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(54) **DISPLAY DEVICE**

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC . *G02F 1/133512*; *G02F 1/1339*; *G02F 1/1341*
See application file for complete search history.

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G02F 1/1362 (2006.01)
G02F 1/1337 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC *G02F 1/1341* (2013.01); *G02F 1/13394*

ABSTRACT

Provided is a display device capable of preventing a liquid crystal from being left outside a microcavity. The display device includes: a substrate; a pixel electrode formed on the substrate; a roof layer formed on the pixel electrode so as to be spaced apart from the pixel electrode with a plurality of microcavities therebetween; a light blocking member positioned between two microcavities of the plurality of microcavities, overlapping with a first edge of one microcavity of the two microcavities, and not overlapping with a second edge of the other microcavity; an injection hole exposing a part of the microcavity; a liquid crystal layer filling the microcavity; and an encapsulation layer formed on the roof layer so as to cover the injection hole to seal the microcavity.

17 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets

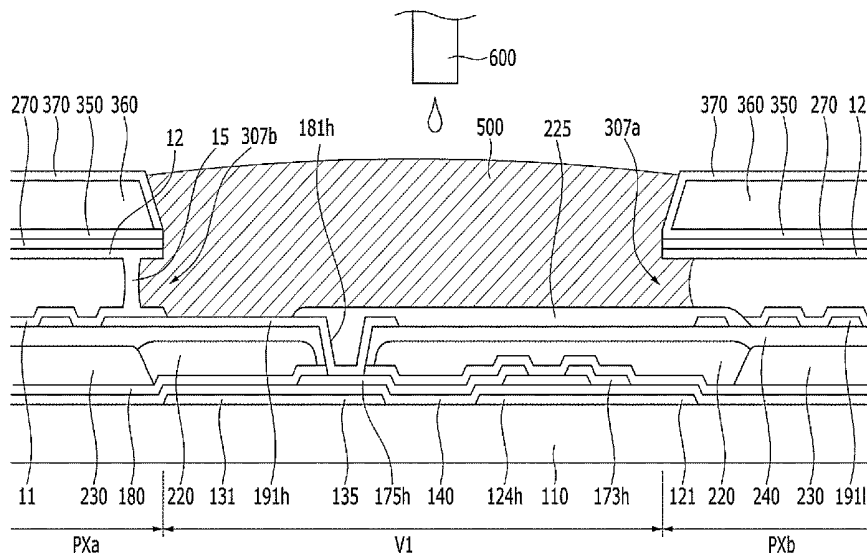


FIG. 2

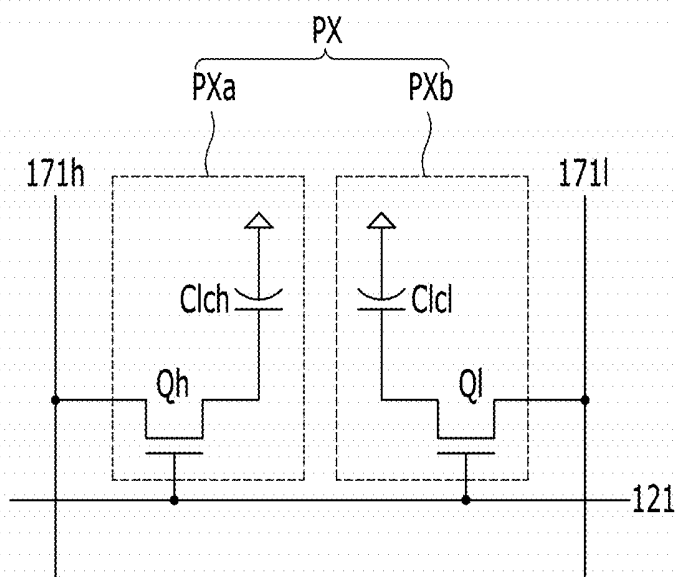


FIG. 5

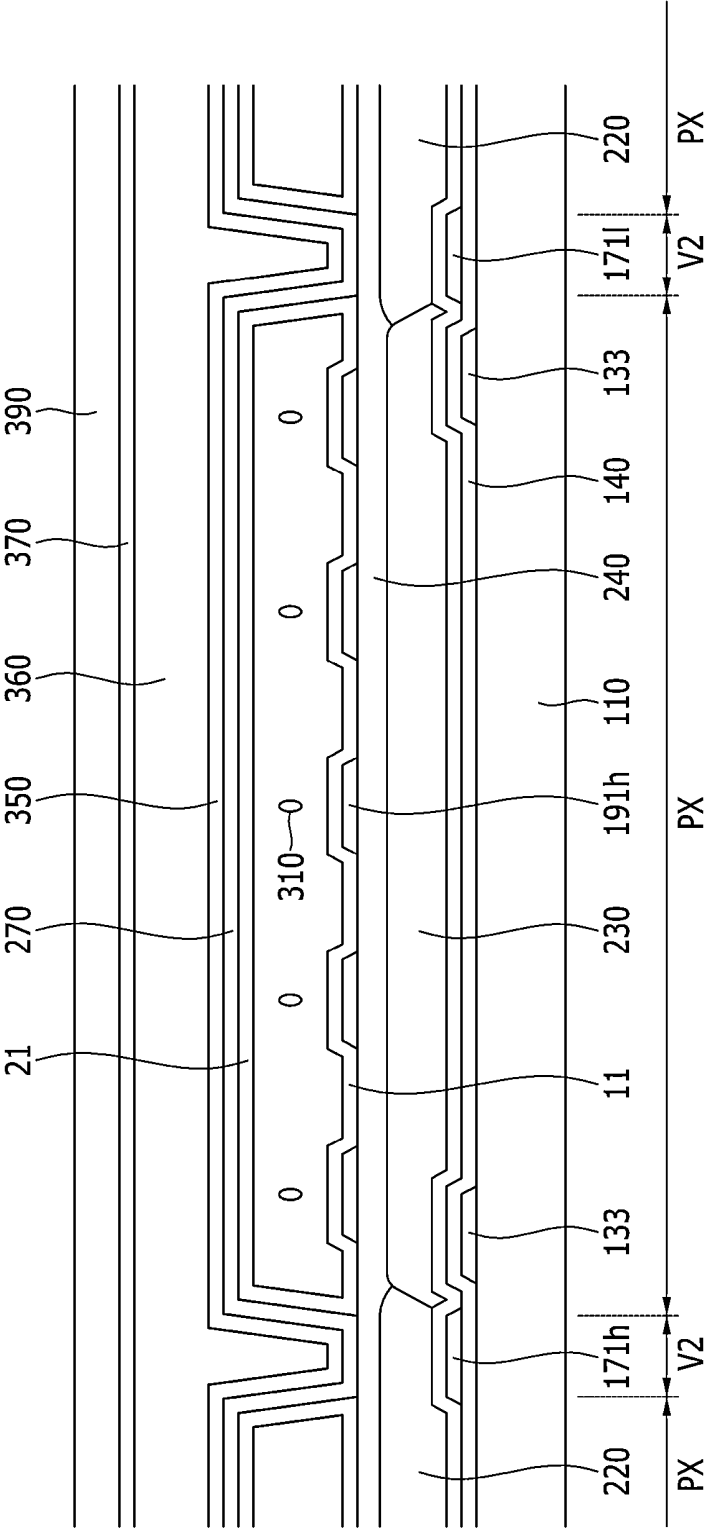


FIG. 6

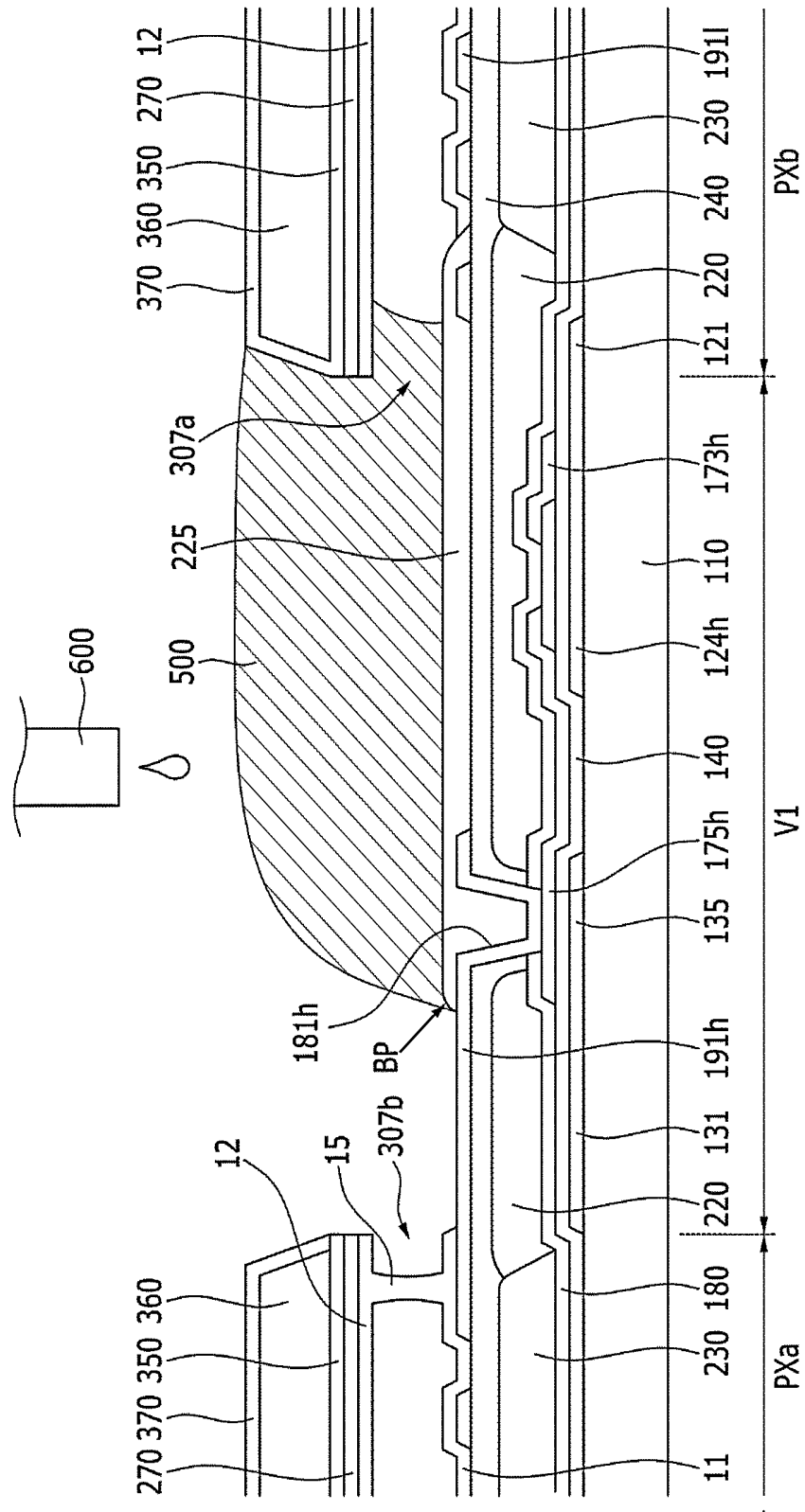


FIG. 7

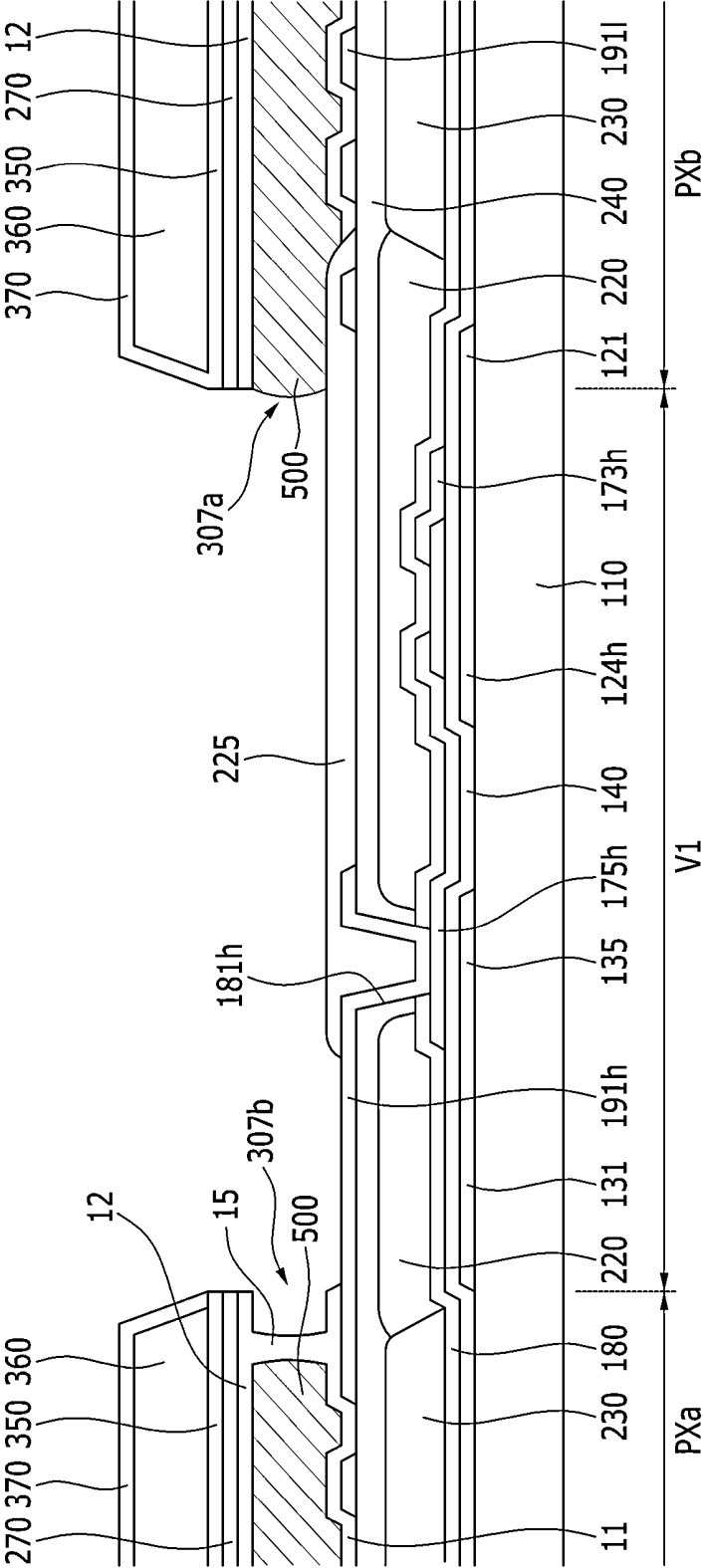


FIG. 8

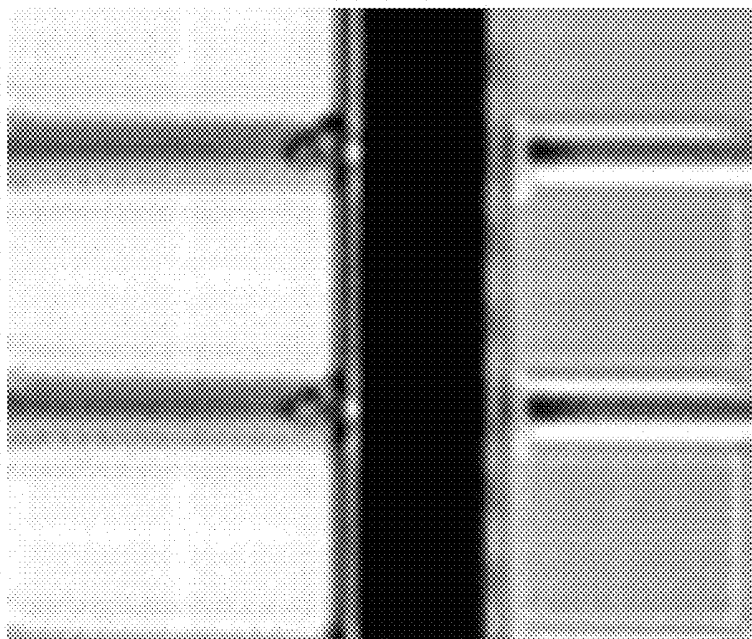


FIG. 9

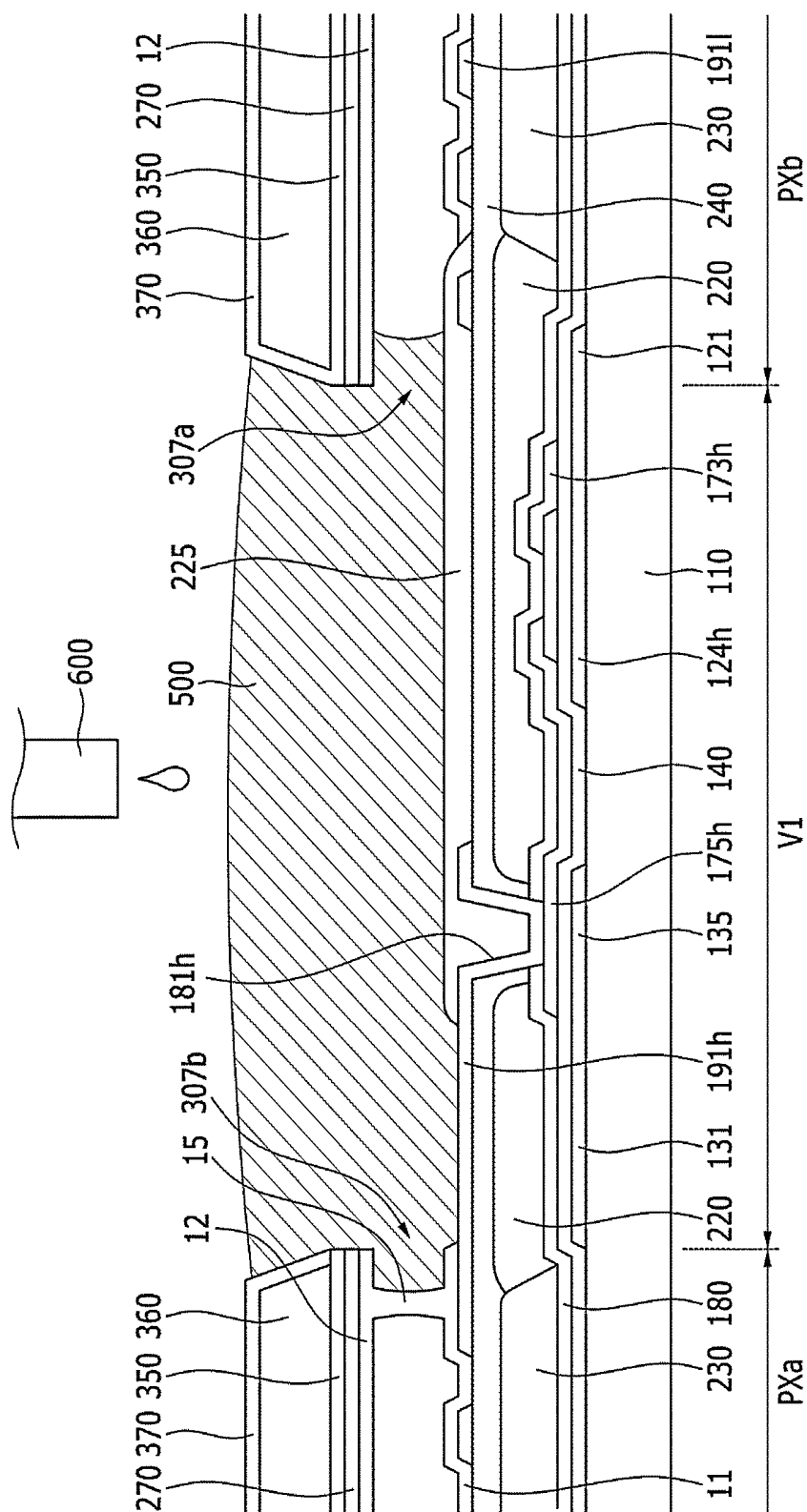


FIG. 11

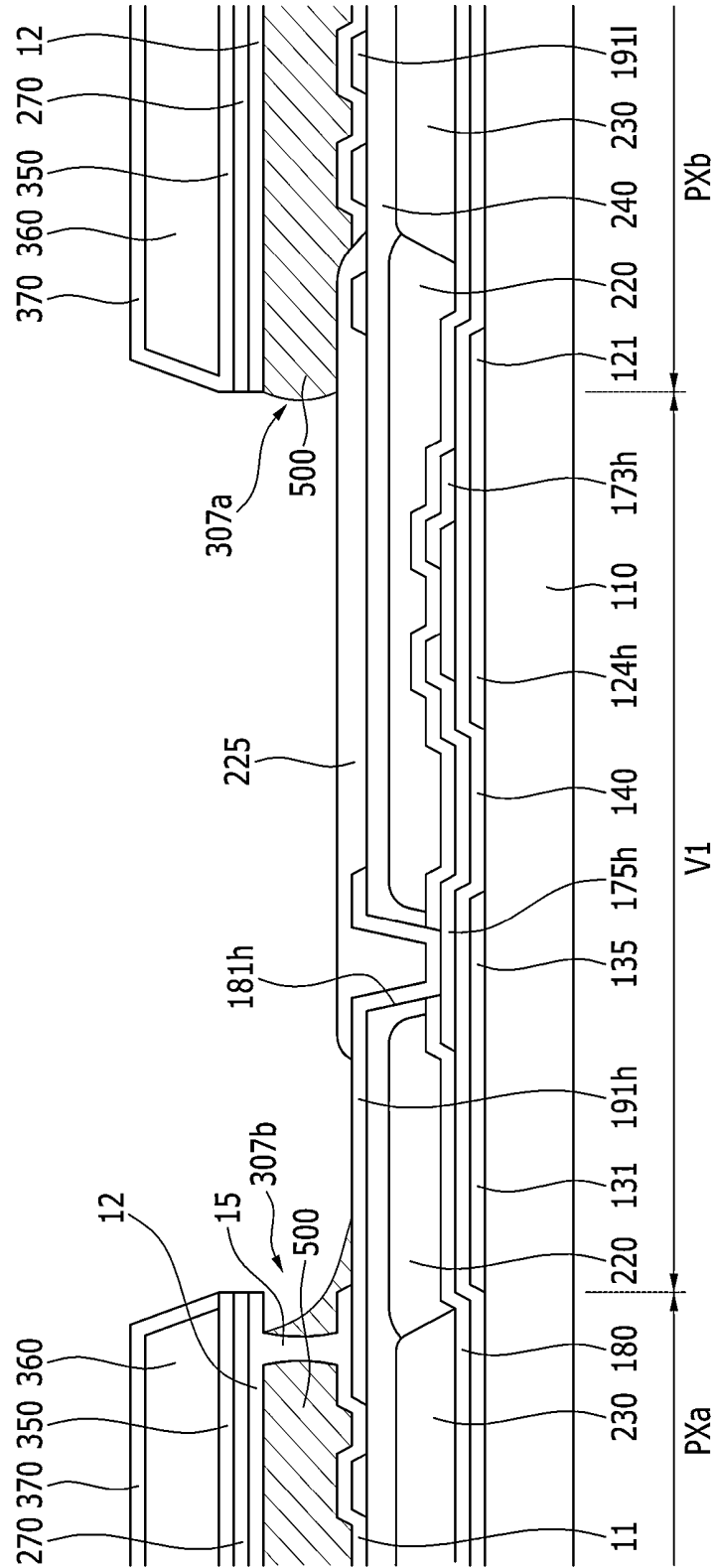
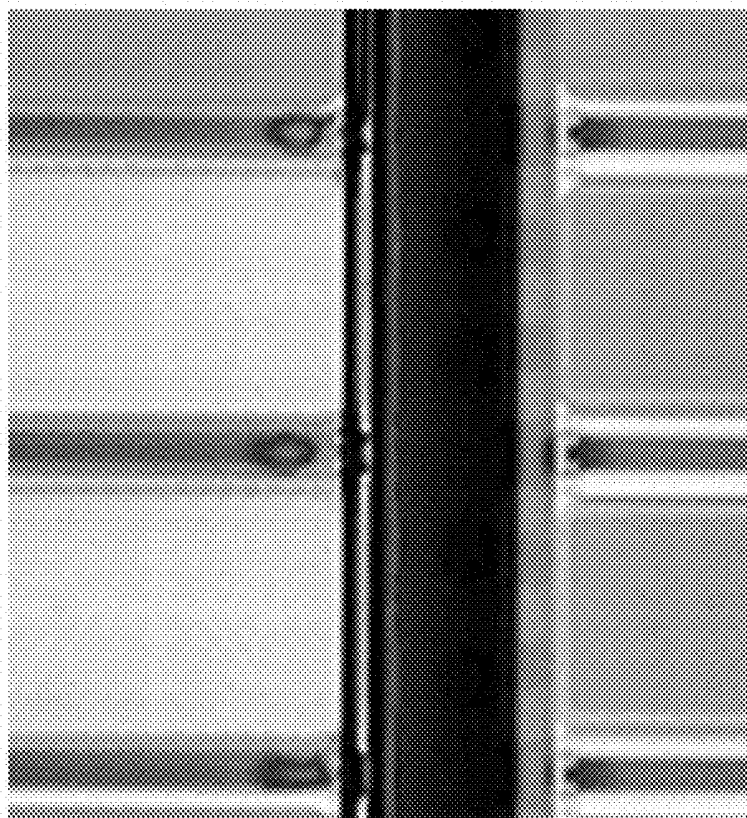


FIG. 12



1 DISPLAY DEVICE

DISPLAY DEVICE

This application claims priority to and the benefit of Korean Patent Application No. 10-2014-0018651 filed on Feb. 18, 2014, and all the benefits accruing therefrom under 35 U.S.C. §119, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND

(a) Field

The invention relates to a display device, and more particularly, to a display device capable of reducing or effectively preventing a liquid crystal from being outside a microcavity.

(b) Description of the Related Art

The liquid crystal display which is one of the most common types of flat panel displays currently in use, includes two sheets of display panels with field generating electrodes such as a pixel electrode, a common electrode and the like, and a liquid crystal layer interposed between the display panels. The liquid crystal display generates an electric field in the liquid crystal layer by applying a voltage to the field generating electrodes, determines alignment of liquid crystal molecules of the liquid crystal layer through the generated electric field, and controls polarization of incident light, thereby displaying images.

The two sheets of display panels of the liquid crystal display may include a thin film transistor array panel and an opposing display panel. In the thin film transistor array panel, a gate line transferring a gate signal and a data line transferring a data signal are formed to cross each other, a thin film transistor connected with the gate line and the data line, a pixel electrode connected with the thin film transistor, and the like may be disposed. In the opposing display panel, a light blocking member, a color filter, a common electrode and the like may be disposed. In some cases, the light blocking member, the color filter and the common electrode may be disposed on the thin film transistor array panel.

However, in a liquid crystal display in the related art, two sheets of substrates are used, and respective constituent elements are formed on the two sheets of substrates. As a result, there are problems in that the display device is relatively heavy and thick, has a relatively high cost and has a long process time.

SUMMARY

In a liquid crystal display, two sheets of substrates may be used, and respective constituent elements are formed on the two sheets of substrates. As a result, there are problems in that such a display device including the two sheets of substrates is relatively heavy and thick, has a relatively high cost and has a long process time. Therefore, there remains a need for an improved liquid crystal display being relatively light and thin, and having a decreased cost and short process time.

One or more exemplary embodiment of the invention provides a display device having advantages of reducing a weight, a thickness, cost and a process time thereof, by manufacturing the display device by using one single substrate.

Further, one or more exemplary embodiment of the invention provides a display device having advantages of reduc-

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ing or effectively preventing a liquid crystal from being disposed outside a microcavity.

An exemplary embodiment of the invention provides a display device, including: a substrate; a pixel electrode on the substrate; a roof layer on the pixel electrode and spaced apart from the pixel electrode; a plurality of microcavities defined between the pixel electrode and the roof layer, each of which includes a first edge opposite to a second edge thereof; a light blocking member between two adjacent microcavities of the plurality of microcavities, overlapping the first edge of one microcavity of the two microcavities, and not overlapping the second edge of the other microcavity; an injection hole exposing an inner area of a microcavity; a liquid crystal layer in the microcavity; and an encapsulation layer on the roof layer, which covers the injection hole and seals the microcavity.

The light blocking member may be on the pixel electrode.

The display device may further include: a first alignment layer on the pixel electrode; a second alignment layer below the roof layer; and an alignment material column connecting the first alignment layer and the second alignment layer to each other.

The display device may further include: a first injection hole at a side of the first edge of the microcavity, and a second injection hole at a side of the second edge of the microcavity.

The alignment material column may be adjacent to the second injection hole.

The light blocking member may overlap the first injection hole.

The light blocking member may not overlap the second injection hole.

The light blocking member may be spaced apart from the alignment material column.

The light blocking member may include a material having higher surface energy than that of the pixel electrode.

The display device may further include a first insulating layer below the pixel electrode and the light blocking member.

The light blocking member may include a material having higher surface energy than that of the first insulating layer.

The plurality of microcavities may be in a matrix form.

The two adjacent microcavities may be vertically adjacent to each other.

The display device may further include a thin film transistor connected with the pixel electrode, and between the two adjacent microcavities.

The light blocking member may overlap the thin film transistor.

The display device may further include a common electrode below the roof layer.

As described above, one or more exemplary embodiment of the display device according to the invention has the following effect.

According to one or more exemplary embodiment of the invention, it is possible to reduce a weight, a thickness, cost and a process time by manufacturing the display device by using only one substrate upon which elements or layers are disposed thereon.

Further, it is possible to reduce or effectively prevent a liquid crystal from remaining outside a microcavity, by asymmetrically disposing a light blocking member between adjacent microcavities.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above and other advantages and features of this disclosure will become more apparent by describing in

further detail exemplary embodiments thereof with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a plan view illustrating an exemplary embodiment of a display device according to the invention.

FIG. 2 is an equivalent circuit diagram of an exemplary embodiment of one pixel of a display device according to the invention.

FIG. 3 is a plan view illustrating an exemplary embodiment of one pixel of a display device according to the invention.

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view illustrating the display device taken along line IV-IV of FIG. 3 according to the invention.

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view illustrating the display device taken along line V-V of FIG. 3 according to the invention.

FIGS. 6 and 7 are cross-sectional views illustrating an exemplary embodiment of a process in which a liquid crystal material is injected into a microcavity of a display device.

FIG. 8 is a diagram illustrating an exemplary embodiment of a part of a display device according to the invention.

FIGS. 9 to 11 are process cross-sectional views illustrating another exemplary embodiment of a process in which a liquid crystal material is injected into a microcavity of a display device.

FIG. 12 is a diagram illustrating an exemplary embodiment of a part of the display device according to the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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

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

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

Spatially relative terms, such as "below," "lower," "under," "above," "upper" and the like, may be used herein for ease of description to describe the relationship of one element or feature to another element(s) or feature(s) as illustrated in the figures. It will be understood that the spatially relative terms are intended to encompass different orientations of the device in use or operation, in addition to the orientation depicted in the figures. For example, if the device in the figures is turned over, elements described as

"below" relative to other elements or features would then be oriented "above" relative to the other elements or features. Thus, the exemplary term "below" can encompass both an orientation of above and below. The device may be otherwise oriented (rotated 90 degrees or at other orientations) and the spatially relative descriptors used herein interpreted accordingly.

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

Embodiments of the invention are described herein with reference to cross-section illustrations that are schematic illustrations of idealized embodiments (and intermediate structures) of the invention. As such, variations from the shapes of the illustrations as a result, for example, of manufacturing techniques and/or tolerances, are to be expected. Thus, embodiments of the invention should not be construed as limited to the particular shapes of regions illustrated herein but are to include deviations in shapes that result, for example, from manufacturing.

For example, an implanted region illustrated as a rectangle will, typically, have rounded or curved features and/or a gradient of implant concentration at its edges rather than a binary change from implanted to non-implanted region. Likewise, a buried region formed by implantation may result in some implantation in the region between the buried region and the surface through which the implantation takes place. Thus, the regions illustrated in the figures are schematic in nature and their shapes are not intended to illustrate the actual shape of a region of a device and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention.

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

Hereinafter, the invention will be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

First, a display device according to the invention will be schematically described below with reference to FIG. 1.

FIG. 1 is a plan view illustrating an exemplary embodiment of a display device according to the invention.

The display device includes a substrate 110 including a material such as glass or plastic.

A microcavity 305, covered by a roof layer 360, is disposed on the substrate 110. The roof layer 360 extends to be elongated in a first or row (or horizontal) direction, and a plurality of microcavities 305 is disposed below one roof layer 360.

The microcavities 305 may be disposed in a matrix form in the plan view, first valleys V1 are positioned between the microcavities 305 adjacent to each other in a second or column (or vertical) direction, and second valleys V2 are

positioned between the microcavities 305 adjacent to each other in the horizontal direction.

The plurality of roof layers 360 is separated from each other with the first valleys V1 therebetween. A portion of the microcavity 305 may not be covered by the roof layer 360, but may be exposed outside at a portion contacting the first valley V1. This exposed portion of the microcavity 305 may otherwise be referred to as injection holes 307a and 307b.

The injection holes 307a and 307b are disposed at both of opposing edges of a single microcavity 305. The injection holes 307a and 307b are configured by a first injection hole 307a and a second injection hole 307b. The first injection hole 307a is disposed to expose a side of a first edge of a single microcavity 305, and the second injection hole 307b is disposed to expose a side of a second edge of the same single microcavity 305. The side of the first edge and the side of the second edge of the same single microcavity 305 face each other.

Each roof layer 360 is disposed to be separated from the substrate 110 in a cross-sectional view at positions between adjacent second valleys V2, to form the microcavity 305. Further, each roof layer 360 is formed to be attached to the substrate 110 at the second valley V2 to cover both sides of the microcavity 305. That is, the roof layer 360 is disposed to cover a remainder of sides of the microcavity 305 except for the sides of the first edge and the second edge thereof in which the injection holes 307a and 307b are defined.

An alignment material column 15 having a shape in which alignment materials thereof are aggregated, is disposed inside the microcavity 305. The alignment material column 15 is disposed at one edge of the microcavity 305, and disposed to be adjacent to the second injection hole 307b of the microcavity 305. At least a part of the second injection hole 307b is blocked by the alignment material column 15. However, the invention is not limited thereto, and the alignment material column 15 may be disposed to be adjacent to the first injection hole 307a. That is, the alignment material column 15 may be disposed to be adjacent to any one of the two injection holes 307a and 307b exposing an inner area of the microcavity 305.

A first light blocking member 225 is disposed between the two adjacent microcavities 305. The first light blocking member 225 is disposed at the first valley V1 positioned between two vertically adjacent microcavities 305. The first light blocking member 225 overlaps a first edge of one microcavity 305 of the two adjacent microcavities 305, but does not overlap a second edge of the other microcavity 305 among the two adjacent microcavities 305. As illustrated in the drawings, the first light blocking member 225 may overlap an upper edge of the microcavity 305 positioned below the first valley V1, but may not overlap a lower edge of the microcavity 305 positioned above the first valley V1.

That is, the first light blocking member 225 is asymmetrically disposed to be closer to one microcavity 305 of the two vertically adjacent microcavities 305. In the exemplary embodiment of the invention, among a pair of vertically adjacent microcavities 305, when the alignment material column 15 is formed to be adjacent to the second injection hole 307b, the first light blocking member 225 does not overlap the second injection hole 307b, but overlaps the first injection hole 307a. In an alternative exemplary embodiment, among a pair of vertically adjacent microcavities 305, when the alignment material column 15 is disposed to be adjacent to the first injection hole 307a, the first light blocking member 225 does not overlap the first injection hole 307a, but overlaps the second injection hole 307b.

The structure of the illustrated exemplary embodiment of the display device according to the invention described above is just exemplified, and may be variously modified. In an exemplary embodiment, for example, in a plan view of the microcavities 305, the first valleys V1, and the second valleys V2 may be modified, and the plurality of roof layers 360 may be connected to each other (e.g., continuous) along the first valleys V1, and a part of each roof layer 360 is separated from the substrate 110 in a cross-sectional view at the second valley V2 and thus the adjacent microcavities 305 may be connected to each other.

Hereinafter, one pixel of the display device according to the invention will be schematically described below with reference to FIG. 2.

FIG. 2 is an equivalent circuit diagram of an exemplary embodiment of one pixel of the display device according to the invention.

The display device includes a plurality of signal lines 121, 171h and 171l, and a plurality of pixels PX connected thereto. In a plan view of the display device, the plurality of pixels PX may be disposed in a matrix form which includes a plurality of pixel rows and a plurality of pixel columns.

Each pixel PX may include a first subpixel PXa and a second subpixel PXb. The first subpixel PXa and the second subpixel PXb may be vertically disposed in the plan view of the display device. In the vertically disposed arrangement, the first valley V1 may be positioned between the first subpixel PXa and the second subpixel PXb to be elongated in a pixel row direction, and a second valley V2 may be positioned between the plurality of pixel columns and elongated in a pixel column direction.

The signal lines 121, 171h and 171l include a gate line 121 configured to transfer a gate signal, and a first data line 171h and a second data line 171l configured to transfer different data voltages.

In the one pixel PX, a first switching element Qh connected to the gate line 121 and the first data line 171h is disposed, and a second switching element Ql connected to the gate line 121 and the second data line 171l is disposed.

In the first subpixel PXa, a first liquid crystal capacitor Clch connected to the first switching element Qh is disposed, and in the second subpixel PXb, a second liquid crystal capacitor Clcl connected to the second switching element Ql is disposed.

A first terminal of the first switching element Qh is connected to the gate line 121, a second terminal is connected to the first data line 171h, and a third terminal is connected to the first liquid crystal capacitor Clch.

A first terminal of the second switching element Ql is connected to the gate line 121, a second terminal is connected to the second data line 171l, and a third terminal is connected to the second liquid crystal capacitor Clcl.

In an exemplary embodiment of an operation of a liquid crystal display according to the invention, when a gate-on voltage is applied to the gate line 121, the first switching element Qh and the second switching element Ql connected thereto are turned on, and the first and second liquid crystal capacitors Clch and Clcl are charged by different data voltages transferred through the first and second data lines 171h and 171l, respectively. The data voltage transferred by the second data line 171l is lower than the data voltage transferred by the first data line 171h. Accordingly, the second liquid crystal capacitor Clcl is charged at a voltage lower than the first liquid crystal capacitor Clch, thereby improving side visibility.

Hereinafter, a further structure of one pixel of a liquid crystal display according to the invention will be described with reference to FIGS. 3 to 5.

FIG. 3 is a plan view illustrating an exemplary embodiment of one pixel of a display device according to the invention, FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view illustrating the display device taken along line IV-IV in FIG. 3 according to the invention, and FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view illustrating the display device taken along line V-V in FIG. 3 according to the invention.

Referring to FIGS. 3 to 5, on the substrate 110, a gate line 121, and a first gate electrode 124h and a second gate electrode 124l which protrude from the gate line 121, are disposed.

The gate line 121 extends to be elongated mainly in a horizontal direction and is configured to transfer a gate signal. The first gate electrode 124h and the second gate electrode 124l protrude above the gate line 121 in the plan view. The first gate electrode 124h and the second gate electrode 124l are connected with each other to form one single, continuous protrusion protruding above the gate line 121. However, the invention is not limited thereto, and the protruding form of the first gate electrode 124h and the second gate electrode 124l may be variously modified.

A storage electrode line 131, and storage electrodes 133 and 135 protruding from the storage electrode line 131, may be further disposed on the substrate 110.

The storage electrode line 131 extends to be elongated in the same direction as the gate line 121, and is disposed to be spaced apart from the gate line 121 in the vertical direction. A predetermined voltage may be applied to the storage electrode line 131. The storage electrode 133 protruding above the storage electrode line 131 is disposed to surround an edge of the first subpixel PXa (refer to FIG. 2). The storage electrode 135 protrudes below the storage electrode line 131 in the plan view and is disposed to be adjacent to the first gate electrode 124h and the second gate electrode 124l.

A gate insulating layer 140 is disposed on the gate line 121, the first gate electrode 124h, the second gate electrode 124l, the storage electrode line 131, and the storage electrodes 133 and 135. The gate insulating layer 140 may include an inorganic insulating material such as silicon nitride (SiNx) and silicon oxide (SiOx). Further, the gate insulating layer 140 may be a single layer or a multiple layer structure.

A first semiconductor 154h and a second semiconductor 154l are disposed on the gate insulating layer 140. The first semiconductor 154h may be positioned on the first gate electrode 124h, and the second semiconductor 154l may be positioned on the second gate electrode 124l. The first semiconductor 154h may be disposed below the first data line 171h in the cross-sectional view, and the second semiconductor 154l may be disposed below the second data line 171l in the cross-sectional view. The first semiconductor 154h and the second semiconductor 154l may include amorphous silicon, polycrystalline silicon, metal oxide and the like.

An ohmic contact (not illustrated) may be further disposed on each of the first semiconductor 154h and the second semiconductor 154l. The ohmic contact may include silicide or a material such as n+ hydrogenated amorphous silicon in which n-type impurity is doped at a relatively high concentration.

On the first semiconductor 154h, the second semiconductor 154l and the gate insulating layer 140, the first data line 171h, the second data line 171l, the first source electrode

173h, the first drain electrode 175h, the second source electrode 173l and the second drain electrode 175l are disposed.

The first data line 171h and the second data line 171l transfer data signals and mainly extend to be elongated in a vertical direction to cross the gate line 121 and the storage electrode line 131. The first data line 171h and the second data line 171l transfer different data voltages. The data voltage transferred by the second data line 171l is lower than the data voltage transferred by the first data line 171h.

The first source electrode 173h protrudes from the first data line 171h, and is disposed above the first gate electrode 124h in the cross-sectional view. The second source electrode 173l protrudes from the second data line 171l, and is disposed above the second gate electrode 124l in a cross-sectional view. Each of the first drain electrode 175h and the second drain electrode 175l includes a relatively wide first end portion and a rod-shaped second end portion. The wide first end portions of the first drain electrode 175h and the second drain electrode 175l overlap the storage electrode 135 protruding below the storage electrode line 131. The rod-shaped second end portions of the first drain electrode 175h and the second drain electrode 175l are partially surrounded by the first source electrode 173h and the second source electrode 173l, respectively.

The first and second gate electrodes 124h and 124l, the first and second source electrodes 173h and 173l, and the first and second drain electrodes 175h and 175l form first and second thin film transistors (TFTs) Qh and Ql together with the first and second semiconductors 154h and 154l, respectively. A channel of the thin film transistors is formed in each of the semiconductors 154h and 154l exposed between each of the source electrodes 173h and 173l and each of the drain electrodes 175h and 175l, respectively.

A passivation layer 180 is disposed on the first data line 171h, the second data line 171l, the first source electrode 173h, the first drain electrode 175h, the first semiconductor 154h exposed between the first source electrode 173h and the first drain electrode 175h, the second source electrode 173l, the second drain electrode 175l, and the second semiconductor 154l exposed between the second source electrode 173l and the second drain electrode 175l. The passivation layer 180 may include an organic insulating material or an inorganic insulating material, and may be a single layer or a multiple layer structure.

A color filter 230 in each pixel PX is disposed on the passivation layer 180. Each color filter 230 may display one of primary colors such as three primary colors of red, green and blue. The color filter 230 is not limited to the three primary colors of red, green and blue, but may display cyan, magenta, yellow and white-based colors.

A second light blocking member 220 may be disposed in a region between adjacent color filters 230. The second light blocking member 220 is disposed on a boundary of the pixel PX and the thin film transistor to reduce or effectively prevent light leakage. That is, the second light blocking member 220 may be disposed at the first valley V1 and/or the second valley V2.

A first insulating layer 240 may be further disposed on the color filter 230 and the second light blocking member 220. The first insulating layer 240 may include an organic insulating material, and may serve to planarize the color filter 230 and the second light blocking member 220. The first insulating layer 240 may have a structure where layers of an organic insulating material and layers of an inorganic insulating material are alternated and/or laminated, and in an alternative exemplary embodiment, may be omitted.

In the passivation layer **180** and the first insulating layer **240**, a first contact hole **181h** exposing the wide second end portion of the first drain electrode **175h** is defined, and a second contact hole **181l** exposing the wide second end portion of the second drain electrode **175l** is defined.

A pixel electrode **191** is disposed on the first insulating layer **240**. The pixel electrode **191** may include a transparent metal material such as indium tin oxide ("ITO") and indium zinc oxide ("IZO").

The pixel electrode **191** includes a first subpixel electrode **191h** and a second subpixel electrode **191l** which are separated from each other with the gate line **121** and the storage electrode line **131** therebetween, and disposed in an upper area and a lower area of the pixel PX based on the gate line **121** and the storage electrode line **131**, to be adjacent to each other in the column direction. That is, the first subpixel electrode **191h** and the second subpixel electrode **191l** are separated from each other with the first valley **V1** therebetween, the first subpixel electrode **191h** is positioned in the first subpixel PXa, and the second subpixel electrode **191l** is positioned in the second subpixel PXb.

The first subpixel electrode **191h** is connected with the first drain electrode **175h** via the first contact hole **181h**, and the second subpixel electrode **191l** is connected to the second drain electrode **175l** via the second contact hole **181l**. Accordingly, when the first thin film transistor Qh of the first subpixel PXa and the second thin film transistor Ql of the second subpixel PXb (refer to FIG. 2) are turned on, the first subpixel electrode **191h** and the second subpixel electrode **191l** receive different data voltages from the first drain electrode **175h** and the second drain electrode **175l**. An electric field may be generated between the pixel electrode **191** and a common electrode **270**.

An overall shape of each of the subpixel electrode **191h** and the second subpixel electrode **191l** is a quadrangle. The subpixel electrode **191h** and the second subpixel electrode **191l** each include a cross stem. The cross stems includes horizontal stems **193h** and **193l** and vertical stems **192h** and **192l** crossing the horizontal stems **193h** and **193l**, respectively. Further, each of the first subpixel electrode **191h** and the second subpixel electrode **191l** includes a plurality of minute branches **194h** and **194l**, respectively.

Each subpixel electrode **191h** and **191l** is divided into four subregions by the horizontal stems **193h** and **193l** and the vertical stems **192h** and **192l**, respectively. The minute branches **194h** and **194l** obliquely extend from the horizontal stems **193h** and **193l** and the vertical stems **192h** and **192l**, and the extending direction may form an angle of approximately 45 degrees or 135 degrees with the gate line **121** or the horizontal stems **193h** and **193l**. Further, directions in which the minute branches **194h** and **194l** of two adjacent subregions extend may be perpendicular to each other, but the invention is not limited thereto.

In the exemplary embodiment, the first subpixel electrode **191h** and the second subpixel electrode **191l** may further include outer stems surrounding outsides of the first subpixel PXa and the second subpixel PXb, respectively. Referring to FIG. 3, the outer stems are disposed at distal ends of the minute branches **194h** and **194l**, respectively.

The plan view configuration of the pixel PX, the structure of the thin film transistor, and the shape of the pixel electrode described above are just exemplified, and the invention is not limited thereto and may be variously modified.

The first light blocking member **225** is disposed on the pixel electrode **191** and the first insulating layer **240**. The first light blocking member **225** is disposed at the first valley

V1 as described above, and disposed asymmetrically with respect to vertically adjacent microcavities **305** to be closer to one microcavity **305**. The thin film transistors Qh and Ql are positioned at the first valley **V1**, and the first light blocking member **225** overlaps the thin film transistors Qh and Ql. Particularly, the first light blocking member **225** is disposed to cover and overlap the first contact hole **181h** and the second contact hole **181l** which are defined for connection of the thin film transistors Qh and Ql and the pixel electrode **191**, to reduce or effectively prevent light leakage.

The first light blocking member **225** disposed on (e.g., above) the first insulating layer **240** and the second light blocking member **220** disposed below the first insulating layer **240** may include the same material, or in an alternative exemplary embodiment, may include different materials. Particularly, the first light blocking member **225** disposed above the first insulating layer **240** may include a material having surface energy higher than that of the pixel electrode **191**. Further, the first light blocking member **225** may include a material having surface energy higher than that of the first insulating layer **240**.

The common electrode **270** is disposed on the pixel electrode **191** so as to be spaced apart from the pixel electrode **191** at a predetermined distance. The microcavity **305** is defined between the pixel electrode **191** and the common electrode **270**. That is, the microcavity **305** is surrounded by the pixel electrode **191** and the common electrode **270**. A width and an area of the microcavity **305** may be variously modified according to a size and resolution of the display device. However, the invention is not limited thereto, and in an alternative exemplary embodiment the common electrode **270** and the pixel electrode **191** may be disposed with an insulating layer therebetween. In this alternative exemplary embodiment, the microcavity **305** is not defined between the pixel electrode **191** and the common electrode **270**, but the microcavity **305** may be defined on (e.g., above) the common electrode **270**.

The common electrode **270** may include a transparent metal material such as ITO and IZO. A predetermined voltage may be applied to the common electrode **270**, and an electric field may be generated between the pixel electrode **191** and the common electrode **270**. A first alignment layer **11** is disposed on the pixel electrode **191**. The first alignment layer **11** may also be disposed directly on or contact the first insulating layer **240** which is not covered and exposed by portions of the pixel electrode **191**.

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

The first alignment layer **11** and the second alignment layer **21** may be vertical alignment layers, and include an alignment material such as polyamic acid, polysiloxane and polyimide. The first and second alignment layers **11** and **21** may be connected to each other at a side wall of the edge of the microcavity **305** via an alignment material column **15**. The first alignment layer **11**, the second alignment layer **21** and the alignment material column **15** may collectively form a single, unitary, continuous member.

Further, in an exemplary embodiment of manufacturing a display device, the alignment material column **15** connecting the first alignment layer **11** and the second alignment layer **21** is formed. The alignment material column **15** is formed when a solid component is pushed to one edge during a process of curing the alignment material, by injection of an alignment material into the microcavity **305** for forming the first alignment layer **11** and the second alignment layer **21**. When the alignment material is injected through the first injection hole **307a**, the alignment material

column **15** is formed to be adjacent to the second injection hole **307b** opposite to the first injection hole **307a**. On the other hand, when the alignment material is injected through the second injection hole **307b**, the alignment material column **15** is formed to be adjacent to the first injection hole **307a**.

A liquid crystal layer including liquid crystal molecules **310** is disposed in the microcavity **305** positioned between the pixel electrode **191** and the common electrode **270**. The liquid crystal molecules **310** may have negative dielectric anisotropy, and may be extended with a long axis thereof in a vertical (e.g., perpendicular) direction to the substrate **110** while the electric field is not applied. That is, vertical alignment may be performed.

The first subpixel electrode **191h** and the second subpixel electrode **191i** to which the data voltages are applied, generate an electric field together with the common electrode **270**, to determine directions of the liquid crystal molecules **310** positioned in the microcavity **305** between the two electrodes **191** and **270**. Luminance of light passing through the liquid crystal layer varies according to the determined directions of the liquid crystal molecules **310**.

A second insulating layer **350** may be further disposed on the common electrode **270**. The second insulating layer **350** may include an inorganic insulating material such as silicon nitride (SiNx) and silicon oxide (SiOx), and in an alternative exemplary embodiment may be omitted.

The roof layer **360** is disposed on the second insulating layer **350**. The roof layer **360** may include an organic material. The microcavity **305** is defined below the roof layer **360**. In an exemplary embodiment of manufacturing a display device, the roof layer **360** is hardened by a curing process to maintain the shape of the microcavity **305**. That is, the roof layer **360** is formed to be spaced apart from the pixel electrode **191**, with the microcavity **305** defined therebetween.

A single roof layer **360** is disposed to be extended and overlap each pixel PX and each second valley V2 along a pixel row, and is not disposed at the first valley V1 between adjacent pixel rows. That is, the roof layer **360** is not disposed between the first subpixel PXa and the second subpixel PXb adjacent in the column direction. The microcavity **305** is defined below the roof layer **360**, at each of a respective first subpixel PXa and second subpixel PXb. In the second valley V2, the microcavity **305** is not defined below the roof layer **360**, and the roof layer **360** contacts the substrate **110**.

Accordingly, a cross-sectional thickness of the roof layer **360** positioned at the second valley V2 may be larger than a cross-sectional thickness of the roof layer **360** positioned at each of the first subpixel PXa and the second subpixel PXb. The upper surface and both sides of the microcavity **305** are covered by and face portions of the roof layer **360**.

Injection holes **307a** and **307b** exposing an inner area of the microcavity **305** are defined with the roof layer **360**. The injection holes **307a** and **307b** include a first injection hole **307a** exposing the side of the first edge of one microcavity **305** and a second injection hole **307b** exposing the side of the second edge of the one microcavity **305**. The first injection hole **307a** of one microcavity **305** of two adjacent microcavities **305** and the second injection hole **307b** of the other microcavity **305** of the two adjacent microcavities **305** face each other with the first valley V1 therebetween. Since an inner area of the microcavity **305** is exposed by the injection holes **307a** and **307b**, an aligning agent, a liquid crystal material or the like may be injected into the microcavity **305** via the injection holes **307a** and **307b**.

The first light blocking member **225** described above overlaps the injection holes **307a** and **307b** adjacent to which the alignment material column **15** is not disposed. That is, the first light blocking member **225** is spaced apart from the alignment material column **15**, such as in the plan view. Referring to FIG. 4, the alignment material column **15** is illustrated adjacent to the second injection hole **307b**. Further, the first light blocking member **225** overlaps the first injection hole **307a** (to which the alignment material column **15** is not adjacent), but does not overlap the second injection hole **307b** (to which the alignment material column **15** is adjacent).

A third insulating layer **370** may be further disposed on the roof layer **360**. The third insulating layer **370** may include an inorganic insulating material such as silicon nitride (SiNx) and silicon oxide (SiOx). The third insulating layer **370** may cover and face an upper surface and a side of the roof layer **360**. The third insulating layer **370** serves to protect the roof layer **360** including an organic material, and in an alternative exemplary embodiment may be omitted.

An encapsulation layer **390** may be disposed on the third insulating layer **370**. The encapsulation layer **390** covers the injection holes **307a** and **307b** by which the inner area of the microcavity **305** is exposed outside thereof. That is, the encapsulation layer **390** may seal the microcavity **305** so that the liquid crystal molecules **310** disposed in the microcavity **305** are not discharged outside. Since the encapsulation layer **390** contacts the liquid crystal molecules **310**, the encapsulation layer **390** may include a material which does not react with liquid crystal molecules **310**. In an exemplary embodiment, for example, the encapsulation layer **390** may include parylene and the like.

The encapsulation layer **390** may have a multilayer structure such as having a double layer structure or a triple layer structure. The double layer structure may include two layers of different materials. The triple layer structure may include three layers, and materials of adjacent layers are different from each other. In an exemplary embodiment, for example, the encapsulation layer **390** may include a layer of an organic insulating material and a layer of an inorganic insulating material.

Although not illustrated, polarizers may be further disposed on upper and lower sides of the display device. The polarizers may include a first polarizer and a second polarizer. The first polarizer may be attached onto the lower side of the substrate **110**, and the second polarizer may be attached onto the encapsulation layer **390**.

Hereinafter, a principle in which the liquid crystal material is injected into the microcavity to be substantially omitted from the first valley will be described with reference to the drawings.

First, referring to FIGS. 6 to 8, the liquid crystal material dropped at the center of the first valley V1 will be described.

FIGS. 6 and 7 are process cross-sectional views illustrating an exemplary embodiment of a process in which a liquid crystal material is injected into a microcavity of a display device, and FIG. 8 is a diagram illustrating a part of the display device formed in FIGS. 6 and 7, according to the invention.

As illustrated in FIG. 6, after the roof layer **360** is formed, a nozzle **600** is positioned at a center with respect to two adjacent microcavities **305**, before the encapsulation layer **390** is formed.

A liquid crystal material **500** is dropped on the substrate **110** via the nozzle **600**. The liquid crystal material **500** first meets the first light blocking member **225**. The first light blocking member **225** does not overlap the second injection

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hole **307b** with the alignment material column **15** adjacent thereto, but overlaps the first injection hole **307a** without the alignment material column **15** adjacent thereto. The first light blocking member **225** is spaced apart from the alignment material column **15**, and capillary force of an edge of the first light blocking member **225** facing the alignment material column **15** is larger than that of another portion of the first light blocking member **225** further from the edge thereof. Further, surface energy of the first light blocking member **225** is larger than that of the pixel electrode **191** and/or the first insulating layer **240**. Accordingly, the edge of the first light blocking member **225** positioned in the first valley **V1** becomes a break point **BP**. The liquid crystal material **500** does not flow over the break point **BP** and toward the alignment material column **15** due to the break point **BP**.

As illustrated in FIG. 7, the liquid crystal material **500** dropped in the first valley **V1** is fully injected into the microcavity **305** through the first injection hole **307a**. The liquid crystal material **500** is not left in the first valley **V1** around the alignment material column **15**.

With reference to FIG. 8, when the display device according to the invention is actually manufactured by the method described for FIG. 6 and FIG. 7, it can be seen that the liquid crystal material **500** does not remain in the first valley **V1** even though the liquid crystal material **500** is dropped at the center with respect to two adjacent microcavities **305** (e.g., at the first valley **V1**).

Next, referring to FIGS. 9 to 12, a case where the liquid crystal material is dropped at the edge of the first valley **V1** will be described.

FIGS. 9 to 11 are process cross-sectional views illustrating another exemplary embodiment of a process in which a liquid crystal material is injected into a microcavity of a display device, and FIG. 12 is a diagram illustrating a part of the display device formed in FIGS. 9 to 11 according to the invention.

As illustrated in FIG. 9, after the roof layer **360** is formed, a nozzle **600** is positioned between two adjacent microcavities **305** before the encapsulation layer **390** is formed. The nozzle **600** may be positioned at the center between the adjacent microcavities **305**, but alternative may be positioned at an edge of one of adjacent microcavities **305** due to misalignment and the like.

Although not illustrated, when the nozzle **600** drops the liquid crystal material **500** near an edge of a microcavity **305** at a position adjacent to the first injection hole **307a** without the alignment material column **15** adjacent thereto, the liquid crystal material **500** is not positioned near the alignment material column **15**. Accordingly, the liquid crystal material **500** is injected into the microcavity **305** of which an inner area is exposed by the first injection hole **307a**, and the liquid crystal material **500** does not remain in the first valley **V1**.

On the other hand, referring to FIG. 9, when the nozzle **600** drops the liquid crystal material **500** near an edge at a position adjacent to the second injection hole **307b** with the alignment material column **15** adjacent thereto, the liquid crystal material **500** is uniformly positioned over the entire area of the first valley **V1**.

As illustrated in FIG. 10, the liquid crystal material **500** dropped in the first valley **V1** is partially injected into the microcavity **305** through the first injection hole **307a**. Since the second injection hole **307b** is blocked by the alignment material column **15**, the liquid crystal material **500** is not injected to an adjacent microcavity **305** through the facing second injection hole **307b**.

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The liquid crystal material **500** is divided into portions disposed at both sides of the break point **BP**. Since most of the liquid crystal material **500** is positioned in the first injection hole **307a** direction with respect to the break point **BP**, the liquid crystal material **500** is partially injected into the microcavity **305** through the first injection hole **307a**. Since the capillary force and the surface energy of the break point **BP** are higher than those around the break point **BP**, some of the liquid crystal material **500** positioned in the alignment material column **15** direction with respect to the break point **BP** moves toward the first injection hole **307a**.

As illustrated in FIG. 11, a majority of the liquid crystal material **500** dropped in the first valley **V1** is injected into the microcavity **305** through the first injection hole **307a**. Only a relatively small amount of the liquid crystal material **500** is left in the first valley **V1** at or adjacent to the alignment material column **15**.

With reference to FIG. 1, when the display device according to the invention is actually manufactured by the method described for FIG. 9 to FIG. 11, it can be seen that the liquid crystal material **500** slightly left only at one edge of the first valley **V1**, but is not left at the remaining portion of the first valley **V1**.

As such, the liquid crystal material **500** is substantially not left in the first valley **V1**, and as a result, coating of the encapsulation layer **390** may be performed with little difficulty, and generation of spots in the display device may be reduced or effectively prevented.

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

What is claimed is:

1. A display device, comprising:

- a substrate;
- a pixel electrode on the substrate;
- a roof layer on the pixel electrode and spaced apart from the pixel electrode,
- a plurality of microcavities defined between the pixel electrode and the roof layer, each of which comprises a first edge opposite to a second edge thereof;
- a light blocking member between two adjacent microcavities of the plurality of microcavities, overlapping the first edge of one microcavity of the two microcavities, and not overlapping the second edge of the other microcavity of the two microcavities;
- an injection hole exposing an inner area of a microcavity;
- a liquid crystal layer in the microcavity; and
- an encapsulation layer on the roof layer, which covers the injection hole and seals the microcavity.

2. The display device of claim 1, wherein:

the light blocking member is between the pixel electrode and the roof layer.

3. The display device of claim 2, further comprising:

- a first alignment layer on the pixel electrode;
- a second alignment layer below the roof layer; and
- an alignment material column connecting the first alignment layer and the second alignment layer to each other.

4. The display device of claim 3, further comprising

- a first injection hole at a side of the first edge of the microcavity, and
- a second injection hole at a side of the second edge of the microcavity.

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5. The display device of claim 4, wherein:
the alignment material column is adjacent to the second injection hole.
6. The display device of claim 5, wherein: 5
the light blocking member overlaps the first injection hole.
7. The display device of claim 6, wherein:
the light blocking member does not overlap the second injection hole. 10
8. The display device of claim 7, wherein:
the light blocking member is spaced apart from the alignment material column in a plan view.
9. The display device of claim 2, wherein: 15
the light blocking member comprises a material having higher surface energy than that of the pixel electrode.
10. The display device of claim 2, further comprising: 20
a first insulating layer below the pixel electrode and the light blocking member.

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11. The display device of claim 10, wherein:
the light blocking member comprises a material having higher surface energy than that of the first insulating layer.
12. The display device of claim 1, wherein:
the plurality of microcavities is in a matrix form in a plan view.
13. The display device of claim 12, wherein:
the two adjacent microcavities are vertically adjacent to each other.
14. The display device of claim 1, further comprising:
a thin film transistor connected with the pixel electrode, and between the two adjacent microcavities.
15. The display device of claim 14, wherein:
the light blocking member overlaps the thin film transistor.
16. The display device of claim 1, further comprising:
a common electrode below the roof layer.
17. The display device of claim 1, wherein:
the light blocking member contacts the liquid crystal layer.

* * * * *

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[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	三星显示有限公司		
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摘要(译)

提供一种能够防止液晶被留在微腔外部的显示装置。显示装置包括：基板；形成在所述基板上的像素电极；顶部层，形成在所述像素电极上，以与所述像素电极间隔开，其间具有多个微腔；光阻挡构件，其定位在所述多个微腔中的两个微腔之间，与所述两个微腔中的一个微腔的第一边缘重叠，并且不与所述另一个微腔的第二边缘重叠；注入孔，暴露微腔的一部分；填充所述微腔的液晶层；以及封装层，形成在所述顶层上，以覆盖所述注入孔以密封所述微腔。

