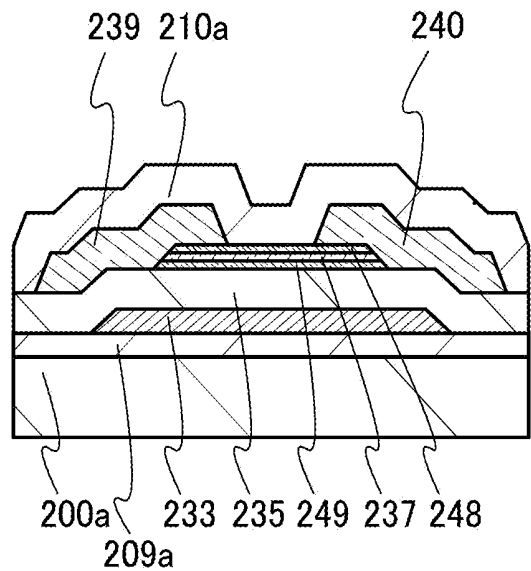


FIG. 15

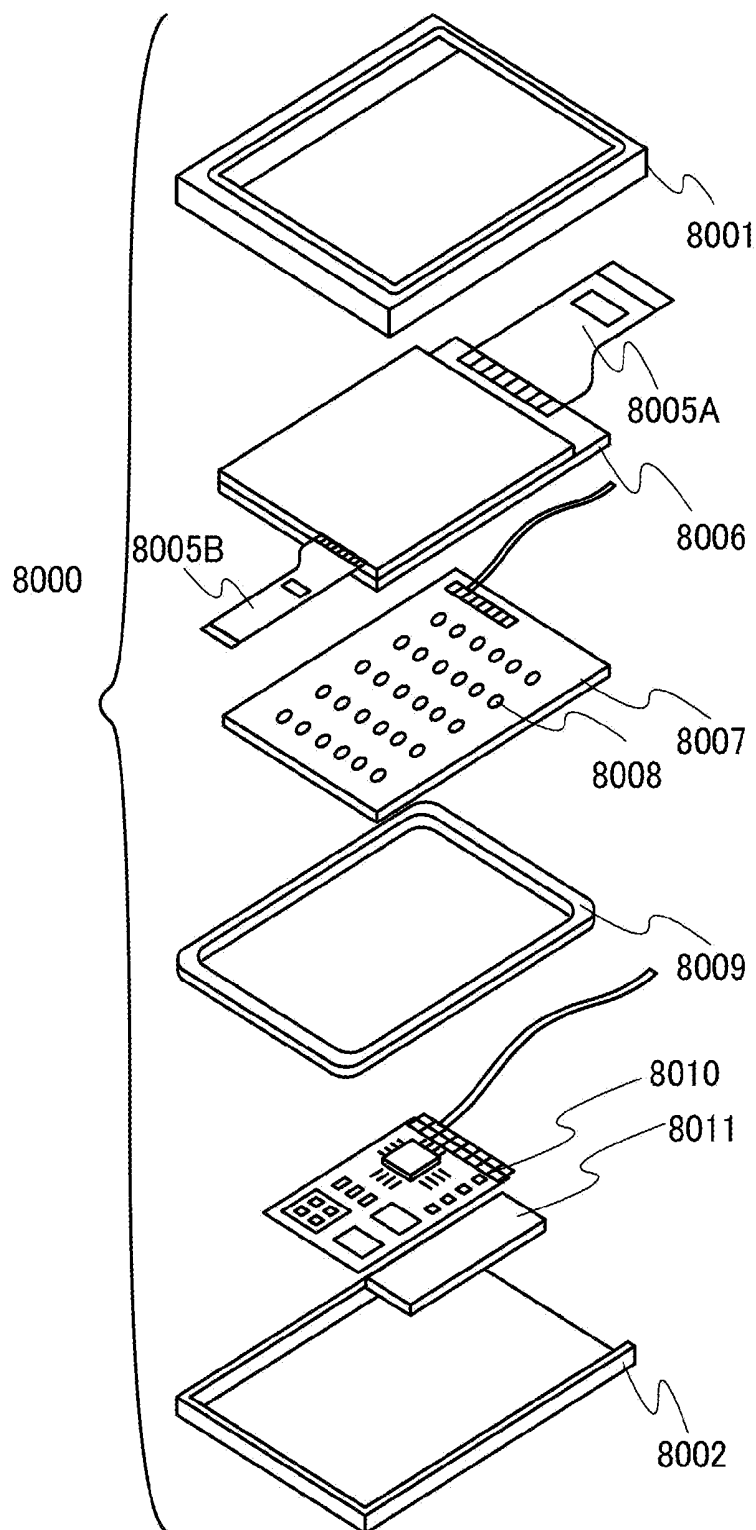


FIG. 16A

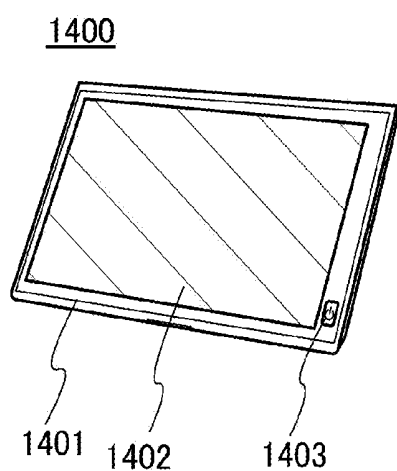


FIG. 16B

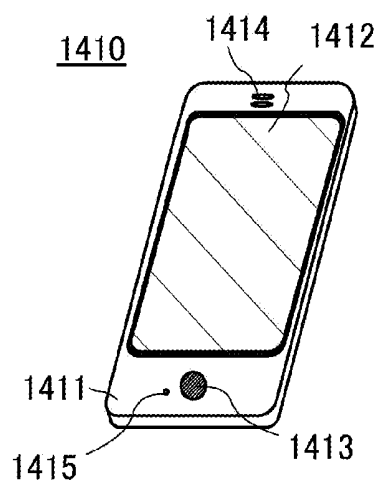


FIG. 16C

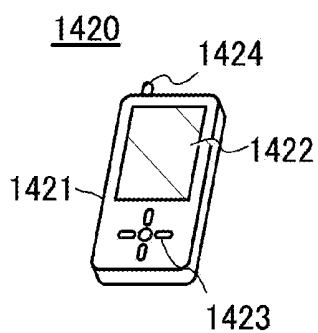
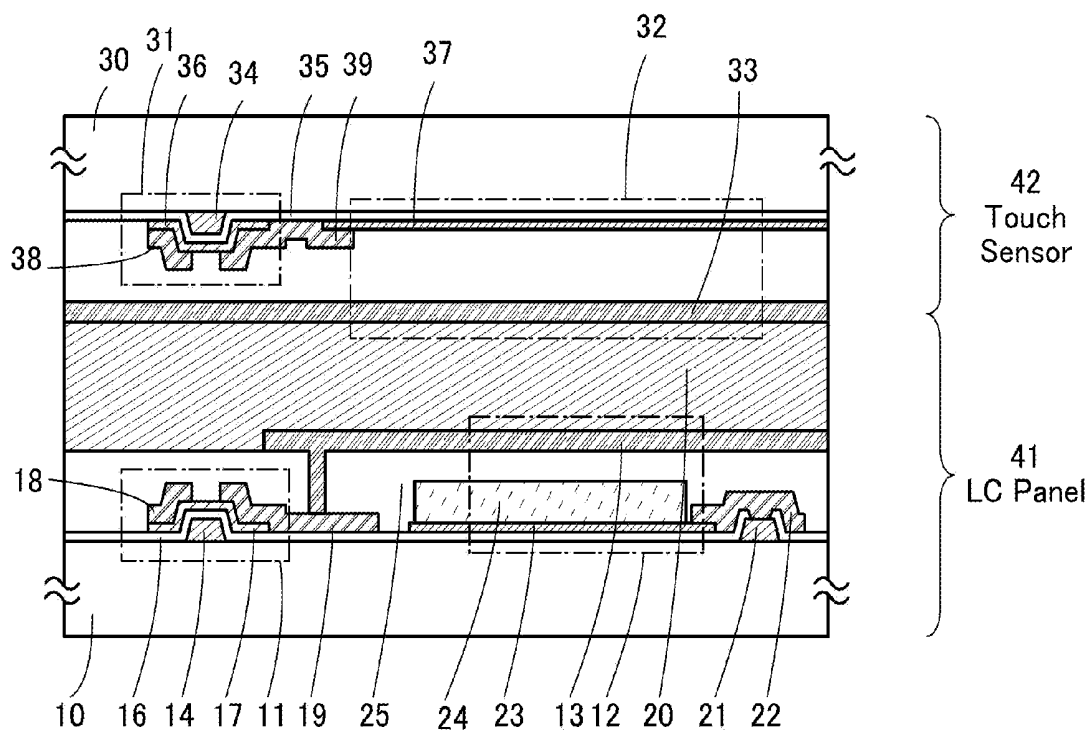


FIG. 17



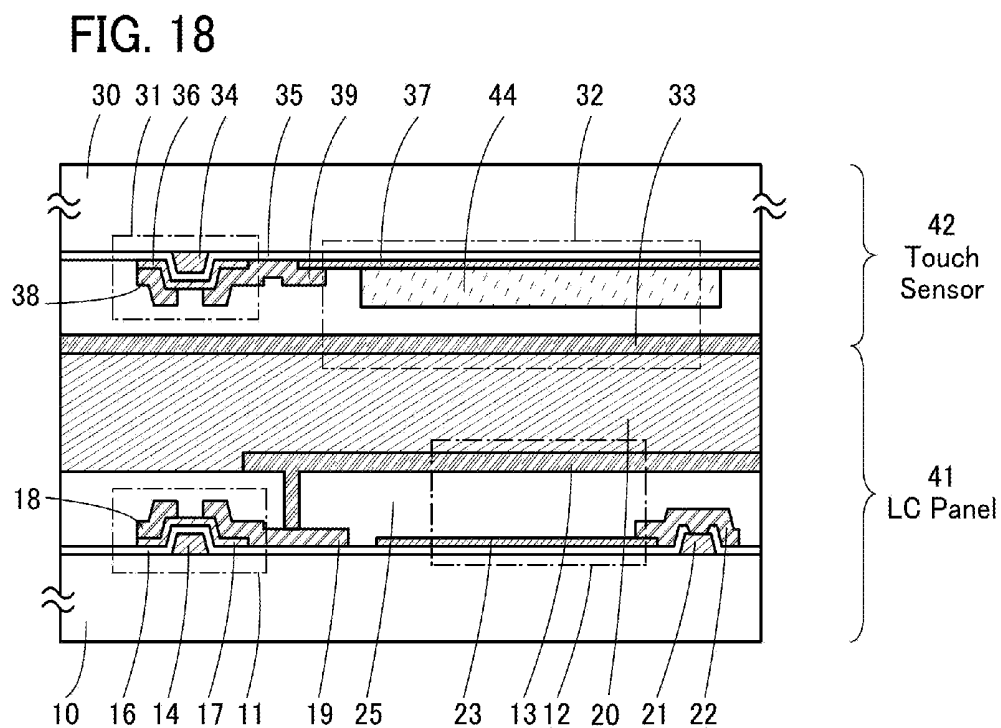


FIG. 19A

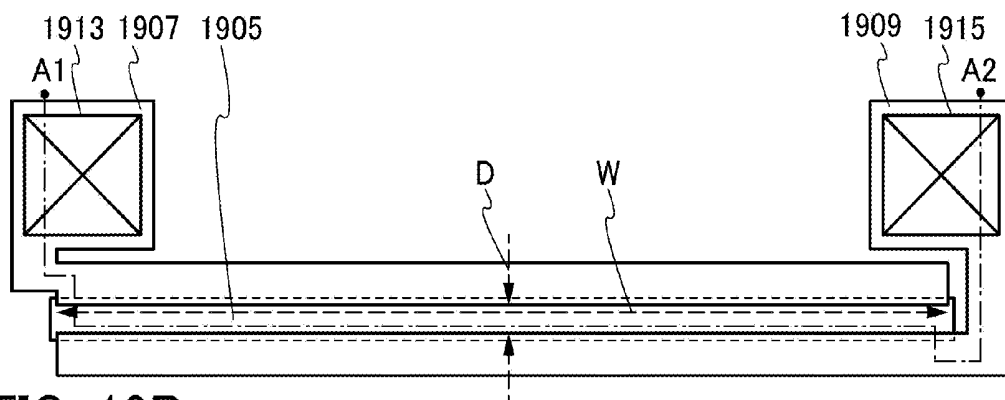


FIG. 19B

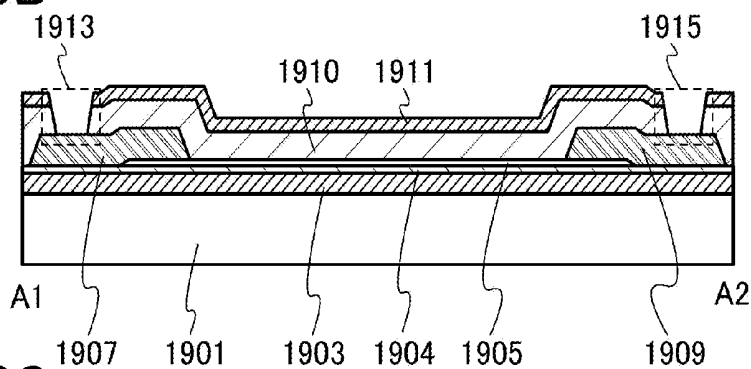


FIG. 19C

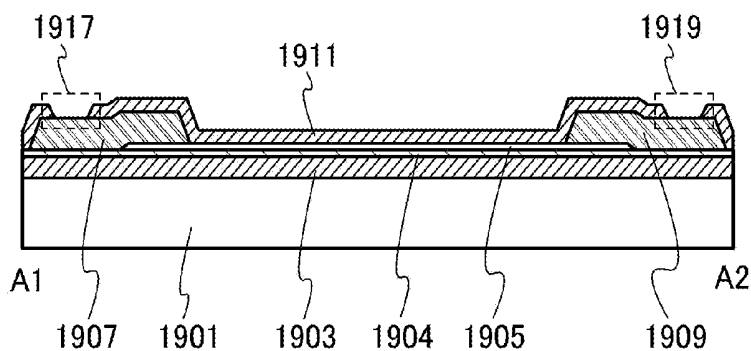


FIG. 20

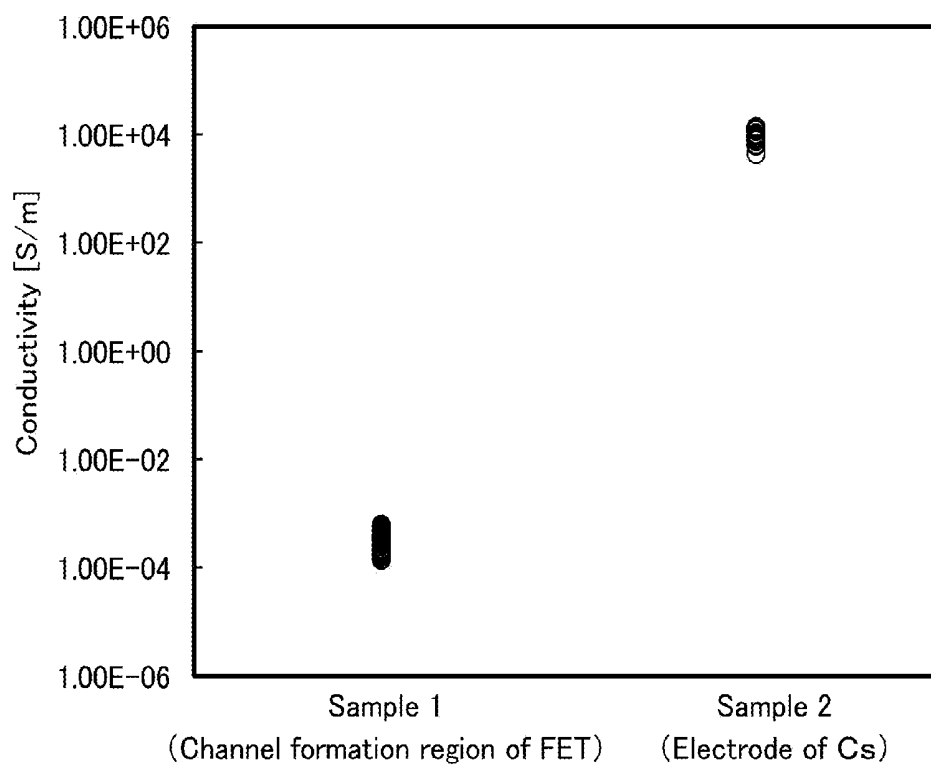
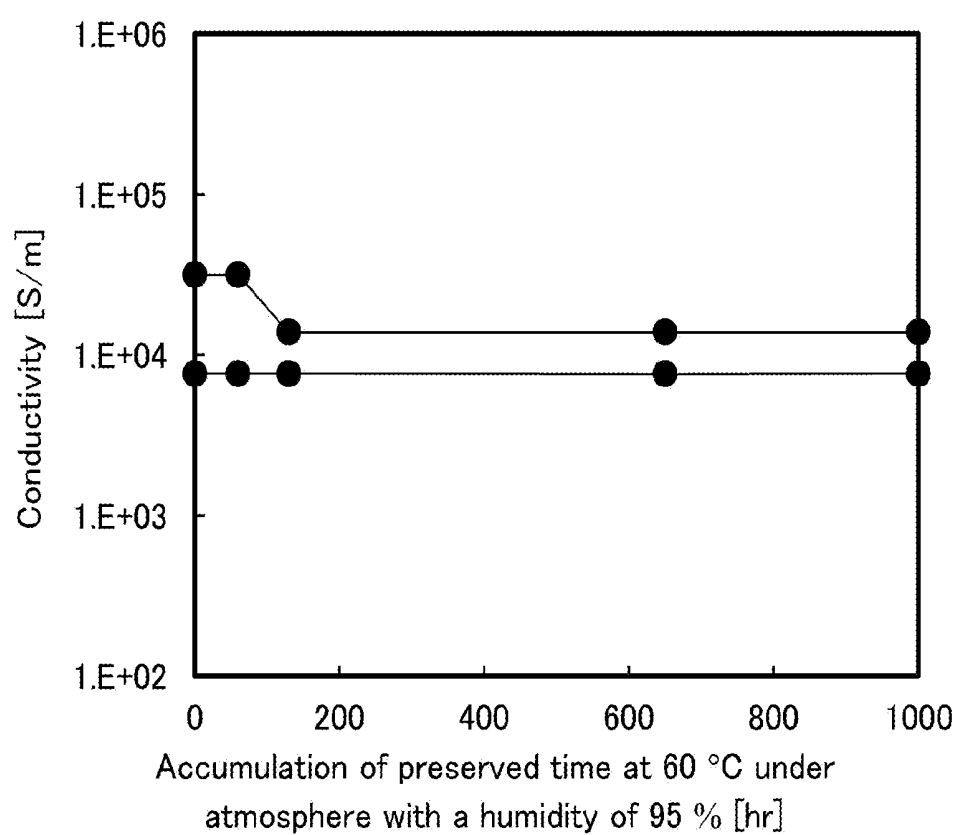


FIG. 21



DISPLAY DEVICE, DISPLAY MODULE, AND ELECTRONIC DEVICE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] 1. Field of the Invention

[0002] One embodiment of the present invention relates to a display device, a display module, and an electronic device.

[0003] Note that one embodiment of the present invention is not limited to the above technical field. The technical field of the invention disclosed in this specification and the like relates to an object, a method, or a manufacturing method. In addition, one embodiment of the present invention relates to a process, a machine, manufacture, or a composition of matter. Specifically, examples of the technical field of one embodiment of the present invention disclosed in this specification include a semiconductor device, a display device, a light-emitting device, a power storage device, a memory device, a method for driving any of them, and a method for manufacturing any of them.

[0004] 2. Description of the Related Art

[0005] Display devices with a touch sensor function are widely used (see Patent Document 1).

REFERENCE

Patent Document

[0006] [Patent Document 1] Japanese Published Patent Application No. 2003-196023

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] In a display device with a touch sensor function, the touch sensor function increases the thickness of the display device. When the housing is thinned, a potential supplied to a display element is changed by a signal supplied to an electrode, which decreases display quality.

[0008] An object of one embodiment of the present invention is to provide a novel display device or the like.

[0009] Another object of one embodiment of the present invention is to provide a display device or the like having a novel structure with which thickness reduction can be achieved. Another object of one embodiment of the present invention is to provide a display device or the like having a novel structure with which a change in a potential applied to a display element can be canceled.

[0010] Note that the objects of the present invention are not limited to the above objects. The objects described above do not disturb the existence of other objects. The other objects are the ones that are not described above and will be described below. The other objects will be apparent from and can be derived from the description of the specification, the drawings, and the like by those skilled in the art. One embodiment of the present invention is to solve at least one of the aforementioned objects and the other objects.

[0011] One embodiment of the present invention is a display device including a first substrate, a second substrate, and a liquid crystal layer, further including a first transistor, a first capacitor, a first wiring, a first electrode, a second transistor, a second electrode, a second capacitor, and a third electrode. The liquid crystal layer is provided between the first electrode and the third electrode. The first transistor, the first capacitor, the first wiring, and the first electrode are provided for the first substrate. The first transistor is electrically connected to the first electrode. The first electrode has a function as a pixel

electrode of the liquid crystal layer. One electrode of the first capacitor is electrically connected to the first electrode. The other electrode of the first capacitor is electrically connected to the first wiring. The first wiring has a function of being supplied with a first signal. The second transistor, the second electrode, the second capacitor, and the third electrode are provided for the second substrate. One of a source and a drain of the second transistor is electrically connected to the second electrode. The second electrode has a function as one electrode of the second capacitor. The third electrode has a function as the other electrode of the second capacitor. The third electrode has a function as a counter electrode of the liquid crystal layer. The third electrode has a function of being supplied with a second signal. The second signal is a signal that is changed at the same intervals as the first signal.

[0012] In the display device of one embodiment of the present invention, it is preferable that the second substrate include a third transistor and a fourth transistor, a gate of the third transistor be electrically connected to the second electrode, the other of the source and the drain of the second transistor be electrically connected to a second wiring, the second wiring have a function of being supplied with a constant potential, one of a source and a drain of the third transistor be electrically connected to one of a source and a drain of the fourth transistor, the other of the source and the drain of the fourth transistor be electrically connected to a third wiring, and the third wiring have a function of changing a potential thereof depending on a potential of the second electrode.

[0013] In the display device of one embodiment of the present invention, it is preferable that a semiconductor layer in the second transistor include an oxide semiconductor and a semiconductor layer in the third transistor include an oxide semiconductor.

[0014] In the display device of one embodiment of the present invention, it is preferable that the second electrode be an electrode provided in the same layer as the semiconductor layer in the second transistor and the semiconductor layer in the third transistor.

[0015] In the display device of one embodiment of the present invention, it is preferable that the first transistor include a first semiconductor layer, the first semiconductor layer include an oxide semiconductor, the first semiconductor layer include a first metal element, the first electrode include the first metal element and oxygen, the first semiconductor layer include a region with a first hydrogen concentration, the first electrode include a region with a second hydrogen concentration, and the first hydrogen concentration and the second hydrogen concentration be different from each other.

[0016] Note that other embodiments of the present invention will be described in the following embodiments and the drawings.

[0017] One embodiment of the present invention can provide a display device or the like having a novel structure.

[0018] One embodiment of the present invention can provide a display device or the like having a novel structure with which thickness reduction can be achieved. One embodiment of the present invention can provide a display device or the like having a novel structure with which a change in a potential applied to a display element can be canceled. Therefore, a display device having high display quality can be obtained.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0019] FIGS. 1A and 1B are a cross-sectional schematic view and a waveform diagram for illustrating one embodiment of the present invention.

[0020] FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional schematic view for illustrating one embodiment of the present invention.

[0021] FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional schematic view for illustrating one embodiment of the present invention.

[0022] FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional schematic view for illustrating one embodiment of the present invention.

[0023] FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional schematic view for illustrating one embodiment of the present invention.

[0024] FIG. 6 is a circuit diagram for illustrating one embodiment of the present invention.

[0025] FIG. 7 is a timing chart for illustrating one embodiment of the present invention.

[0026] FIG. 8 is a circuit diagram for illustrating one embodiment of the present invention.

[0027] FIG. 9 is a top view for illustrating one embodiment of the present invention.

[0028] FIG. 10 is a cross-sectional schematic view for illustrating one embodiment of the present invention.

[0029] FIGS. 11A to 11C are cross-sectional schematic views for illustrating one embodiment of the present invention.

[0030] FIGS. 12A to 12C are a top schematic view and cross-sectional schematic views for illustrating one embodiment of the present invention.

[0031] FIG. 13 is a cross-sectional schematic view for illustrating one embodiment of the present invention.

[0032] FIGS. 14A and 14B are cross-sectional schematic views for illustrating one embodiment of the present invention.

[0033] FIG. 15 is a diagram showing a display module of one embodiment of the present invention.

[0034] FIGS. 16A to 16C each illustrate an electronic device of one embodiment of the present invention.

[0035] FIG. 17 is a cross-sectional schematic view for illustrating one embodiment of the present invention.

[0036] FIG. 18 is a cross-sectional schematic view for illustrating one embodiment of the present invention.

[0037] FIGS. 19A to 19C illustrate sample structures.

[0038] FIG. 20 illustrates conductivity.

[0039] FIG. 21 illustrates conductivity.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0040] Hereinafter, embodiments will be described with reference to the drawings. Note that the embodiments can be implemented in various different ways and it will be readily appreciated by those skilled in the art that modes and details of the embodiments can be changed in various ways without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. The present invention therefore should not be construed as being limited to the following description of the embodiments.

[0041] In the drawings, the size, the layer thickness, or the region is exaggerated for clarity in some cases. Therefore, embodiments of the invention are not limited to such scales. Note that the drawings are schematic views showing ideal examples, and embodiments of the present invention are not limited to the shapes or the values in the drawings. For example, variation in signal, voltage, or current due to noise or difference in timing can be included.

[0042] In this specification and the like, a transistor is an element having at least three terminals: a gate, a drain, and a source. The transistor includes a channel region between the drain (a drain terminal, a drain region, or a drain electrode) and the source (a source terminal, a source region, or a source electrode) and current can flow through the drain, the channel region, and the source.

[0043] Here, since the source and the drain of the transistor change depending on the structure, the operating condition, and the like of the transistor, it is difficult to define which is a source or a drain. Thus, a portion that functions as a source or a portion that functions as a drain is not referred to as a source or a drain in some cases. In that case, one of the source and the drain might be referred to as a first electrode, and the other of the source and the drain might be referred to as a second electrode.

[0044] In this specification, ordinal numbers such as “first”, “second”, and “third” are used to avoid confusion among components, and thus do not limit the number of the components.

[0045] Note that in this specification, the expression “A and B are connected” or “A is connected to B” means the case where A and B are electrically connected to each other as well as the case where A and B are directly connected to each other. Here, the expression “A and B are electrically connected” means the case where electric signals can be transmitted and received between A and B when an object having any electric action exists between A and B.

[0046] For example, any of the following expressions can be used for the case where a source (or a first terminal or the like) of a transistor is electrically connected to X through (or not through) Z1 and a drain (or a second terminal or the like) of the transistor is electrically connected to Y through (or not through) Z2, or the case where a source (or a first terminal or the like) of a transistor is directly connected to one part of Z1 and another part of Z1 is directly connected to X while a drain (or a second terminal or the like) of the transistor is directly connected to one part of Z2 and another part of Z2 is directly connected to Y.

[0047] Examples of the expressions include, “X, Y, a source (or a first terminal or the like) of a transistor, and a drain (or a second terminal or the like) of the transistor are electrically connected to each other, and X, the source (or the first terminal or the like) of the transistor, the drain (or the second terminal or the like) of the transistor, and Y are electrically connected to each other in this order”, “a source (or a first terminal or the like) of a transistor is electrically connected to X, a drain (or a second terminal or the like) of the transistor is electrically connected to Y, and X, the source (or the first terminal or the like) of the transistor, the drain (or the second terminal or the like) of the transistor, and Y are electrically connected to each other in this order”, and “X is electrically connected to Y through a source (or a first terminal or the like) and a drain (or a second terminal or the like) of a transistor, and X, the source (or the first terminal or the like) of the transistor, the drain (or the second terminal or the like) of the transistor, and Y are provided to be connected in this order”. When the connection order in a circuit configuration is defined by an expression similar to the above examples, a source (or a first terminal or the like) and a drain (or a second terminal or the like) of a transistor can be distinguished from each other to specify the technical scope. Note that one embodiment of the present invention is not limited to these expressions that are just examples. Here, X, Y, Z1, and Z2

each denote an object (e.g., a device, an element, a circuit, a wiring, an electrode, a terminal, a conductive film, and a layer).

[0048] In this specification, terms for describing arrangement, such as “over” and “under,” are used for convenience for describing the positional relation between components with reference to drawings. The positional relation between components is changed as appropriate depending on a direction in which each component is described. Thus, there is no limitation on terms used in this specification, and description can be made appropriately depending on the situation.

[0049] Note that the layout of circuit blocks in a block diagram in a drawing specifies the positional relation for description. Thus, even when a drawing shows that different functions are achieved in different circuit blocks, an actual circuit block may be configured so that the different functions are achieved in the same circuit block. The functions of circuit blocks in diagrams are specified for description, and even in the case where one circuit block is illustrated, blocks might be provided in an actual circuit block so that processing performed by one circuit block is performed by a plurality of circuit blocks.

[0050] In this specification, the term “parallel” indicates that the angle formed between two straight lines is greater than or equal to -10° and less than or equal to 10° , and accordingly also includes the case where the angle is greater than or equal to -5° and less than or equal to 5° . In addition, the term “perpendicular” indicates that the angle formed between two straight lines is greater than or equal to 80° and less than or equal to 100° , and accordingly includes the case where the angle is greater than or equal to 85° and less than or equal to 95° .

[0051] In this specification, trigonal and rhombohedral crystal systems are included in a hexagonal crystal system.

Embodiment 1

[0052] In this embodiment, a structure example of a display device and the operation of the display device is described.

[0053] In this specification and the like, a display device refers to a device including a display element such as a liquid crystal element. Note that the display device also includes a driver circuit for driving a plurality of pixels, and the like. The display device may also be referred to as a display module including a control circuit, a power supply circuit, a signal generation circuit, a backlight module, and the like provided over another substrate.

<Cross-Sectional Schematic View of Display Device>

[0054] FIG. 1A is a cross-sectional schematic view of a display device of one embodiment of the present invention. The display device can be broadly divided into a liquid crystal panel 41 and a touch sensor 42.

[0055] The liquid crystal panel 41 and the touch sensor 42 include components provided between a substrate 10 and a substrate 30. A liquid crystal layer 20 is provided between the substrate 10 and the substrate 30.

[0056] First, a structure on the liquid crystal panel 41 side is described.

[0057] A transistor 11, a capacitor 12, and an electrode 13 are provided over the substrate 10. Note that the electrode is formed using a conductive layer. In the description below, the terms “electrode” and “conductive layer” are selectively used for the convenience of description; however, in some cases,

an electrode is referred to as a conductive layer or a conductive layer is referred to as an electrode.

[0058] The transistor 11 has a function as a switch. The transistor 11 can switch electrical connection between a source line (a conductive layer 18) and the electrode 13.

[0059] The transistor 11 includes a conductive layer 14, an insulating layer 16, a semiconductor layer 17, the conductive layer 18, and a conductive layer 19. The conductive layer 14 functions as a gate electrode. The insulating layer 16 has a function as a gate insulating film. The semiconductor layer 17 has a function as a semiconductor layer including a channel formation region. The conductive layer 18 has a function as a source electrode or a drain electrode. The conductive layer 19 has a function as a source electrode or a drain electrode. The conductive layer 19 is a part of the capacitor 12 and the conductive layer 19 is connected to the electrode 13.

[0060] Although the conductive layer 14, the insulating layer 16, the semiconductor layer 17, the conductive layer 18, or the conductive layer 19 is a single layer in FIG. 1A, any of them may be a stack of two or more layers. The layers in the stack may be formed using different materials or the same material.

[0061] The transistor 11 shown in FIG. 1A is a transistor with a bottom gate structure; however, the structure of the transistor 11 is not limited thereto, and a top gate structure may be used. Furthermore, although a channel etched type is shown in FIG. 1A, a channel protective type may be used.

[0062] Note that the transistor 11 is preferably a transistor including an oxide semiconductor in a semiconductor layer (hereinafter, such a transistor is referred to as an OS transistor). The use of an OS transistor as the transistor 11 can reduce the off-state current of the transistor 11 that flows between the source and the drain when the transistor 11 is off. Therefore, the electrode 13 can be brought into an electrically floating state easily. Furthermore, the electrode 13 can hold a potential corresponding to image data continuously.

[0063] The capacitor 12 includes a conductive layer 15, the insulating layer 16, and the conductive layer 19. The capacitor 12 is denoted by Cpix in drawings. The conductive layer 15 has a function as one electrode of the Cpix. CL denotes a signal supplied to the conductive layer 15. The conductive layer 19 has a function as the other electrode of the Cpix. The insulating layer 16 is provided between the conductive layer 15 and the conductive layer 19. The conductive layer 19 is connected to the transistor 11 and the electrode 13.

[0064] The capacitor 12 may include a conductive layer having a light-transmitting property. Such a structure can increase the aperture ratio of a pixel. By the increase in the aperture ratio, display with the same luminance is possible even when light from a backlight is weakened, so that low power consumption can be achieved.

[0065] The electrode 13 has a function as a pixel electrode of the liquid crystal layer 20. The electrode 13 may be formed using a light-transmitting material or a reflective material. Vpix denotes a potential of the electrode 13. The electrode 13 is connected to the transistor 11 and the capacitor 12 with the conductive layer 19.

[0066] The liquid crystal layer 20 includes a vertical electric field mode liquid crystal layer. Typical examples of the vertical electric field mode liquid crystal layer include a twisted nematic (TN) liquid crystal layer, a super twisted nematic (STN) liquid crystal layer, a vertical alignment (VA) liquid crystal layer, and a multi-domain vertical alignment

(MVA) liquid crystal layer. Hereinafter, in one embodiment of the present invention, description will be made using a TN mode liquid crystal layer.

[0067] An electric field is generated between the electrode 13 and an electrode 33 on the substrate 30 side. The electrode 33 has a function as a counter electrode. The electric field is denoted by V_{LC} in drawings. The orientation of liquid crystal molecules included in the liquid crystal layer 20 can be controlled by V_{LC} . Note that a structure in which the liquid crystal layer 20 is provided between the electrodes 13 and 33 is also referred to as a liquid crystal element.

[0068] The above is the description on the liquid crystal panel 41 side.

[0069] Next, a structure on the touch sensor 42 side is described.

[0070] A transistor 31, a capacitor 32, the electrode 33, and an electrode 37 are provided over the substrate 30.

[0071] The transistor 31 has a function as a switch. The transistor 31 can switch electrical connection between a wiring (a conductive layer 38) and the electrode 37.

[0072] The transistor 31 includes a conductive layer 34, an insulating layer 35, a semiconductor layer 36, the conductive layer 38, and a conductive layer 39. The conductive layer 34 functions as a gate electrode. The insulating layer 35 has a function as a gate insulating film. The semiconductor layer 36 has a function as a semiconductor layer including a channel formation region. The conductive layer 38 has a function as a source electrode or a drain electrode. The conductive layer 39 has a function as a source electrode or a drain electrode. The conductive layer 39 is connected to the electrode 37.

[0073] The transistor 31 can be modified in a manner similar to that of the transistor 11; for example, a structure other than the bottom gate structure may be used, and each layer may be a stack.

[0074] Note that the transistor 31 is preferably an OS transistor like the transistor 11. When an OS transistor is used as the transistor 31, the electrode 37 can be brought into an electrically floating state easily. Furthermore, a potential supplied to the electrode 37 can be continuously held by the electrode 37.

[0075] Furthermore, in the case where the transistor 31 is an OS transistor, the electrode 37 provided in the same layer as the semiconductor layer 36 can be formed using the same material as the semiconductor layer 36. The electrode 37 can be formed using an oxide semiconductor, in which case the electrode 37 can be changed to the electrode 37 having conductivity after the semiconductor layer 36 is formed.

[0076] The capacitor 32 includes the electrode 37 and the electrode 33. The capacitor 32 is denoted by C_s in drawings. The electrode 37 has a function as one electrode of the C_s . FN denotes a potential of the electrode 37. The electrode 33 has a function as the other electrode of the C_s . A color filter (not shown), an interlayer insulating layer, and other components are provided between the electrode 33 and the electrode 37. The electrode 37 is connected to the transistor 31.

[0077] Note that the electrode 37 is formed in the same layer as the semiconductor layer 36. The electrode 37 is formed at the same time as the semiconductor layer 36, and then, conductivity is imparted to the electrode 37. Such a structure enables the manufacturing cost to be reduced. Furthermore, the electrode 37 has a light-transmitting property. Therefore, the electrode 37 is not limited to a structure in which the electrode 37 is provided in the same layer as the semiconductor layer 36. For example, a structure in which the

electrode 37 is formed using a light-transmitting conductive layer and is provided so as to be connected to the transistor 31 may be used.

[0078] Note that the electrodes 37 are arranged in a matrix. Note that the electrode 37 is several millimeters square. The electrode 37 is designed so as to occupy a larger area than that of the electrode 13 functioning as a pixel electrode. One of the electrodes 37 overlaps with a plurality of electrodes 13.

[0079] The electrode 33 has a function as the counter electrode of the liquid crystal layer 20. The electrode 33 has a light-transmitting property. COM denotes a signal supplied to the electrode 33.

[0080] Note that the electrode 33 is provided to overlap with a plurality of electrodes 37 and the transistor 31. The electrode 33 may be divided by a light-blocking layer.

[0081] The above is the description of the touch sensor 42 side.

[0082] The operation is described using the cross-sectional schematic view of the display device that is shown in FIG. 1A, and advantages of one embodiment of the present invention are described in detail. The display device shown in FIG. 1A has a function as a capacitive type touch sensor. Therefore, in FIG. 1A, a capacitance generated between the electrode 37 and an object to be detected is denoted by C_f . In the case where the C_f exists, it is determined that the display device is touched. In the case where the C_f does not exist, it is determined that the display device is not touched.

[0083] FIG. 1B illustrates changes in the potential FN of the electrode 37, the signal COM supplied to the electrode 33, the signal CL supplied to the conductive layer 15, the potential V_{pix} of the electrode 13, and the electric field V_{LC} when the C_f exists and when the C_f does not exist.

[0084] The case where the C_f does not exist, i.e., the case where the display device is not touched is described.

[0085] First, the transistor 31 is turned on and the potential FN is set to a predetermined potential. Then, the transistor 31 is turned off to make the electrode 37 in an electrically floating state. The electrode 37 in an electrically floating state enables the potential FN to follow a change in the signal COM, owing to the capacitive coupling of the C_s . In the case where the C_f does not exist, a parasitic capacitance of the electrode 37 is small. Therefore, for example, by making the signal COM oscillate at regular intervals as shown in FIG. 1B, a change in the potential FN that follows the change in the signal COM can be detected ("without C_f ").

[0086] The case where the C_f exists, i.e., the case where the display device is touched is described.

[0087] The case where the C_f exists is similar to the case where the C_f does not exist, but differs from the case where the C_f does not exist in that the parasitic capacitance of the electrode 37 is increased. In this case, a change in the potential FN following the change in the signal COM is decreased by the amount of increase in the C_f and the change is detected ("with C_f ") even when the signal COM is made to oscillate at regular intervals.

[0088] Regardless of the existence of the C_f , the signal COM is changed to detect a touch, which changes the electric field V_{LC} . When the electric field V_{LC} is changed, liquid crystal molecules in the liquid crystal layer 20 cannot be oriented favorably, which leads to low display quality.

[0089] Therefore, in one embodiment of the present invention, the signal CL to be supplied to the conductive layer 15 is changed in conjunction with the change in the signal COM.

[0090] Note that when the signal CL is changed, the potential V_{pix} is made in an electrically floating state. Specifically, the transistor 11 is turned on and the potential V_{pix} is set to a potential corresponding to image data. Then, the transistor 11 is turned off to make the electrode 13 in an electrically floating state. The electrode 13 in an electrically floating state allows the potential V_{pix} to follow the change in the signal CL owing to the capacitive coupling of the C_{pix}.

[0091] The potential V_{pix} can be changed by the change in the signal CL. The signal CL is changed so that a change in the electric field V_{LC} due to a change in potential by the signal COM is canceled by the change in the potential V_{pix}. Specifically, the signal CL is changed at the same intervals as the signal COM.

[0092] The above-described structure enables the potential V_{pix} to be changed in conjunction with the change in the signal COM so that the electric field V_{LC} is constant. With the constant electric field V_{LC}, favorable display quality can be achieved.

[0093] Furthermore, according to one embodiment of the present invention, a display element and an element for driving the touch sensor can be provided between the pair of substrates. Thus, components such as another substrate between the pair of substrates can be reduced. This can reduce the thickness of the touch sensor 42.

[0094] Note that the display device having the structure described in this embodiment is used as a display device including a liquid crystal element as an example, and the operation of the display device is described; however, one embodiment of the present invention is not limited thereto. One embodiment of the present invention can be used for a display device including a display element other than the liquid crystal element depending on circumstances or conditions. Examples of the display element other than the liquid crystal element include a light-emitting element and an electrophoresis element.

[0095] In the example described in this embodiment, the transistors each include an oxide semiconductor; however, one embodiment of the present invention is not limited thereto. Depending on circumstances, a transistor which includes a semiconductor material that is not an oxide semiconductor may be employed in one embodiment of the present invention in some cases. As such a transistor, for example, a transistor including silicon or germanium may be employed in one embodiment of the present invention.

[0096] Note that the structures, methods, and the like described in this embodiment can be used as appropriate in combination with any of the structures, methods, and the like described in the other embodiments.

Embodiment 2

[0097] In this embodiment, a modification example of the display device in Embodiment 1 is described.

<Modification Example of Cross-Sectional Schematic View (Display Panel)>

[0098] FIG. 2 shows a modification example of the cross-sectional schematic view described using FIG. 1A.

[0099] In FIG. 1A, the C_{pix} includes the conductive layer 15 and the conductive layer 19; however, another structure may be used. For example, a structure shown in FIG. 2 can be used.

[0100] In FIG. 2, an electrode 23 connected to a conductive layer 21 through a conductive layer 22 is used as one electrode of the C_{pix}.

[0101] The conductive layer 21 is formed in the same layer as the conductive layer 14. The conductive layer 22 is formed in the same layer as the conductive layers 18 and 19. The electrode 23 is formed in the same layer as the semiconductor layer 17.

[0102] Furthermore, in the case where the transistor 11 is an OS transistor, the electrode 23 provided in the same layer as the semiconductor layer 17 can be formed using the same material as the semiconductor layer 17. In this case, the electrode 23 is formed by processing a film formed at the same time as the semiconductor layer 17. Therefore, the electrode 23 and the semiconductor layer 17 include similar elements. Furthermore, the electrode 23 has a crystal structure similar to or different from that of the semiconductor layer 17. By adding impurities to or forming oxygen vacancies in the film formed at the same time as the semiconductor layer 17, the film can have conductivity. As a result, the film formed at the same time as the semiconductor layer 17 becomes the electrode 23. Typical examples of the impurities included in the electrode 23 are one or more of a rare gas, hydrogen, boron, nitrogen, fluorine, aluminum, and phosphorus. Typical examples of the rare gas are helium, neon, argon, krypton, and xenon.

[0103] The semiconductor layer 17 and the electrode 23 are both formed over the insulating layer 16, but differ in impurity concentration. Specifically, the electrode 23 has a higher impurity concentration than the semiconductor layer 17. For example, in the semiconductor layer 17, the hydrogen concentration measured by secondary ion mass spectroscopy is less than or equal to 5×10^{19} atoms/cm³, preferably less than or equal to 5×10^{18} atoms/cm³, preferably less than or equal to 1×10^{18} atoms/cm³, preferably less than or equal to 5×10^{17} atoms/cm³, preferably less than or equal to 1×10^{16} atoms/cm³. In the electrode 23, the hydrogen concentration measured by secondary ion mass spectrometry is greater than or equal to 8×10^{19} atoms/cm³, preferably greater than or equal to 1×10^{20} atoms/cm³, preferably greater than or equal to 5×10^{20} atoms/cm³. The concentration of hydrogen contained in the electrode 23 is greater than or equal to 2 times or greater than or equal to 10 times that of hydrogen contained in the semiconductor layer 17.

[0104] By setting the hydrogen concentration of the semiconductor layer 17 in the range described above, generation of electrons serving as carriers in the semiconductor layer 17 can be suppressed.

[0105] The electrode 23 has lower resistivity than the semiconductor layer 17. The resistivity of the electrode 23 is preferably greater than or equal to 1×10^{-8} times and less than 1×10^{-1} times that of the semiconductor layer 17. The resistivity of the electrode 23 is typically greater than or equal to 1×10^{-3} Ωcm and less than 1×10^4 Ωcm, or greater than or equal to 1×10^{-3} Ωcm and less than 1×10^{-1} Ωcm.

[0106] As the structure of the electrode 23, the electrode 23 is formed at the same time as the semiconductor layer 17, and then, conductivity is impaired to the electrode 23. Thus, the manufacturing cost can be reduced.

[0107] Furthermore, the electrode 13 and the electrode 23 have a light-transmitting property. The C_{pix} can be a capacitor having a light-transmitting property. Because of having a light-transmitting property, the C_{pix} can have a large capacitance.

[0108] In another structure, a color filter may be provided on the liquid crystal panel 41 side in FIG. 1A.

[0109] FIG. 3 shows a structure in which a color filter 24 is provided on the liquid crystal panel 41 side. This structure enables a component on the touch sensor 42 side to be reduced, improving the flatness of a surface of the electrode 33.

[0110] Note that the structure of FIG. 2 in which the electrode 23 is used as one electrode of the Cpix may be used for the structure of FIG. 3. FIG. 17 shows a structure of a cross-sectional schematic view of this case.

<Modification Example of Cross-Sectional Schematic View (Touch Sensor)>

[0111] As another structure, a modification example of the cross-sectional schematic view described using FIG. 1A is shown in FIG. 4.

[0112] In FIG. 1A, the Cs includes the electrode 37 and the electrode 33, but another structure may be used. For example, the structure shown in FIG. 4 may be used.

[0113] In the structure shown in FIG. 4, an electrode 43 that is separately provided is used as one electrode of the Cs, and the Cs includes the electrode 43 and the electrode 33. This structure enables the Cs and the transistor 31 to be formed in different layers. Consequently, the Cs can have a large capacitance.

[0114] Note that the electrode 43 is a conductive layer having a light-transmitting property. For example, the electrode 43 can be formed using the same material as the electrode 13.

[0115] As another structure, a color filter may be provided on the touch sensor 42 side in FIG. 1A.

[0116] FIG. 5 shows a structure in which a color filter 44 is provided on the touch sensor 42 side. In this structure, a planarization film or the like is preferably provided between the color filter 44 and the electrode 33 to ensure the flatness of the surface of the electrode 33.

[0117] Note that the structure of FIG. 2 in which the electrode 23 is used as one electrode of the Cpix may be used for the structure of FIG. 5. FIG. 18 shows a structure of a cross-sectional schematic view of this case.

<Circuit Diagram of Liquid Crystal Panel and Touch Sensor>

[0118] Next, an example of a circuit including a pixel circuit of the liquid crystal panel 41 including the transistor 11 shown in FIG. 1A and a circuit configuration of the touch sensor 42 including the transistor 31 shown in FIG. 1A and an example of the operation of the circuit are described.

[0119] FIG. 6 is a circuit diagram in which a pixel circuit diagram of the liquid crystal panel 41 and a circuit diagram of the touch sensor 42 are combined. The pixel circuit diagram of the liquid crystal panel 41 and the circuit diagram of the touch sensor 42 are shown in the upper side and the lower side of FIG. 6, respectively, with a liquid crystal element LC provided therebetween.

[0120] In the circuit diagram of the liquid crystal panel 41 side, symbols shown in the structure of FIG. 1A are used. Furthermore, a gate line GL, a source line SL, and a capacitor line CpL are shown in FIG. 6. The capacitor line CpL is supplied with the signal CL.

[0121] In the circuit diagram of the touch sensor 42, symbols shown in the structure of FIG. 1A are used. Furthermore, transistors M1 to M3, a common line COML, a wiring to be

supplied with a read potential VPI, which is a constant potential, a wiring to be supplied with a reset potential VRES, a reset line RES, a read selection line G1, and a read line ML are shown in FIG. 6. The common line COML is a wiring to be supplied with the signal COM. The transistor M3 corresponds to the transistor 31 shown in FIG. 1A.

[0122] FIG. 7 shows an example of a timing chart of the circuit diagram shown in FIG. 6.

[0123] In FIG. 7, a period P_W in which image data (Vdata) is written and a period P_TS in which an object is detected are separately described. Furthermore, the period P_TS is divided into a reset period Reset, a non-detection period (not touched: "without Cf"), and a detection period (touched: "with Cf").

[0124] In the description below, each transistor is regarded as an n-channel transistor. In this case, the transistor is turned on when supplied with an H level signal, and the transistor is turned off when supplied with a L level signal. Note that in the description below, when the potential FN of the electrode 37 becomes the reset potential VRES, the potential FN is regarded as L level.

[0125] First, the period P_W is described.

[0126] In the period P_W, the gate line GL is set at H level so that the Vpix is equal to Vdata supplied to the source line SL. In the period, each signal in the touch sensor is set at L level, and the electrode 37 is in an electrically floating state.

[0127] The Vpix is set to Vdata, and the gate line GL is set at L level. Vdata is held by the Vpix because the off-state current of the transistor 11 is low.

[0128] Next, the period P_TS is described.

[0129] In the reset period Reset, the reset line RES is set at H level so that the potential FN of the electrode 37 is equal to VRES.

[0130] The reset line RES is set at L level. VRES is held at the electrode 37 because the off-state current of the transistor M3 is low.

[0131] In the non-detection period "without Cf" and the detection period "with Cf", the read selection line G1 is set at H level. Furthermore, signals supplied to the common line COML and the capacitor line CpL are changed at the same intervals. Under these conditions, changes in the potential FN of the electrode 37 differ depending on the existence or non-existence of the Cf, as described using FIG. 1B. The difference is shown as the conduction state of the transistor M1. That is, the transistor M1 is turned on when the Cf does not exist, and the transistor M1 is turned off when the Cf exists.

[0132] In the case where the transistors M2 and M1 are on, the potential of the read line ML is changed and current flows. In this case, it is determined that Cf does not exist. In the case where the transistor M2 is on and the transistor M1 is off, the potential of the read line ML is not changed and current does not flow. In this case, it is determined that Cf exists.

[0133] FIG. 8 is a circuit diagram of a read circuit in which current flowing in the read line ML is converted into voltage.

[0134] FIG. 8 shows an example of a read circuit CONV in addition to the circuit diagram of the touch sensor described using FIG. 6. The read circuit CONV includes a transistor M4.

[0135] The read circuit CONV including the transistor M4 functions as a source follower. A potential VPO is a high power supply potential. A signal BR is controlled so that the transistor M4 is turned on at the time when the potential of the read line ML is read. At an output terminal OUT, a current

flowing in the touch sensor can be converted into a voltage depending on a current flowing in the transistor M4.

[0136] Note that in the touch sensor, the electrode included in the capacitor Cs and the read line ML can be formed in different layers.

[0137] For example, as shown in FIG. 9, one electrode 37 of the capacitor and the read line ML are formed in different layers, and the width of the read line ML is made narrow. The structure enables a parasitic capacitance to be small. Accordingly, a decrease in the detection sensitivity of the touch sensor can be suppressed.

[0138] In the structure of one embodiment of the present invention, the signals supplied to the common line COML and the capacitor line CpL are changed at the same intervals. Therefore, Cf can be detected without changing Vdata applied to the liquid crystal element LC. The disorder of orientation does not occur in the liquid crystal element, resulting in favorable display quality.

[0139] Note that the structures, methods, and the like described in this embodiment can be used as appropriate in combination with any of the structures, methods, and the like described in the other embodiments.

Embodiment 3

[0140] In this embodiment, a cross-sectional view of the display device described in Embodiments 1 and 2 is described in detail.

<Cross-Sectional Structure Example of Touch Panel>

[0141] FIG. 10 is a cross-sectional schematic view of the display device of one embodiment of the present invention. In the display device illustrated in FIG. 10, a touch sensor and a liquid crystal element are provided between a pair of substrates, so that the display device can be thin.

[0142] FIG. 10 is a cross-sectional view of terminal portions 250a and 250b, a driver circuit portion 250d, and a pixel portion 250p which are included in the display device. In the pixel portion 250p, pixels of three colors of red (R), green (G), and blue (B) express one color. Note that in the cross-sectional view illustrated here, a pixel Pr of red (R) and a pixel Pg of green (G) are shown in the pixel portion 250p, and a pixel of blue (B) is not shown. The pixel Pr of red (R) includes a liquid crystal element 201r, and the pixel Pg of green (G) includes a liquid crystal element 201g.

[0143] In the display device, a liquid crystal panel and the touch sensor are stacked. Driver circuits included in the liquid crystal panel and the touch sensor overlap with each other in the driver circuit portion 250d. Furthermore, the liquid crystal element in the liquid crystal panel and a transistor and a capacitor in the touch sensor overlap with each other in the pixel portion 250p.

[0144] Note that the display device can have a structure in which pixels of three colors of red (R), green (G), and blue (B), for example, express one color, a structure in which pixels of four colors of red (R), green (G), blue (B), and white (W) express one color, a structure in which pixels of four colors of red (R), green (G), blue (B), and yellow (Y) express one color, or the like. There is no particular limitation on color elements, and colors other than R, G, B, W, and Y may be used. For example, cyan or magenta may be included.

[0145] First, a structure on the liquid crystal panel side is described. The liquid crystal panel includes the terminal por-

tion 250a, the driver circuit portion 250d, and the pixel portion 250p including the liquid crystal element.

[0146] Transistors 202r, 202g, and 204a, capacitors 206r and 206g, electrodes 208r and 208g, and a connection electrode 220a are provided over a substrate 200a. The connection electrode 220a is provided in the terminal portion 250a. The transistor 204a is provided in the driver circuit portion 250d. The transistor 202r, the capacitor 206r, and the electrode 208r are provided in the pixel Pr of red (R). The transistor 202g, the capacitor 206g, and the electrode 208g are provided in the pixel Pg of green (G).

[0147] The transistors 202r and 202g each have a function as a switch. The transistors 202r and 202g may have the same structure or different structures. The capacitors 206r and 206g may have the same structure or different structures.

[0148] The transistors 202r, 202g, and 204a shown in FIG. 10 are transistors with a bottom gate structure; however, the structures of the transistors 202r, 202g, and 204a are not limited thereto, and a top gate structure may be used. Furthermore, although a channel etched type is shown in FIG. 10, a channel protective type may be used.

[0149] An insulating layer 210a is provided over the transistors 202r, 202g, and 204a, and an insulating layer 212a is provided over the insulating layer 210a.

[0150] The insulating layer 210a has a function of protecting channel regions of the transistors. Note that a structure in which the insulating layer 210a is not provided may be employed.

[0151] The insulating layer 212a has a function as a planarization film. The insulating layer 212a is formed using a heat-resistant organic material, such as a polyimide resin, an acrylic resin, a polyimide amide resin, a benzocyclobutene resin, a polyamide resin, or an epoxy resin. Note that the insulating layer 212a may be formed by stacking a plurality of insulating films formed using any of these materials. Note that a structure in which the insulating layer 212a is not provided may be employed.

[0152] The electrode 208r has a function as a pixel electrode of the liquid crystal element 201r, and the electrode 208g has a function as a pixel electrode of the liquid crystal element 201g. The electrodes 208r and 208g are formed over the insulating layer 212a. The electrode 208r is electrically connected to the transistor 202r and the capacitor 206r in an opening portion in the insulating layers 210a and 212a. The electrode 208g is electrically connected to the transistor 202g and the capacitor 206g in an opening portion in the insulating layers 210a and 212a.

[0153] For the electrodes 208r and 208g, a conductive film that transmits visible light or a conductive film that reflects visible light is used. For example, a material including at least one kind selected from indium (In), zinc (Zn), and tin (Sn) is preferably used for the conductive film that transmits visible light. Typically, a conductive oxide such as indium tin oxide, indium oxide containing tungsten oxide, indium zinc oxide containing tungsten oxide, indium oxide containing titanium oxide, indium tin oxide containing titanium oxide, indium zinc oxide, or indium tin oxide containing silicon oxide can be used. For the conductive film that reflects visible light, a material containing aluminum or silver can be used, for example.

[0154] Note that in the case where the electrodes 208r and 208g are formed using the conductive film that reflects visible light and part of the insulating layer 212a has an uneven shape, the electrodes 208r and 208g have an uneven shape. As

as a result, external light incident on the electrodes **208r** and **208g** can be diffusely reflected by surfaces of the electrodes **208r** and **208g**, so that high visibility can be achieved.

[0155] The orientation of the liquid crystal molecules included in the liquid crystal layer **228** can be controlled by an electric field generated between an electrode **214** provided for a substrate **200b** and the electrodes **208r** and **208g**.

[0156] The liquid crystal layer **228** has a vertical electric field mode liquid crystal layer. Typical examples of the vertical electric field mode liquid crystal layer include a twisted nematic (TN) mode liquid crystal layer, a super twisted nematic (STN) mode liquid crystal layer, a vertical alignment (VA) mode liquid crystal layer, and a multi-domain vertical alignment (MVA) mode liquid crystal layer. Hereinafter, in one embodiment of the present invention, the vertical electric field mode liquid crystal layer is regarded as a TN mode liquid crystal layer.

[0157] For the liquid crystal layer **228**, thermotropic liquid crystal, low-molecular liquid crystal, high-molecular liquid crystal, polymer dispersed liquid crystal, ferroelectric liquid crystal, anti-ferroelectric liquid crystal, or the like can be used. Such a liquid crystal material exhibits a cholesteric phase, a smectic phase, a cubic phase, a chiral nematic phase, an isotropic phase, or the like depending on conditions.

[0158] The connection electrode **220a**, an anisotropic conductive film **222a**, and an FPC **224a** are provided in the terminal portion **250a**. Note that the connection electrode **220a** is formed in the same process as conductive layers having a function as source electrodes and drain electrodes of the transistors **202r**, **202g**, and **204a**. The connection electrode **220a** is electrically connected to a terminal included in the FPC **224a** through the anisotropic conductive film **222a**.

[0159] Next, a structure on the touch sensor side is described.

[0160] Transistors **202t** and **204b**, a capacitor **206t**, and a connection electrode **220b** are provided over a substrate **200b**. The connection electrode **220b** is provided in the terminal portion **250b**. The transistor **204b** is provided in the driver circuit portion **250d**. The transistor **202t** and the capacitor **206t** that are part of a sensor are provided in the pixel portion **250p**.

[0161] The transistor **202t** has a function as a switch.

[0162] For the transistor **202t**, a structure similar to the structures of the transistors **202r** and **202g** can be used as appropriate. Alternatively, although a bottom-gate transistor is shown as the transistor **202t** in a manner similar to those of the transistors **202r** and **202g**, the transistor **202t** is not limited thereto. The transistor **202t** may be a top-gate transistor. Furthermore, although a channel-etched transistor is shown, a channel protective transistor can be used.

[0163] An insulating layer **210b** is provided on the transistors **202t** and **204b**, and an insulating layer **211** is provided on the insulating layer **210b**. Note that the insulating layer **210b** has an opening portion in which an electrode **238** is exposed.

[0164] The capacitor **206t** includes the electrode **238**, a dielectric layer, and the electrode **214**. The electrode **238** is connected to the transistor **202t**.

[0165] Here, the insulating layer **211**, a light-blocking layer BM, coloring layers CFr and CFg, and the insulating layer **212b** form the dielectric layer of the capacitor **206t**. Note that the dielectric layer of the capacitor **206t** may include one or more of the insulating layer **211**, the light-blocking layer BM, the coloring layers CFr and CFg, and the insulating layer **212b**.

[0166] The coloring layer CFr is provided in a position overlapping with the liquid crystal element **201r**, and the coloring layer CFg is provided in a position overlapping with the liquid crystal element **201g**. The light-blocking layer BM are provided in the driver circuit portion **250d** in a region overlapping with the transistors **204b** and **204a** and in the pixel portion **250p** in a region overlapping with the transistors **202r**, **202g**, and **202t**. Note that a coloring layer may be provided instead of the light-blocking layer BM.

[0167] The light-blocking layer BM blocks light to be emitted to the transistors **202r**, **202g**, **202t**, **204a**, and **204b** from a backlight and the outside of the display device. As a result, variations in electrical characteristics of the transistors **202r**, **202g**, **202t**, **204a**, and **204b** due to light irradiation can be suppressed. As the light-blocking layer BM, a material that blocks light from the backlight and the outside of the display device can be used; for example, the light-blocking layer BM may be formed using a metal material or a resin material containing pigment or dye.

[0168] The coloring layer is a layer that transmits light in a specific wavelength range. For example, a red (R) coloring layer that transmits light in a red wavelength range, a green (G) coloring layer that transmits light in a green wavelength range, a blue (B) coloring layer that transmits light in a blue wavelength range, and the like can be used. Here, the red (R) coloring layer CFr and the green (G) coloring layer CFg are shown.

[0169] The insulating layer **212b** has a function as an overcoat layer that covers the light-blocking layer BM and the coloring layers CFr and CFg. The insulating layer **212b** can prevent impurities or the like contained in the light-blocking layer BM and the coloring layers CFr and CFg from diffusing into the liquid crystal layer **228**. The insulating layer **212b** may be formed using a light-transmitting material. For example, an inorganic insulating film using silicon nitride, silicon oxide, or the like, or an organic insulating film using an acrylic resin, polyimide, or the like may be used. Furthermore, a stacked-layer structure of an organic insulating film and an inorganic insulating film may be used.

[0170] The electrodes **238** are arranged in a matrix. Note that the area of the electrode **238** can be larger than each area of the electrodes **208r** and **208g** each having a function as a pixel electrode. For example, one electrode **238** can be provided to overlap with electrodes each of which has a function as a pixel electrode and which are provided in several hundred to several thousand pixels.

[0171] The electrode **214** has a function as a counter electrode in each of the liquid crystal elements **201r** and **201g**. The electrode **214** has a light-transmitting property. For the electrode **214**, a material similar to that of the conductive film that transmits visible light can be used as appropriate.

[0172] Note that the electrode **214** is provided to overlap with the plurality of electrodes **238** and the transistors **202t** arranged in a matrix.

[0173] The terminal portion **250b** includes the connection electrode **220b**, an anisotropic conductive film **222b**, and an FPC **224b**. Note that the connection electrode **220b** is formed in the same process as conductive films having a function as source electrodes and drain electrodes of the transistors **202t** and **204b**. The connection electrode **220b** is electrically connected to a terminal included in the FPC **224b** through the anisotropic conductive film **222b**.

[0174] A spacer **216** is provided between the substrate **200a** and the substrate **200b**. The spacer **216** is a columnar spacer

obtained by selective etching of an insulating film and is provided in order to control the thickness (a cell gap) of the liquid crystal layer 228. Note that a spherical spacer may be used as the spacer 216.

[0175] Note that in the liquid crystal panel, an insulating layer 226a having a function as an alignment film is provided over the insulating layer 212a and the electrodes 208r and 208g. Furthermore, in the touch sensor, an insulating layer 226b having a function as an orientation film is provided on the insulating layer 212b and the electrode 214. Note that the insulating layers 226a and 226b are not necessarily provided depending on a liquid crystal material that forms the liquid crystal layer 228.

[0176] In the display device, the substrate 200b and the substrate 200a are firmly fixed to each other with a sealing material (not shown). Furthermore, the display device includes the liquid crystal layer 228 in a space surrounded by the substrate 200b, the substrate 200a, and the sealing material.

[0177] Note that in each of the structures of the liquid crystal panel and the touch sensor, the driver circuit portion is formed over the substrate 200b and the substrate 200a; however, part of a driver circuit may be formed over the substrate 200b and the substrate 200a, and, as the other part of the driver circuit, a separately prepared driver circuit substrate (e.g., a driver circuit including a single crystal semiconductor film or a polycrystalline semiconductor film) may be mounted over the substrate 200b and the substrate 200a.

[0178] There is no particular limitation on the connection method of a separately formed driver circuit substrate; a chip on glass (COG) method, a wire bonding method, or the like can be used. Note that the display device in this specification means an image display device or a light source (including a lighting device or the like). Furthermore, the display device also includes the following modules in its category: a module to which a connector such as an FPC or a tape carrier package (TCP) is attached; a module having a TCP at the tip of which a printed wiring board is provided; and a module in which a driver circuit substrate or an integrated circuit (IC) is directly mounted on a display element by a COG method.

[0179] The transistor used in this embodiment includes an oxide semiconductor layer which is highly purified and in which formation of oxygen vacancies is suppressed. Such a transistor can have relatively high field-effect mobility and thus can operate at high speed. For example, with such a transistor which can operate at high speed used for a display device, a switching transistor in a pixel portion and a driver transistor in a driver circuit portion can be formed over one substrate. That is, a semiconductor device formed using a silicon wafer or the like is not additionally needed as a driver circuit, by which the number of components of the semiconductor device can be reduced. In addition, the transistor which can operate at high speed can be used also in the pixel portion, whereby a high-quality image can be provided.

[0180] Note that in FIG. 10, the transistors 202r and 202g in the pixel portion 250p and the transistor 204a in the driver circuit portion 250d have the same size; however, these transistors are not limited thereto. For example, the sizes (L/W) or the number of the transistors used in the pixel portion 250p and the driver circuit portion 250d may vary as appropriate.

[0181] Although not shown in FIG. 10, an optical member (an optical substrate) such as a polarizing member, a retardation member, or an anti-reflection member; and the like may be provided as appropriate in the display device. For example,

circular polarization may be employed by using a polarizing substrate and a retardation substrate. In addition, a backlight, a side light, a front light, or the like may be used as a light source.

[0182] Next, structures of the transistor and the capacitor that are provided for the substrates 200a and 200b are described in detail. Here, the transistor 202r is described as a typical example of the transistor. In addition, an oxide semiconductor layer is used as a semiconductor layer included in the transistor.

<Structures of Transistor 202r and Capacitor 206r>

[0183] FIGS. 11A to 11C are a top schematic view and cross-sectional schematic views of the transistor 202r and the capacitor 206r. FIG. 11A is a top schematic view of the transistor 202r and the capacitor 206r, FIG. 11B is a cross-sectional schematic view taken along the dashed-dotted line A-B in FIG. 11A, and FIG. 11C is a cross-sectional schematic view taken along the dashed-dotted line C-D in FIG. 11A. Note that in FIG. 11A, the substrate 200a, an insulating layer 209a, an insulating layer 235, the insulating layer 210a, and other components are not shown for the sake of clarity.

[0184] The transistor 202r shown in FIGS. 11A to 11C includes a conductive layer 233 that is over the insulating layer 209a and has a function as a gate electrode, the insulating layer 235 that is over the conductive layer 233 and has a function as a gate insulating film, an oxide semiconductor layer 237 that overlaps with the conductive layer 233 with the insulating layer 235 provided therebetween, and a pair of conductive layers 239 and 240 in contact with the oxide semiconductor layer 237. The insulating layer 209a is formed over the substrate 200a. Note that the insulating layer 209a is not necessarily provided over the substrate 200a. Furthermore, the insulating layer 210a having a function as a protective film may be formed over the insulating layer 235, the oxide semiconductor layer 237, and the pair of conductive layers 239 and 240.

[0185] There is no particular limitation on the property of a material and the like of the substrate 200a as long as the material has heat resistance enough to withstand heat treatment to be performed later.

[0186] A variety of substrates can be used as the substrate 200a to form a transistor, for example. The type of a substrate is not limited to a certain type. As the substrate, a semiconductor substrate (e.g., a single crystal substrate or a silicon substrate), an SOI (Silicon on Insulator) substrate, a glass substrate, a quartz substrate, a plastic substrate, a metal substrate, a stainless steel substrate, a substrate including stainless steel foil, a tungsten substrate, a substrate including tungsten foil, a flexible substrate, an attachment film, paper including a fibrous material, a base material film, or the like can be used, for example. As an example of a glass substrate, a barium borosilicate glass substrate, an aluminoborosilicate glass substrate, a soda lime glass substrate, or the like can be given. Examples of the flexible substrate, the attachment film, the base material film, or the like are as follows: plastic typified by polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polyethylene naphthalate (PEN), and polyether sulfone (PES); a synthetic resin such as acrylic; polypropylene; polyester; polyvinyl fluoride; polyvinyl chloride; polyamide; polyimide; aramid; epoxy; an inorganic vapor deposition film; and paper. Specifically, the use of semiconductor substrates, single crystal substrates, SOI substrates, or the like enables the manufacture of small-sized transistors with a small variation in characteristics, size, shape, or the like and with high current capability.

A circuit using such transistors achieves lower power consumption of the circuit or higher integration of the circuit.

[0187] Alternatively, a flexible substrate may be used as the substrate **200a**, and the transistor **202r** may be provided directly on the flexible substrate. Further alternatively, a separation layer may be provided between the substrate **200a** and the transistor **202r**. The separation layer can be used when part or the whole of a semiconductor device formed over the separation layer is completed and separated from the substrate **200a** and transferred to another substrate. In that case, the transistor **202r** can be transferred to a substrate having low heat resistance or a flexible substrate. For the above separation layer, a stack including inorganic films, which are a tungsten film and a silicon oxide film, or an organic resin film of polyimide or the like formed over a substrate can be used, for example.

[0188] Examples of a substrate to which a transistor is transferred include, in addition to the above-described substrates over which transistors can be formed, a paper substrate, a cellophane substrate, an aramid film substrate, a polyimide film substrate, a stone substrate, a wood substrate, a cloth substrate (including a natural fiber (e.g., silk, cotton, or hemp), a synthetic fiber (e.g., nylon, polyurethane, or polyester), a regenerated fiber (e.g., acetate, cupra, rayon, or regenerated polyester), or the like), a leather substrate, a rubber substrate, and the like. When such a substrate is used, a transistor with excellent properties or a transistor with low power consumption can be formed, a device with high durability, high heat resistance can be provided, or reduction in weight or thickness can be achieved.

[0189] Note that the insulating layer **209a** having a function as a base film is formed using silicon oxide, silicon oxynitride, silicon nitride, silicon nitride oxide, gallium oxide, hafnium oxide, yttrium oxide, aluminum oxide, aluminum oxynitride, or the like. Note that when silicon nitride, gallium oxide, hafnium oxide, yttrium oxide, aluminum oxide, or the like is used as a material of the insulating layer **209a**, it is possible to suppress diffusion of impurities such as alkali metal, water, and hydrogen into the oxide semiconductor layer **237** from the substrate **200a**.

[0190] The conductive layer **233** having a function as a gate electrode is formed using a metal element selected from aluminum, chromium, copper, tantalum, titanium, molybdenum, nickel, iron, cobalt, and tungsten; an alloy containing any of these metal elements as a component; an alloy containing any of these metal elements in combination; or the like. Further, one or more metal elements selected from manganese and zirconium may be used. The conductive layer **233** may have a single-layer structure or a layered structure of two or more layers. For example, any of the following can be used: a single-layer structure of an aluminum film containing silicon; a single-layer structure of a copper film containing manganese; two-layer structure in which a titanium film is stacked over an aluminum film; a two-layer structure in which a titanium film is stacked over a titanium nitride film; a two-layer structure in which a tungsten film is stacked over a titanium nitride film; a two-layer structure in which a tungsten film is stacked over a tantalum nitride film or a tungsten nitride film; a two-layer structure in which a copper film is stacked over a copper film containing manganese; a three-layer structure in which a titanium film, an aluminum film, and a titanium film are stacked in this order; a three-layer structure in which a copper film containing manganese, a copper film, and a copper film containing manganese are

stacked in this order; and the like. Alternatively, an alloy film or a nitride film which contains aluminum and one or more elements selected from titanium, tantalum, tungsten, molybdenum, chromium, neodymium, and scandium may be used.

[0191] The conductive layer **233** may be formed using a conductive film that transmits visible light, like the electrodes **208r** and **208g**. It is also possible to have a layered structure formed using the above conductive material that transmits light and the above metal element.

[0192] Further, it is possible to prevent outward diffusion of oxygen from the oxide semiconductor layer **237** and entry of hydrogen, water, or the like into the oxide semiconductor layer **237** from the outside by providing a film having a blocking effect against oxygen, hydrogen, water, and the like as the insulating layer **235**. Examples of the film having a blocking effect against oxygen, hydrogen, water, and the like are films of aluminum oxide, aluminum oxynitride, gallium oxide, gallium oxynitride, yttrium oxide, yttrium oxynitride, hafnium oxide, hafnium oxynitride, and the like.

[0193] The insulating layer **235** is formed using a high-k material such as hafnium silicate (HfSiO_x), hafnium silicate to which nitrogen is added ($\text{HfSi}_x\text{O}_y\text{N}_z$), hafnium aluminate to which nitrogen is added ($\text{HfAl}_x\text{O}_y\text{N}_z$), hafnium oxide, or yttrium oxide, so that gate leakage of the transistor can be reduced.

[0194] The thickness of the insulating layer **235** is preferably greater than or equal to 5 nm and less than or equal to 400 nm, more preferably greater than or equal to 10 nm and less than or equal to 300 nm, still more preferably greater than or equal to 50 nm and less than or equal to 250 nm.

[0195] The oxide semiconductor layer **237** is formed using a metal oxide containing at least In or Zn; as a typical example, an In—Ga oxide, an In—Zn oxide, or an In—M—Zn oxide (M is Al, Ga, Y, Zr, La, Ce, or Nd) can be given.

[0196] When the oxide semiconductor layer **237** is an In—M—Zn oxide, the atomic ratio of In to M when the summation of In and M is assumed to be 100 atomic % is preferably as follows: the proportion of In is higher than 25 atomic % and the proportion of M is lower than 75 atomic %; more preferably, the proportion of In is higher than 34 atomic % and the proportion of M is lower than 66 atomic %.

[0197] The energy gap of the oxide semiconductor layer **237** is 2 eV or more, preferably 2.5 eV or more, and more preferably 3 eV or more. With the use of an oxide semiconductor having such a wide energy gap, the off-state current of the transistor **202r** can be reduced.

[0198] The thickness of the oxide semiconductor layer **237** ranges from 3 nm to 200 nm, preferably from 3 nm to 100 nm, more preferably from 3 nm to 50 nm.

[0199] In the case where the oxide semiconductor layer **237** is formed using an In—M—Zn oxide (M is Al, Ga, Y, Zr, La, Ce, or Nd), it is preferable that the atomic ratio of metal elements of a sputtering target used for forming the In—M—Zn oxide satisfy In M and Zn M. As the atomic ratio of metal elements of such a sputtering target, In:M:Zn=1:1:1, In:M:Zn=1:1:1.2, In:M:Zn=3:1:2, and In:M:Zn=4:1:4.1 are preferable. Note that the atomic ratio of metal elements in the formed oxide semiconductor layer **237** varies from the above atomic ratio of metal elements of the sputtering target within a range of $\pm 40\%$ as an error.

[0200] Further, a sputtering target may be appropriately selected in accordance with the composition of the oxide semiconductor film to be formed. Note that when a polycrys-

talline target is used, a CAAC-OS film and a microcrystalline oxide semiconductor film that are described later can be formed.

[0201] Hydrogen contained in the oxide semiconductor reacts with oxygen bonded to a metal atom to be water, and also causes oxygen vacancies in a lattice from which oxygen is released (or a portion from which oxygen is released). Due to entry of hydrogen into the oxygen vacancies, an electron serving as a carrier is generated. Further, in some cases, bonding of part of hydrogen to oxygen bonded to a metal element causes generation of an electron serving as a carrier. Thus, a transistor including an oxide semiconductor which contains hydrogen is likely to be normally on.

[0202] Accordingly, it is preferable that hydrogen be reduced as much as possible as well as the oxygen vacancies in the oxide semiconductor layer 237. Specifically, in the oxide semiconductor layer 237, the concentration of hydrogen which is measured by secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS) is set to lower than or equal to 5×10^{19} atoms/cm³, more preferably lower than or equal to 1×10^{19} atoms/cm³, more preferably lower than or equal to 5×10^{18} atoms/cm³, more preferably lower than or equal to 1×10^{18} atoms/cm³, more preferably lower than or equal to 5×10^{17} atoms/cm³, still more preferably lower than or equal to 1×10^{16} atoms/cm³. As a result, the transistor 202r has positive threshold voltage (normally-off characteristics).

[0203] When silicon or carbon that is one of elements belonging to Group 14 is contained in the oxide semiconductor layer 237, oxygen vacancies are increased in the oxide semiconductor layer 237, and the oxide semiconductor layer 237 becomes an n-type. Thus, the concentration of silicon or carbon (the concentration is measured by SIMS) of the oxide semiconductor layer 237 is lower than or equal to 2×10^{18} atoms/cm³, preferably lower than or equal to 2×10^{17} atoms/cm³. As a result, the transistor 202r has positive threshold voltage (normally-off characteristics).

[0204] Further, the concentration of alkali metal or alkaline earth metal of the oxide semiconductor layer 237, which is measured by SIMS, is lower than or equal to 1×10^{18} atoms/cm³, preferably lower than or equal to 2×10^{16} atoms/cm³. Alkali metal and alkaline earth metal might generate carriers when bonded to an oxide semiconductor, in which case the off-state current of the transistor might be increased. Therefore, it is preferable to reduce the concentration of alkali metal or alkaline earth metal of the oxide semiconductor layer 237. As a result, the transistor 202r has positive threshold voltage (normally-off characteristics).

[0205] Further, when nitrogen is contained in the oxide semiconductor layer 237, electrons serving as carriers are generated to increase the carrier density, so that the oxide semiconductor layer 237 easily becomes n-type. Thus, the transistor tends to have normally-on characteristics. For this reason, nitrogen in the oxide semiconductor layer 237 is preferably reduced as much as possible; the concentration of nitrogen which is measured by SIMS is preferably set to, for example, lower than or equal to 5×10^{18} atoms/cm³.

[0206] When impurities in the oxide semiconductor layer 237 are reduced, the carrier density of the oxide semiconductor layer 237 can be lowered. The oxide semiconductor layer 237 preferably has a carrier density of 1×10^{17} /cm³ or less, more preferably 1×10^{15} /cm³ or less, still more preferably 1×10^{13} /cm³ or less, yet more preferably 1×10^{11} /cm³ or less.

[0207] Note that in the oxide semiconductor layer 237, a plurality of oxide semiconductor layers that differs in the

atomic ratio of metal elements may be stacked. For example, as shown in FIG. 14A, an oxide semiconductor layer 237 and an oxide semiconductor layer 248 may be sequentially stacked over the insulating layer 235. Alternatively, as shown in FIG. 14B, an oxide semiconductor layer 249, the oxide semiconductor layer 237, and the oxide semiconductor layer 248 may be sequentially stacked over the insulating layer 235. The oxide semiconductor layers 248 and 249 differ from the oxide semiconductor layer 237 in the atomic ratio of metal elements.

[0208] An oxide semiconductor having a low impurity concentration and a low density of defect states can be used for the oxide semiconductor layer 237, in which case the transistor can have more excellent electrical characteristics. Here, the state in which impurity concentration is low and density of defect states is low (the amount of oxygen vacancies is small) is referred to as “highly purified intrinsic” or “substantially highly purified intrinsic”. A highly purified intrinsic or substantially highly purified intrinsic oxide semiconductor has few carrier generation sources, and thus has a low carrier density in some cases. Thus, the transistor whose channel region is formed in the oxide semiconductor layer 237 including the oxide semiconductor is likely to have positive threshold voltage (normally-off characteristics). A highly purified intrinsic or substantially highly purified intrinsic oxide semiconductor has a low density of defect states and accordingly has a low density of trap states in some cases. The transistor including the oxide semiconductor layer 237 having the highly purified intrinsic or substantially highly purified intrinsic oxide semiconductor has an extremely low off-state current; the off-state current can be less than or equal to the measurement limit of a semiconductor parameter analyzer, i.e., less than or equal to 1×10^{-13} A, at a voltage (drain voltage) between a source electrode and a drain electrode of from 1 V to 10 V. Thus, the transistor whose channel region is formed in the oxide semiconductor layer 237 has a small variation in electrical characteristics and high reliability in some cases.

[0209] Note that instead of the oxide semiconductor layer 237, a semiconductor layer including silicon or silicon germanium may be formed. The semiconductor layer including silicon or silicon germanium can have an amorphous structure, a polycrystalline structure, or a single crystal structure, as appropriate.

[0210] The pair of conductive layers 239 and 240 has a function as a source electrode and a drain electrode. The pair of conductive layers 239 and 240 is formed using a material of the conductive layer 233 having a function as a gate electrode, as appropriate.

[0211] Note that in this embodiment, the pair of conductive layers 239 and 240 is provided between the oxide semiconductor layer 237 and the insulating layer 210a, but may be provided between the insulating layer 235 and the oxide semiconductor layer 237.

[0212] The insulating layer 210a has a function of protecting the channel region of the transistor. The insulating layer 210a is formed using an oxide insulating film such as silicon oxide, silicon oxynitride, aluminum oxide, aluminum oxynitride, gallium oxide, gallium oxynitride, yttrium oxide, yttrium oxynitride, hafnium oxide, or hafnium oxynitride, or a nitride insulating film such as silicon nitride or aluminum nitride. The insulating layer 210a can have a single-layer structure or a stacked-layer structure.

[0213] Note that, by providing an insulating film having a blocking effect against oxygen, hydrogen, water, and the like as the insulating layer **210a**, it is possible to prevent outward diffusion of oxygen from the oxide semiconductor layer **237** and entry of hydrogen, water, or the like into the oxide semiconductor layer **237** from the outside. Examples of the insulating film having a blocking effect against oxygen, hydrogen, water, and the like are films of aluminum oxide, aluminum oxynitride, gallium oxide, gallium oxynitride, yttrium oxide, yttrium oxynitride, hafnium oxide, hafnium oxynitride, and the like.

[0214] The insulating layer **210a** is preferably formed using an oxide insulating film containing more oxygen than that in the stoichiometric composition. Part of oxygen is released by heating from the oxide insulating film containing more oxygen than that in the stoichiometric composition. The oxide insulating film containing more oxygen than that in the stoichiometric composition is an oxide insulating film of which the amount of released oxygen atoms is greater than or equal to 1.0×10^{18} atoms/cm³, preferably greater than or equal to 3.0×10^{20} atoms/cm³ in thermal desorption spectroscopy (TDS) analysis in which heat treatment is performed such that a temperature of a film surface is higher than or equal to 100° C. and lower than or equal to 700° C. or higher than or equal to 100° C. and lower than or equal to 500° C. By the heat treatment, oxygen contained in the insulating layer **210a** can be transferred to the oxide semiconductor layer **237**, so that the amount of oxygen vacancies in the oxide semiconductor layer **237** can be reduced.

[0215] Next, a structure of the capacitor **206r** is described. The capacitor **206r** includes a conductive layer **234** that is provided over the insulating layer **209a** and has a function as a capacitor wiring, the insulating layer **235**, and a conductive layer **240** that overlaps with the conductive layer **234** with the insulating layer **235** provided therebetween.

[0216] The conductive layer **234** is formed at the same time as the conductive layer **233** in the transistor **202r**. The insulating layer **235** has a function as a gate insulating film of the transistor **202r** and a function as a dielectric layer of the capacitor **206r**. The conductive layer **240** has a function as a source electrode or a drain electrode of the transistor **202r** and a function as a capacitor electrode of the capacitor **206r**.

[0217] That is, the capacitor **206r** is formed in the process of forming the transistor **202r**. Note that the capacitor **206r** is not limited to the structure shown in FIGS. 11A to 11C. For example, an oxide semiconductor layer may be provided between the insulating layer **235** and the conductive layer **240**. Alternatively, the capacitor may be formed using the insulating layers **210a** and **212a** and the electrode **208r** that are shown in FIG. 10 and one of or both the conductive layer **234** and the conductive layer **240**.

[0218] The conductive layer included in the capacitor **206r** may be formed using a conductive film that transmits visible light. Such a structure can increase the aperture ratio of a pixel. By the increase in aperture ratio, display with the same luminance is possible even when light from a backlight is weakened, leading to low power consumption.

<Modification Example of Transistor **202r**>

[0219] A modification example of the transistor **202r** is described using FIGS. 12A to 12C. The transistor shown in FIGS. 12A to 12C has a dual-gate structure.

[0220] FIGS. 12A to 12C are a top schematic view and cross-sectional schematic views of the transistor **202r** included in a semiconductor device. FIG. 12A is a top sche-

matic view of the transistor, FIG. 12B is a cross-sectional view taken along dashed-dotted line A-B of FIG. 12A, and FIG. 12C is a cross-sectional view taken along dashed-dotted line C-D of FIG. 12A. Note that in FIG. 12A, the substrate **200a**, the insulating layer **209a**, the insulating layer **235**, the insulating layer **210a**, the insulating layer **212a**, and other components are not shown for the sake of clarity.

[0221] The transistor shown in FIGS. 12A to 12C includes a conductive layer **233** that is over the insulating layer **209a** and has a function as a gate electrode, the insulating layer **235** that is over the conductive layer **233** and has a function as a gate insulating film, the oxide semiconductor layer **237** that overlaps with the conductive layer **233** with the insulating layer **235** provided therebetween, the pair of conductive layers **239** and **240** in contact with the oxide semiconductor layer **237**, the insulating layer **210a** over the oxide semiconductor layer **237** and the pair of conductive layers **239** and **240**, the insulating layer **212a** over the insulating layer **210a**, and a conductive layer **242** that is over the insulating layer **212a** and has a function as a gate electrode. The conductive layer **242** is connected to the conductive layer **233** in an opening portion **244** in the insulating layers **235**, **210a**, and **212a**.

[0222] Note that when a side surface of the oxide semiconductor layer **237** faces the conductive layer **242** in the channel width direction as shown in FIG. 12C, carriers flow not only at the interface between the insulating layer **235** and the oxide semiconductor layer **237** and at the interface between the insulating layer **210a** and the oxide semiconductor layer **237** but also in the oxide semiconductor layer **237**. Therefore, the amount of transfer of carriers in the transistor is increased. As a result, the on-state current and field-effect mobility of the transistor are increased. The electric field of the conductive layer **242** affects the side surface or an end portion including the side surface and its vicinity of the oxide semiconductor layer **237**; thus, generation of a parasitic channel at the side surface or the end portion of the oxide semiconductor layer **237** can be suppressed.

[0223] The transistor shown in FIGS. 12A to 12C has higher field-effect mobility and larger on-state current than the transistor shown in FIGS. 11A to 11C. Therefore, by using the transistor with the structure shown in FIGS. 12A to 12C as the transistor provided in the driver circuit portion **250d**, a driver circuit portion capable of high-speed operation can be obtained. Furthermore, the occupation area of the driver circuit portion **250d** can be reduced, and the area of the pixel portion **250p** can be increased. By providing the transistor having large on-state current in the pixel portion **250p**, signal delay in wirings can be reduced and display unevenness can be suppressed even though the number of wirings in a large-sized display device or a high-resolution display device is increased. Note that all of transistors included in the driver circuit portion **250d** may have the same structure or may have two or more kinds of structures. All of a plurality of transistors included in the pixel portion **250p** may have the same structure, or may have two or more kinds of structures.

<Structures of Transistor **202t** and Electrode **238**>

[0224] FIG. 13 is a cross-sectional schematic view of the transistor **202t** and the electrode **238** that are included in the touch sensor. The transistor **202t** is formed over the insulating layer **209b**. The insulating layer **209b** is formed using a material of the insulating layer **209a** as appropriate. The insulating layer **209b** is formed over the substrate **200b**.

[0225] The transistor 202t shown in FIG. 13 can have a structure similar to that of the transistor 202r.

[0226] The electrode 238 is formed over the insulating layer 235. The electrode 238 is connected to the conductive layer 240 of the transistor 202t.

[0227] The insulating layer 210b is formed over the transistor 202t. Note that the insulating layer 210b has the opening portion in which the electrode 238 is exposed. The insulating layer 211 is formed over the insulating layer 210b and the electrode 238.

[0228] The electrode 238 is formed by processing an oxide semiconductor film formed at the same time as the oxide semiconductor layer 237. Therefore, the electrode 238 and the oxide semiconductor layer 237 include similar elements. Furthermore, the electrode 238 has a crystal structure similar to or different from that of the oxide semiconductor layer 237. By adding impurities to or forming oxygen vacancies in the oxide semiconductor layer formed at the same time as the oxide semiconductor layer 237, the film becomes the electrode 238. Typical examples of the impurities included in the electrode 238 are one or more of a rare gas, hydrogen, boron, nitrogen, fluorine, aluminum, and phosphorus. Typical examples of the rare gas are helium, neon, argon, krypton, and xenon.

[0229] The oxide semiconductor layer 237 and the electrode 238 are both formed over the insulating layer 235, but differ in impurity concentration. Specifically, the electrode 238 has a higher impurity concentration than the oxide semiconductor layer 237. For example, in the oxide semiconductor layer 237, the hydrogen concentration measured by secondary ion mass spectroscopy is less than or equal to 5×10^{19} atoms/cm³, preferably less than or equal to 5×10^{18} atoms/cm³, preferably less than or equal to 1×10^{18} atoms/cm³, preferably less than or equal to 5×10^{17} atoms/cm³, preferably less than or equal to 1×10^{16} atoms/cm³. In the electrode 238, the hydrogen concentration measured by secondary ion mass spectrometry is greater than or equal to 8×10^{19} atoms/cm³, preferably greater than or equal to 1×10^{20} atoms/cm³, preferably greater than or equal to 5×10^{20} atoms/cm³. The concentration of hydrogen contained in the electrode 238 is greater than or equal to 2 times or greater than or equal to 10 times that of hydrogen contained in the oxide semiconductor layer 237.

[0230] By setting the hydrogen concentration of the oxide semiconductor layer 237 in the range described above, generation of electrons serving as carriers in the oxide semiconductor layer 237 can be suppressed. As a result, the transistor 202t has positive threshold voltage (normally-off characteristics).

[0231] The electrode 238 has lower resistivity than the oxide semiconductor layer 237. The resistivity of the electrode 238 is preferably greater than or equal to 1×10^{-8} times and less than 1×10^{-1} times that of the oxide semiconductor layer 237. The resistivity of the electrode 238 is typically greater than or equal to 1×10^{-3} Ω cm and less than 1×10^4 Ω cm, or greater than or equal to 1×10^{-3} Ω cm and less than 1×10^{-1} Ω cm.

[0232] When the oxide semiconductor layer formed at the same time as the oxide semiconductor layer 237 is exposed to plasma, the oxide semiconductor layer is damaged, and oxygen vacancies can be generated. For example, when a film is formed over the oxide semiconductor layer by a plasma CVD method or a sputtering method, the oxide semiconductor layer is exposed to plasma and oxygen vacancies are gener-

ated. Alternatively, when the oxide semiconductor layer is exposed to plasma in etching treatment for formation of the opening portion in the insulating layer 210a, oxygen vacancies are generated. Alternatively, when the oxide semiconductor layer is exposed to plasma such as a mixed gas of oxygen and hydrogen, hydrogen, a rare gas, and ammonia, oxygen vacancies are generated. Alternatively, when impurities are added to the oxide semiconductor layer, oxygen vacancies can be formed and impurities can be added to the oxide semiconductor layer. As a method for adding the impurities, an ion doping method, an ion implantation method, plasma treatment, and the like can be given. For the plasma treatment method, plasma is generated in a gas atmosphere containing the impurities to be added, and ions of the impurities accelerated by plasma treatment are made to collide with the oxide semiconductor layer, whereby oxygen vacancies can be formed in the oxide semiconductor layer.

[0233] When hydrogen as an example of impurities is contained in an oxide semiconductor in which oxygen vacancies are generated by addition of impurity elements, hydrogen enters an oxygen vacant site and forms a donor level in the vicinity of the conduction band. As a result, the conductivity of the oxide semiconductor layer is increased, so that the oxide semiconductor layer becomes a conductor. An oxide semiconductor layer having become a conductor can be referred to as an oxide conductor layer. That is, it can be said that the oxide semiconductor layer 237 is formed of an oxide semiconductor, and the electrode 238 is formed of an oxide conductor layer. It can also be said that the electrode 238 is formed of an oxide semiconductor layer having high conductivity. It can also be said that the electrode 238 is formed of a metal oxide layer having high conductivity.

[0234] Oxide semiconductor layers generally have a visible light transmitting property because of their large energy gap. An oxide conductor layer is an oxide semiconductor layer having a donor level in the vicinity of the conduction band. Therefore, the influence of absorption due to the donor level is small, and an oxide conductor layer has a visible light transmitting property comparable to that of an oxide semiconductor layer.

[0235] The insulating layers 210b and 211 can be formed using a material similar to that of the insulating layer 210a.

[0236] Note that the insulating layer 211 preferably contains hydrogen. Since the electrode 238 is in contact with the insulating layer 211, hydrogen contained in the insulating layer 211 can be diffused into the oxide semiconductor film formed at the same time as the oxide semiconductor layer 237. As a result, impurities can be added to the oxide semiconductor film formed at the same time as the oxide semiconductor layer 237.

[0237] Furthermore, the insulating layer 210b is preferably formed using an oxide insulating layer containing more oxygen than that in the stoichiometric composition, and the insulating layer 211 is preferably formed using an insulating layer containing hydrogen. By transfer of oxygen contained in the insulating layer 210b to the oxide semiconductor layer 237 of the transistor 202t, the amount of oxygen vacancies in the oxide semiconductor layer 237 can be reduced and a change in the electrical characteristics of the transistor 202t can be reduced. In addition, by transfer of hydrogen contained in the insulating layer 211, the conductivity of the electrode 238 can be increased.

[0238] Note that a conductive layer that transmits visible light may be used for the electrode 238.

[0239] In FIG. 13, one electrode of the capacitor is formed at the same time as the oxide semiconductor layer of the transistor. Thus, a step of forming another conductive layer is not needed to form the capacitor, and thereby the number of manufacturing steps can be reduced.

[0240] In the display device described in this embodiment, by changing the potential of the conductive layer 234 depending on a change in the potential of the electrode 214, the potential of the electrode that is included in the liquid crystal element and has a function as a pixel electrode can be changed depending on the change in the potential of the electrode 214. As a result, an electric field between a pair of electrodes included in the liquid crystal element can be made constant, which achieves excellent display quality.

[0241] The structure described in this embodiment can be used in appropriate combination with the structure described in any of the other embodiments.

Embodiment 4

<Structure of Oxide Semiconductor Film>

[0242] In this embodiment, a structure of an oxide semiconductor film that can be used for a transistor is described.

[0243] An oxide semiconductor film is classified roughly into a single-crystal oxide semiconductor film and a non-single-crystal oxide semiconductor film. The non-single-crystal oxide semiconductor film includes any of a c-axis aligned crystalline oxide semiconductor (CAAC-OS) film, a polycrystalline oxide semiconductor film, a microcrystalline oxide semiconductor film, an amorphous oxide semiconductor film, and the like.

[0244] First, a CAAC-OS film is described.

[0245] The CAAC-OS film is one of oxide semiconductor films having a plurality of c-axis aligned crystal parts.

[0246] With a transmission electron microscope (TEM), a combined analysis image (also referred to as a high-resolution TEM image) of a bright-field image and a diffraction pattern of the CAAC-OS film is observed. Consequently, a plurality of crystal parts are observed clearly. However, in the high-resolution TEM image, it is difficult to find a clear boundary between crystal parts, that is, a grain boundary. Thus, in the CAAC-OS film, a reduction in electron mobility due to the grain boundary is less likely to occur.

[0247] According to the high-resolution cross-sectional TEM image of the CAAC-OS film observed in a direction substantially parallel to the sample surface, metal atoms are arranged in a layered manner in the crystal parts. Each metal atom layer has a morphology reflecting a surface over which the CAAC-OS film is formed (hereinafter, a surface over which the CAAC-OS film is formed is referred to as a formation surface) or a top surface of the CAAC-OS film, and is arranged parallel to the formation surface or the top surface of the CAAC-OS film.

[0248] According to the high-resolution plan TEM image of a plane of the CAAC-OS film observed in a direction substantially perpendicular to the sample surface, metal atoms are arranged in a triangular or hexagonal configuration in the crystal parts. However, there is no regularity of arrangement of metal atoms between different crystal parts.

[0249] A CAAC-OS film is subjected to structural analysis with an X-ray diffraction (XRD) apparatus. For example, when the CAAC-OS film including an InGaZnO₄ crystal is analyzed by an out-of-plane method, a peak appears frequently when the diffraction angle (2θ) is around 31°. This

peak is derived from the (009) plane of the InGaZnO₄ crystal, which indicates that crystals in the CAAC-OS film have c-axis alignment, and that the c-axes are aligned in a direction substantially perpendicular to the formation surface or the top surface of the CAAC-OS film.

[0250] Note that when the CAAC-OS film with an InGaZnO₄ crystal is analyzed by an out-of-plane method, a peak of 2θ may also be observed at around 36°, in addition to the peak of 2θ at around 31°. The peak of 2θ at around 36° indicates that a crystal having no c-axis alignment is included in part of the CAAC-OS film. It is preferable that in the CAAC-OS film, a peak of 2θ appear at around 31° and a peak of 2θ not appear at around 36°.

[0251] The CAAC-OS film is an oxide semiconductor film having low impurity concentration. The impurity is an element other than the main components of the oxide semiconductor film, such as hydrogen, carbon, silicon, or a transition metal element. In particular, an element that has higher bonding strength to oxygen than a metal element included in the oxide semiconductor film, such as silicon, disturbs the atomic arrangement of the oxide semiconductor film by depriving the oxide semiconductor film of oxygen and causes a decrease in crystallinity. Further, a heavy metal such as iron or nickel, argon, carbon dioxide, or the like has a large atomic radius (molecular radius), and thus disturbs the atomic arrangement of the oxide semiconductor film and causes a decrease in crystallinity when it is contained in the oxide semiconductor film. Note that the impurity contained in the oxide semiconductor film might serve as a carrier trap or a carrier generation source.

[0252] The CAAC-OS film is an oxide semiconductor film having a low density of defect states. In some cases, oxygen vacancies in the oxide semiconductor film serve as carrier traps or serve as carrier generation sources when hydrogen is captured therein.

[0253] The state in which impurity concentration is low and density of defect states is low (the amount of oxygen vacancies is small) is referred to as a "highly purified intrinsic" or "substantially highly purified intrinsic" state. A highly purified intrinsic or substantially highly purified intrinsic oxide semiconductor film has few carrier generation sources, and thus can have a low carrier density. Thus, a transistor including the oxide semiconductor film rarely has negative threshold voltage (is rarely normally on). The highly purified intrinsic or substantially highly purified intrinsic oxide semiconductor film has few carrier traps. Accordingly, the transistor including the oxide semiconductor film has little variation in electrical characteristics and high reliability. Electric charge trapped by the carrier traps in the oxide semiconductor film takes a long time to be released, and might behave like fixed electric charge. Thus, the transistor which includes the oxide semiconductor film having high impurity concentration and a high density of defect states has unstable electrical characteristics in some cases.

[0254] With the use of the CAAC-OS film in a transistor, variation in the electrical characteristics of the transistor due to irradiation with visible light or ultraviolet light is small.

[0255] Next, a microcrystalline oxide semiconductor film is described.

[0256] A microcrystalline oxide semiconductor film has a region where a crystal part can be found in the high-resolution TEM image and a region where a clear crystal part cannot be easily found in the high-resolution TEM image. In most cases, a crystal part in the microcrystalline oxide semicon-

ductor is greater than or equal to 1 nm and less than or equal to 100 nm, or greater than or equal to 1 nm and less than or equal to 10 nm. A microcrystal with a size greater than or equal to 1 nm and less than or equal to 10 nm, or a size greater than or equal to 1 nm and less than or equal to 3 nm is specifically referred to as nanocrystal (nc). An oxide semiconductor film including nanocrystal is referred to as an nc-OS (nanocrystalline oxide semiconductor) film. In a high-resolution TEM image of the nc-OS film, for example, a grain boundary is not easily and clearly found in some cases.

[0257] In the nc-OS film, a microscopic region (for example, a region with a size greater than or equal to 1 nm and less than or equal to 10 nm, in particular, a region with a size greater than or equal to 1 nm and less than or equal to 3 nm) has a periodic atomic order. Note that there is no regularity of crystal orientation between different crystal parts in the nc-OS film. Thus, the orientation of the whole film is not observed. Accordingly, in some cases, the nc-OS film cannot be distinguished from an amorphous oxide semiconductor film depending on an analysis method. For example, when the nc-OS film is subjected to structural analysis by an out-of-plane method with an XRD apparatus using an X-ray having a diameter larger than that of a crystal part, a peak which shows a crystal plane does not appear. Further, a halo pattern is shown in an electron diffraction pattern (also referred to as a selected-area electron diffraction pattern) of the nc-OS film obtained by using an electron beam having a probe diameter (e.g., larger than or equal to 50 nm) larger than the diameter of a crystal part. Meanwhile, spots are shown in a nanobeam electron diffraction pattern of the nc-OS film obtained by using an electron beam having a probe diameter close to, or smaller than the diameter of a crystal part. Further, in a nanobeam electron diffraction pattern of the nc-OS film, regions with high luminance in a circular (ring) pattern are shown in some cases. Also in a nanobeam electron diffraction pattern of the nc-OS film, a plurality of spots is shown in a ring-like region in some cases.

[0258] The nc-OS film is an oxide semiconductor film that has high regularity as compared to an amorphous oxide semiconductor film. Therefore, the nc-OS film has a lower density of defect states than an amorphous oxide semiconductor film. Note that there is no regularity of crystal orientation between different crystal parts in the nc-OS film. Hence, the nc-OS film has a higher density of defect states than the CAAC-OS film.

[0259] Next, an amorphous oxide semiconductor film is described.

[0260] The amorphous oxide semiconductor film has disordered atomic arrangement and no crystal part. For example, the amorphous oxide semiconductor film does not have a specific state as in quartz.

[0261] In a high-resolution TEM image of the amorphous oxide semiconductor film, crystal parts cannot be found easily.

[0262] When the amorphous oxide semiconductor film is subjected to structural analysis by an out-of-plane method with an XRD apparatus, a peak which shows a crystal plane does not appear. A halo pattern is shown in an electron diffraction pattern of the amorphous oxide semiconductor film. Further, a halo pattern is shown but a spot is not shown in a nanobeam electron diffraction pattern of the amorphous oxide semiconductor film.

[0263] Note that an oxide semiconductor film may have a structure having physical properties between the nc-OS film

and the amorphous oxide semiconductor film. The oxide semiconductor film having such a structure is specifically referred to as an amorphous-like oxide semiconductor (amorphous-like OS) film.

[0264] In a high-resolution TEM image of the amorphous-like OS film, a void may be seen. Furthermore, in the high-resolution TEM image, there are a region where a crystal part is clearly observed and a region where a crystal part cannot be observed easily. In the amorphous-like OS film, crystallization by a slight amount of electron beam used for TEM observation occurs and growth of the crystal part is found sometimes. In contrast, crystallization by a slight amount of electron beam used for TEM observation is less observed in the nc-OS film having good quality.

[0265] Note that the crystal part size in the amorphous-like OS film and the nc-OS film can be measured using high-resolution TEM images. For example, an InGaZnO₄ crystal has a layered structure in which two Ga—Zn—O layers are included between In—O layers. A unit cell of the InGaZnO₄ crystal has a structure in which nine layers of three In—O layers and six Ga—Zn—O layers are layered in the c-axis direction. Accordingly, the spacing between these adjacent layers is equivalent to the lattice spacing on the (009) plane (also referred to as d value). The value is calculated to 0.29 nm from crystal structure analysis. Thus, each of the lattice fringes in which the spacing therebetween is from 0.28 nm to 0.30 nm corresponds to the a-b plane of the InGaZnO₄ crystal, focusing on the lattice fringes in the high-resolution TEM image.

[0266] Note that an oxide semiconductor film may be a stacked film including two or more films of an amorphous oxide semiconductor film, an amorphous-like OS film, a microcrystalline oxide semiconductor film, and a CAAC-OS film, for example.

[0267] The structure described in this embodiment can be used in appropriate combination with the structure described in any of the other embodiments.

Embodiment 5

[0268] In this embodiment, a display module using any of the display devices of one embodiment of the present invention is described. Furthermore, structural examples of electronic appliances each using a display module of one embodiment of the present invention is described.

[0269] In a display module 8000 illustrated in FIG. 15, a display device 8006 connected to an FPC 8005A and an FPC 8005B, a backlight unit 8007, a frame 8009, a printed board 8010, and a battery 8011 are provided between an upper cover 8001 and a lower cover 8002. Note that the backlight unit 8007, the battery 8011, and the like are not provided in some cases.

[0270] The shapes and sizes of the upper cover 8001 and the lower cover 8002 can be changed as appropriate in accordance with the size of the display device 8006.

[0271] The backlight unit 8007 includes a light source 8008. The light source 8008 may be provided at an end portion of the backlight unit 8007 and a light diffusing plate may be used. Note that when an electroluminescence (EL) element is used as the light source 8008, a flexible light source 8008 can be obtained.

[0272] In addition, a wavelength conversion member may be provided between the backlight unit 8007 and the display device 8006. The wavelength conversion member contains a wavelength conversion substance such as a fluorescent pig-

ment, a fluorescent dye, or a quantum dot. Such a wavelength conversion substance can absorb light from the backlight unit **8007** and convert part of or the whole of the light into light with another wavelength. The quantum dot that is one of wavelength conversion substances is a particle having a diameter of from 1 nm to 100 nm. By using the wavelength conversion member containing a quantum dot, the color reproducibility of the display device can be increased. Furthermore, the wavelength conversion member may function as a light-guiding plate.

[0273] The frame **8009** has a function of protecting the display device **8006** and a function as an electromagnetic shield for blocking electromagnetic waves generated by the operation of the printed board **8010**. The frame **8009** may also have a function as a radiator plate.

[0274] The printed board **8010** is provided with a power supply circuit and a signal processing circuit for outputting a video signal and a clock signal. The printed board **8010** is connected to the display device **8006**, the backlight unit **8007**, and the battery **8011**. As a power source for supplying power to the power supply circuit, an external commercial power source or a power source using the battery **8011** provided separately may be used. The battery **8011** can be omitted in the case of using a commercial power source.

[0275] The display module **8000** may be additionally provided with a member such as a polarizing plate, a retardation plate, or a prism sheet. By thinning components of the display module **8000**, the display module **8000** can be flexible. The backlight unit **8007** can be thinned using a light-guiding plate.

[0276] FIGS. 16A to 16C are each an external view of an electronic device including the display module of one embodiment of the present invention.

[0277] Examples of the electronic device include a television device (also referred to as a television or a television receiver), a monitor of a computer or the like, a camera such as a digital camera or a digital video camera, a digital photo frame, a mobile phone (also referred to as a mobile telephone, a mobile phone device, or a smartphone), a portable game console, a portable information terminal, an audio reproducing device, and a large-sized game machine such as a pachinko machine.

[0278] FIG. 16A illustrates a portable information terminal **1400** including a display portion. The portable information terminal **1400** includes a display portion **1402** and an operation button **1403** which are incorporated in a housing **1401**. The display module of one embodiment of the present invention can be used in the display portion **1402**. Consequently, a portable information terminal which achieves both thickness reduction and favorable display quality is obtained.

[0279] FIG. 16B illustrates a mobile phone **1410**. The mobile phone **1410** includes a display portion **1412**, an operation button **1413**, a speaker **1414**, and a microphone **1415** which are incorporated in a housing **1411**. The display module of one embodiment of the present invention can be used in the display portion **1412**. Consequently, a mobile phone which achieves both thickness reduction and favorable display quality is obtained.

[0280] FIG. 16C illustrates an audio reproducing device **1420**. The audio reproducing device **1420** includes a display portion **1422**, an operation button **1423**, and an antenna **1424** which are incorporated in a housing **1421**. In addition, the antenna **1424** transmits and receives data via a wireless signal. The display module of one embodiment of the present invention can be used in the display portion **1422**. Conse-

quently, an audio reproducing device which achieves both thickness reduction and favorable display quality is obtained.

[0281] As described above, the electronic devices described in this embodiment each include the display device according to any of the above embodiments. Therefore, electronic devices which achieve both thickness reduction and favorable display quality are obtained.

EXAMPLE 1

[0282] In this example, the conductivity of oxide semiconductor films is described with reference to FIGS. 19A to 19C, FIG. 20, and FIG. 21.

[0283] First, structures of samples are described with reference to FIGS. 19A to 19C.

[0284] FIG. 19A is a top view of Sample 1 and Sample 2. FIGS. 19B and 19C are cross-sectional views taken along the dashed-dotted line A1-A2 in FIG. 19A. Note that top views of Sample 1 and Sample 2 are the same, and the cross-sectional views thereof are different because the stacked-layer structures of the cross sections are different. FIG. 19B is a cross-sectional view of Sample 1. FIG. 19C is a cross-sectional view of Sample 2. Note that an oxide semiconductor film **1905** of Sample 1 corresponds to a channel region of a transistor (FET), and an oxide semiconductor film **1905** of Sample 2 corresponds to an electrode of a capacitor (Cs).

[0285] As for Sample 1, an insulating film **1903** is formed over a glass substrate **1901**, an insulating film **1904** is formed over the insulating film **1903**, and the oxide semiconductor film **1905** is formed over the insulating film **1904**. The both ends of the oxide semiconductor film **1905** are covered with a conductive film **1907** and a conductive film **1909** each serving as an electrode, and the oxide semiconductor film **1905** and the conductive films **1907** and **1909** are covered with an insulating film **1910** and an insulating film **1911**. Note that opening portions **1913** and **1915** are provided in the insulating films **1910** and **1911**, and the conductive film **1907** and the conductive film **1909** are exposed in the opening portion **1913** and the opening portion **1915**, respectively.

[0286] As for Sample 2, the insulating film **1903** is formed over the glass substrate **1901**, the insulating film **1904** is formed over the insulating film **1903**, and the oxide semiconductor film **1905** is formed over the insulating film **1904**. The both ends of the oxide semiconductor film **1905** are covered with the conductive films **1907** and **1909** each serving as an electrode, and the oxide semiconductor film **1905** and the conductive films **1907** and **1909** are covered with the insulating film **1911**. Note that an opening portion **1917** and an opening portion **1919** are provided in the insulating film **1911**, and the conductive film **1907** and the conductive film **1909** are exposed in the opening portion **1917** and the opening portion **1919**, respectively.

[0287] As described above, the structures of the insulating films in contact with the top surface of the oxide semiconductor film **1905** are different in Sample 1 and Sample 2. In Sample 1, the oxide semiconductor film **1905** and the insulating film **1910** are in contact with each other. In Sample 2, the oxide semiconductor film **1905** and the insulating film **1911** are in contact with each other.

[0288] Methods for forming the samples are described.

[0289] First, a method for forming Sample 1 is described.

[0290] A 400-nm-thick silicon nitride film was formed as the insulating film **1903** over the glass substrate **1901** by a plasma CVD method.

[0291] Next, a 50-nm-thick silicon oxynitride film was formed as the insulating film 1904 over the insulating film 1903 by a plasma CVD method.

[0292] Next, a 35-nm-thick In—Ga—Zn oxide film (hereinafter also referred to as an IGZO film) was formed as the oxide semiconductor film 1905 over the insulating film 1904 by a sputtering method using a metal oxide target (In:Ga:Zn=1:1:1). Then, heat treatment was performed at 450° C. in a nitrogen atmosphere for one hour, and after that, another heat treatment was performed at 450° C. in a mixed gas of nitrogen and oxygen for one hour. Then, the oxide semiconductor film 1905 was formed by etching treatment using a mask formed through a photolithography process.

[0293] Next, the conductive films 1907 and 1909 were formed over the insulating film 1903 and the oxide semiconductor film 1905 in such a manner that a 50-nm-thick tungsten film, a 400-nm-thick aluminum film, and a 100-nm-thick titanium film were stacked in this order by a sputtering method, and were then subjected to etching treatment with a mask formed through a photolithography process.

[0294] Next, a 450-nm-thick silicon oxynitride film was formed as the insulating film 1910 over the insulating film 1904, the oxide semiconductor film 1905, the conductive film 1907, and the conductive film 1909 by a plasma CVD method, and then heat treatment was performed at 350° C. under a mixed atmosphere of nitrogen and oxygen for one hour.

[0295] Next, a 50-nm-thick silicon nitride film was formed as the insulating film 1911 over the insulating film 1910 by a plasma CVD method.

[0296] Next, a mask was formed over the insulating film 1911 through a photolithography process and then etching treatment was performed on the insulating film 1911, so that the opening portions 1913 and 1915 were formed in the insulating films 1910 and 1911.

[0297] Through the above process, Sample 1 was formed.

[0298] Next, a method for forming Sample 2 is described.

[0299] A 450-nm-thick silicon oxynitride film was formed as the insulating film 1910 over the insulating film 1903, the oxide semiconductor film 1905, the conductive film 1907, and the conductive film 1909 of Sample 1 by a plasma CVD method, and then heat treatment was performed at 350° C. under a mixed atmosphere of nitrogen and oxygen for one hour. After that, the insulating film 1910 was removed.

[0300] Next, a 50-nm-thick silicon nitride film was formed as the insulating film 1911 over the insulating film 1904, the oxide semiconductor film 1905, the conductive film 1907, and the conductive film 1909 by a plasma CVD method.

[0301] Next, a mask was formed over the insulating film 1911 through a photolithography process and then etching treatment was performed on the insulating film 1911, so that the opening portions 1917 and 1919 were formed in the insulating film 1911.

[0302] Through the above process, Sample 2 was formed.

[0303] Next, the conductivity of the oxide semiconductor films 1905 provided in each of Sample 1 and Sample 2 was measured. In Sample 1, probes were made contact with the conductive film 1907 in the opening portion 1913 and the conductive film 1909 in the opening portion 1915 to measure a sheet resistance value of the oxide semiconductor film 1905. In Sample 2, probes were made contact with the conductive film 1907 in the opening portion 1917 and the conductive film 1909 in the opening portion 1919 to measure a sheet resistance value of the oxide semiconductor film 1905. Note that in

the oxide semiconductor film 1905 in each of Sample 1 and Sample 2, a width W in which the conductive films 1907 and 1909 face each other was 1 mm and a distance D therebetween was 10 μ m. Further, in each of Sample 1 and Sample 2, the potential of the conductive film 1907 was a ground potential, and 1 V was applied to the conductive film 1909. Then, the conductivity was calculated from the sheet resistance value of the oxide semiconductor film 1905 included in each of Sample 1 and Sample 2.

[0304] FIG. 20 shows the conductivity of Sample 1 and Sample 2.

[0305] The average conductivity of Sample 1 was 3.04×10^{-4} S/m. The average conductivity of Sample 2 was 9.91×10^3 S/m.

[0306] In this manner, the conductivity of the oxide semiconductor film 1905 is varied depending on the difference in the insulating film in contact with the oxide semiconductor film 1905.

[0307] In Sample 1, the silicon oxynitride film used as the insulating film 1910 was formed in contact with the top surface of the oxide semiconductor film 1905. The oxide semiconductor film 1905 is not in contact with the silicon nitride film used as the insulating film 1911. On the other hand, the silicon nitride film used as the insulating film 1911 was formed in contact with the top surface of the oxide semiconductor film 1905 in Sample 2. When the oxide semiconductor film 1905 is thus provided in contact with the silicon nitride film used as the insulating film 1911, defects, typically oxygen vacancies are generated in the oxide semiconductor film 1905, and hydrogen contained in the silicon nitride film is transferred to or diffused into the oxide semiconductor film 1905. As a result, conductivity of the oxide semiconductor film 1905 is increased.

[0308] For example, in the case where an oxide semiconductor film is used for a channel region of a transistor, it is preferable to employ a structure in which a silicon oxynitride film is provided in contact with the oxide semiconductor film as shown in Sample 1. Further, as an electrode of a capacitor, it is preferable to employ a structure in which a silicon nitride film is provided in contact with an oxide semiconductor film as shown in Sample 2. With such a structure, even when an oxide semiconductor film used for a channel region of a transistor and an oxide semiconductor film used for an electrode of a capacitor are formed through the same process, the conductivity of the oxide semiconductor films can be made different from each other.

[0309] Next, Sample 3 whose top surface shape is different from that of Sample 2 and whose cross-sectional shape is the same as that of Sample 2 was formed. Then, conductivity of Sample 3 preserved under a high-temperature high-humidity environment was measured.

[0310] Next, a sheet resistance value of the oxide semiconductor film 1905 provided in Sample 3 was measured. In Sample 3, probes were made contact with the conductive film 1907 in the opening portion 1917 and the conductive film 1909 in the opening portion 1919 to measure a sheet resistance of the oxide semiconductor film 1905. Note that in the oxide semiconductor film 1905 in Sample 3, in the top view, a width W in which the conductive films 1907 and 1909 face each other was 1.5 mm and a distance D therebetween was 10 μ m. Further, in Sample 3, the potential of the conductive film 1907 was a ground potential, and 1 V was applied to the conductive film 1909. The sheet resistance values of Sample 3 were measured after Sample 3 was preserved at 60° C. under

an atmosphere with a humidity of 95% for 60 hours, 130 hours, 650 hours, and 1000 hours. Here, two Samples 3 were measured. Then, conductivity thereof was calculated from the sheet resistance values.

[0311] FIG. 21 shows conductivity of Sample 3.

[0312] It is shown from FIG. 21 that Sample 3 has high conductivity. It is also shown that the amount of change in the conductivity of Sample 3 over time were small. As described above, the amount of change in the conductivity of the oxide semiconductor film in contact with the silicon nitride film is small under a high-temperature high-humidity environment; therefore, the oxide semiconductor film can be used as an electrode of a capacitor.

[0313] Note that the structure described in this example can be used as appropriate in combination with any of the structures in the other embodiments and example.

[0314] This application is based on Japanese Patent Application serial no. 2014-088200 filed with Japan Patent Office on Apr. 22, 2014, Japanese Patent Application serial no. 2014-088223 filed with Japan Patent Office on Apr. 22, 2014, and Japanese Patent Application serial no. 2014-106476 filed with Japan Patent Office on May 22, 2014, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

What is claimed is:

1. A display device comprising a first substrate, a second substrate, and a liquid crystal layer, further comprising:

- a first transistor;
- a first capacitor;
- a first wiring;
- a first electrode;
- a second transistor;
- a second electrode;
- a second capacitor; and
- a third electrode,

wherein the liquid crystal layer is provided between the first electrode and the third electrode,

wherein the first transistor, the first capacitor, the first wiring, and the first electrode are provided for the first substrate,

wherein the first transistor is electrically connected to the first electrode,

wherein the first electrode has a function as a pixel electrode of the liquid crystal layer,

wherein one electrode of the first capacitor is electrically connected to the first electrode,

wherein the other electrode of the first capacitor is electrically connected to the first wiring,

wherein the first wiring is configured to be supplied with a first signal,

wherein the second transistor, the second electrode, the second capacitor, and the third electrode are provided for the second substrate,

wherein one of a source and a drain of the second transistor is electrically connected to the second electrode,

wherein the second electrode has a function as one electrode of the second capacitor,

wherein the third electrode has a function as the other electrode of the second capacitor,

wherein the third electrode has a function as a counter electrode of the liquid crystal layer,

wherein the third electrode is configured to be supplied with a second signal, and

wherein the second signal is synchronized with the first signal.

2. The display device according to claim 1,

wherein the second substrate includes a third transistor and a fourth transistor,

wherein a gate of the third transistor is electrically connected to the second electrode,

wherein the other of the source and the drain of the second transistor is electrically connected to a second wiring,

wherein the second wiring is configured to be supplied with a constant potential,

wherein one of a source and a drain of the third transistor is electrically connected to one of a source and a drain of the fourth transistor,

wherein the other of the source and the drain of the fourth transistor is electrically connected to a third wiring, and

wherein the third wiring is configured to change a potential thereof depending on a potential of the second electrode.

3. The display device according to claim 2,

wherein the second transistor and the third transistor include an oxide semiconductor layer.

4. The display device according to claim 3,

wherein the second electrode is provided in the same layer as the oxide semiconductor layer in the second transistor.

5. The display device according to claim 1,

wherein the first transistor includes an oxide semiconductor layer which includes a first metal element,

wherein the other electrode of the first capacitor includes the first metal element and oxygen,

wherein the oxide semiconductor layer includes a region having a first hydrogen concentration, and

wherein the other electrode of the first capacitor includes a region having a second hydrogen concentration which is different from the first hydrogen concentration.

6. A display module comprising:

the display device according to claim 1; and

a printed board electrically connected to the display device.

7. An electronic device comprising:

the display module according to claim 6; and

an operation button.

8. A display device comprising:

a first transistor and a first capacitor electrically connected to each other;

a liquid crystal element over the first transistor and the first capacitor, the liquid crystal element comprising a first electrode and a second electrode with a liquid crystal layer interposed therebetween;

a second transistor and a second capacitor electrically connected to each other, the second transistor and the second capacitor being over the liquid crystal layer; and

a third electrode electrically connected to the second transistor, the third electrode being included in the second capacitor,

wherein the first electrode is electrically connected to the first transistor and the first capacitor,

wherein the second electrode is one of electrodes of the second capacitor, and

wherein the display device is configured so that signals input to the second electrode and one of electrodes of the first capacitor are synchronized with each other.

9. The display device according to claim 8, further comprising:

a third transistor and a fourth transistor,

wherein a gate of the third transistor is electrically connected to the third electrodes of the second capacitor,

wherein one of a source and a drain of the second transistor is electrically connected to a first wiring,
wherein the first wiring is configured to be supplied with a constant potential,

wherein one of a source and a drain of the third transistor is electrically connected to one of a source and a drain of the fourth transistor,

wherein the other of the source and the drain of the fourth transistor is electrically connected to a second wiring,
and

wherein the second wiring is configured to change a potential thereof depending on a potential of the second electrode.

10. The display device according to claim **9**,
wherein the second transistor and the third transistor include an oxide semiconductor layer.

11. The display device according to claim **10**,
wherein the third electrode of the second capacitor is provided in the same layer as the oxide semiconductor layer in the second transistor.

12. The display device according to claim **8**,
wherein the first transistor includes an oxide semiconductor layer which includes a first metal element,
wherein the one of the electrodes of the first capacitor includes the first metal element and oxygen,
wherein the oxide semiconductor layer includes a region having a first hydrogen concentration, and
wherein the one of the electrodes of the first capacitor includes a region having a second hydrogen concentration which is different from the first hydrogen concentration.

13. A display module comprising:
the display device according to claim **8**; and
a printed board electrically connected to the display device.

14. An electronic device comprising:
the display module according to claim **13**; and
an operation button.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	显示设备，显示模块和电子设备		
公开(公告)号	US20150301422A1	公开(公告)日	2015-10-22
申请号	US14/684661	申请日	2015-04-13
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	株式会社半导体能源研究所		
申请(专利权)人(译)	半导体能源研究所有限公司.		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	半导体能源研究所有限公司.		
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发明人	MIYAKE, HIROYUKI KUSUNOKI, KOJI ISHITANI, TETSUJI HATSUMI, RYO		
IPC分类号	G02F1/1362 G02F1/1343 G02F1/1368 H01L27/12 H01L29/786		
CPC分类号	G02F1/136286 H01L27/1225 H01L29/7869 H01L27/1255 G02F1/134309 G02F1/1368 G02F1/136277 G02F1/136213 H01L27/124 G02F1/13338 G02F1/136 G06F3/0412 G06F3/0445 G09G3/3655 G09G2300/0809 G06F3/041 G06F3/044		
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其他公开文献	US10345661		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

提供一种具有新颖结构的显示装置，其可以实现厚度减小和良好的显示质量。在包括像素电极和对电极之间的液晶层的显示装置的结构中，对电极侧的触摸传感器中的公共电极和电容器的电极一体地形成并被提供有脉冲信号。在元件基板侧，要提供给与像素电极形成电容的电容器线的信号与脉冲信号一起，以抵消施加到液晶层的电场的变化。这样的结构可以实现具有触摸传感器功能的显示装置，即使当通过脉冲信号改变电场时，该触摸传感器功能也可以抵消施加到液晶层的电场的变化。

