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(54) **ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DISPLAY
DEVICE WITH FRIT SEAL AND
REINFORCING STRUCTURE BONDED TO
FRAME**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Disclosed is an organic light-emitting display device in which a substrate and an encapsulation substrate are joined by a frit and a reinforcing structure. The first substrate has a pixel region in which an organic light-emitting diode is formed, and a non-pixel region formed outside the pixel region. The second substrate is attached the first substrate by the frit. A bracket is joined with substrates by the reinforcing structure. A curable material is applied to inside the frame, moves between the first and second substrates, and then cured to form the reinforcing structure.

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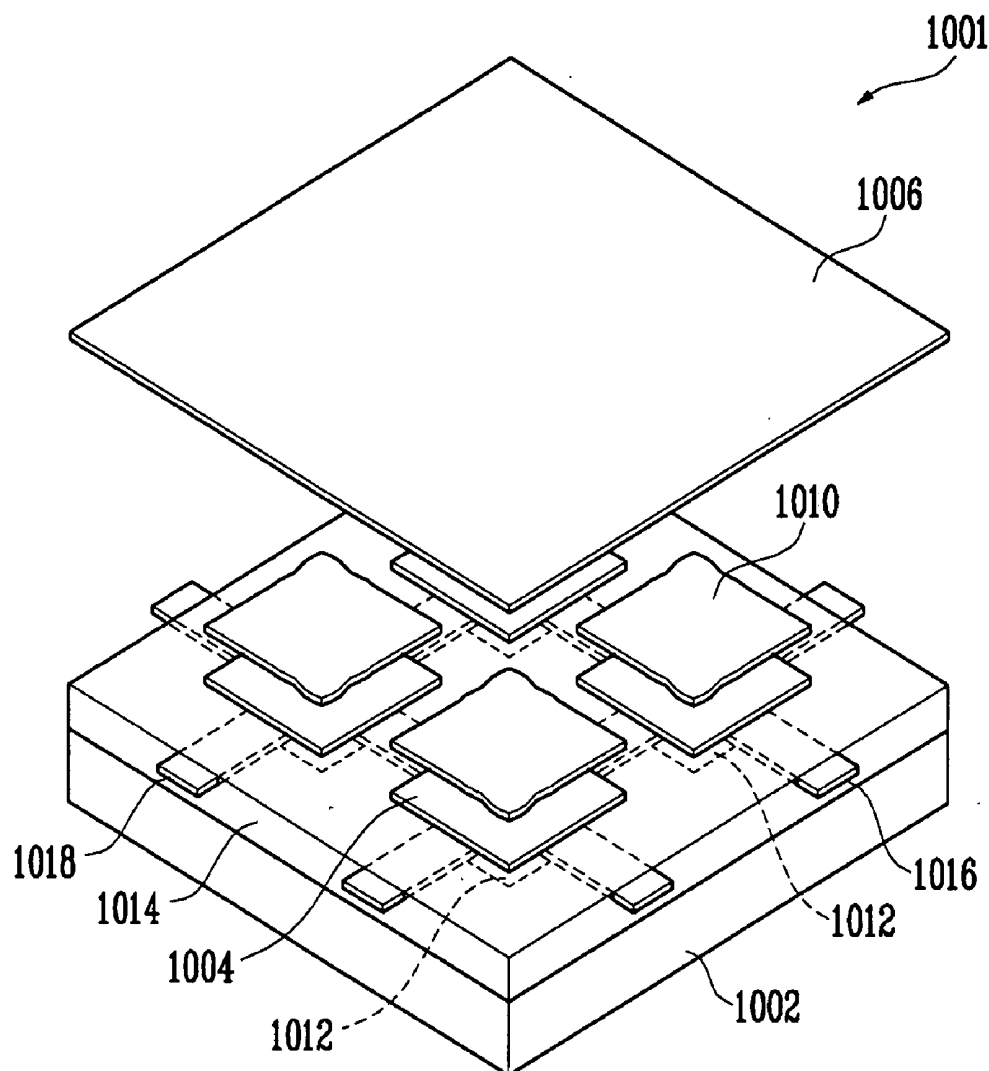


FIG. 1

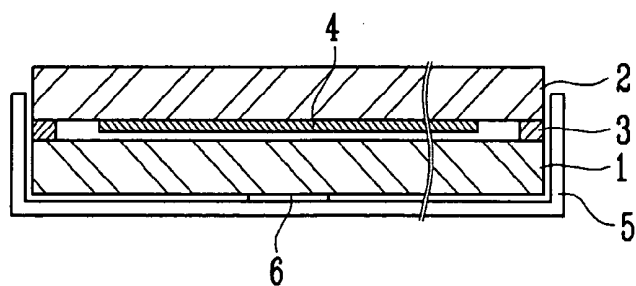


FIG. 2

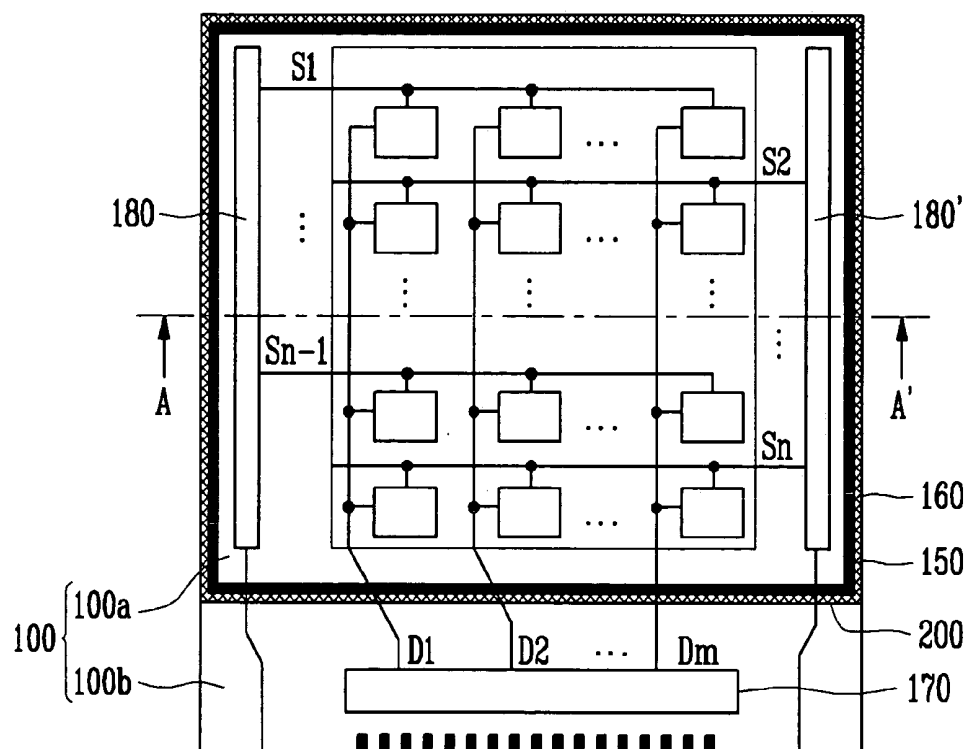


FIG. 3

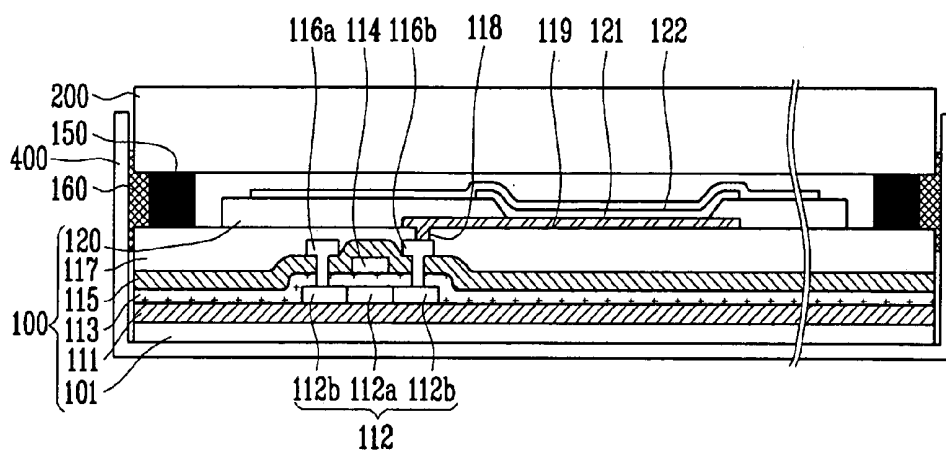


FIG. 4A

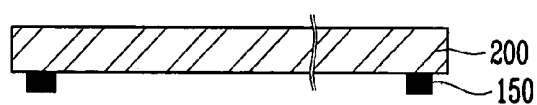


FIG. 4B

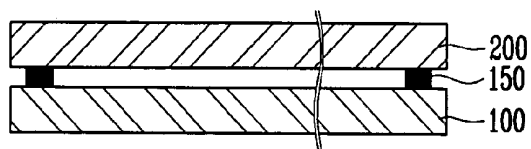


FIG. 4C

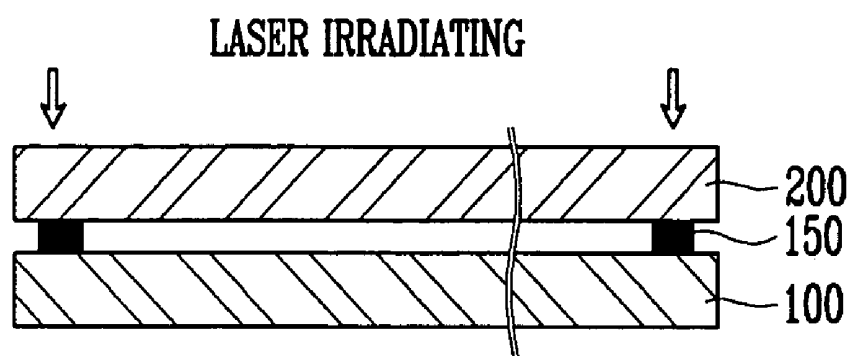


FIG. 4D

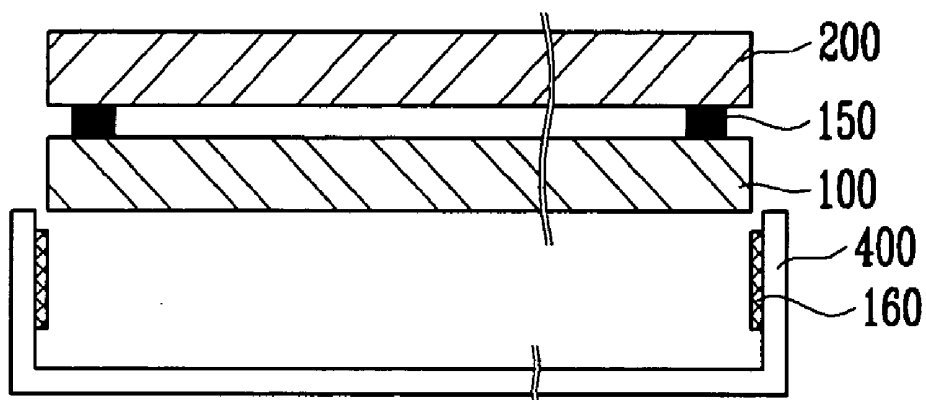


FIG. 4E

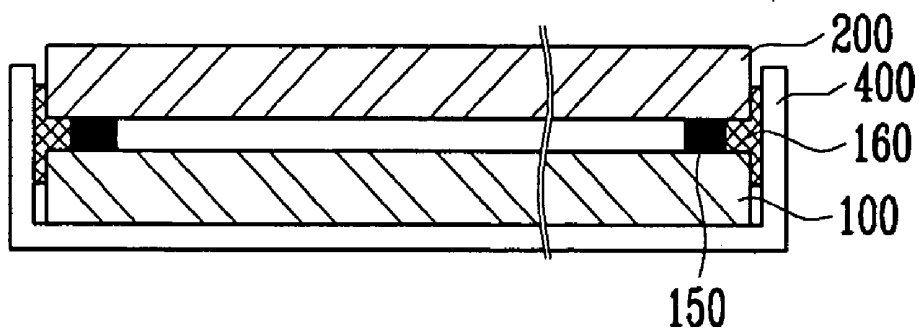


FIG. 5A

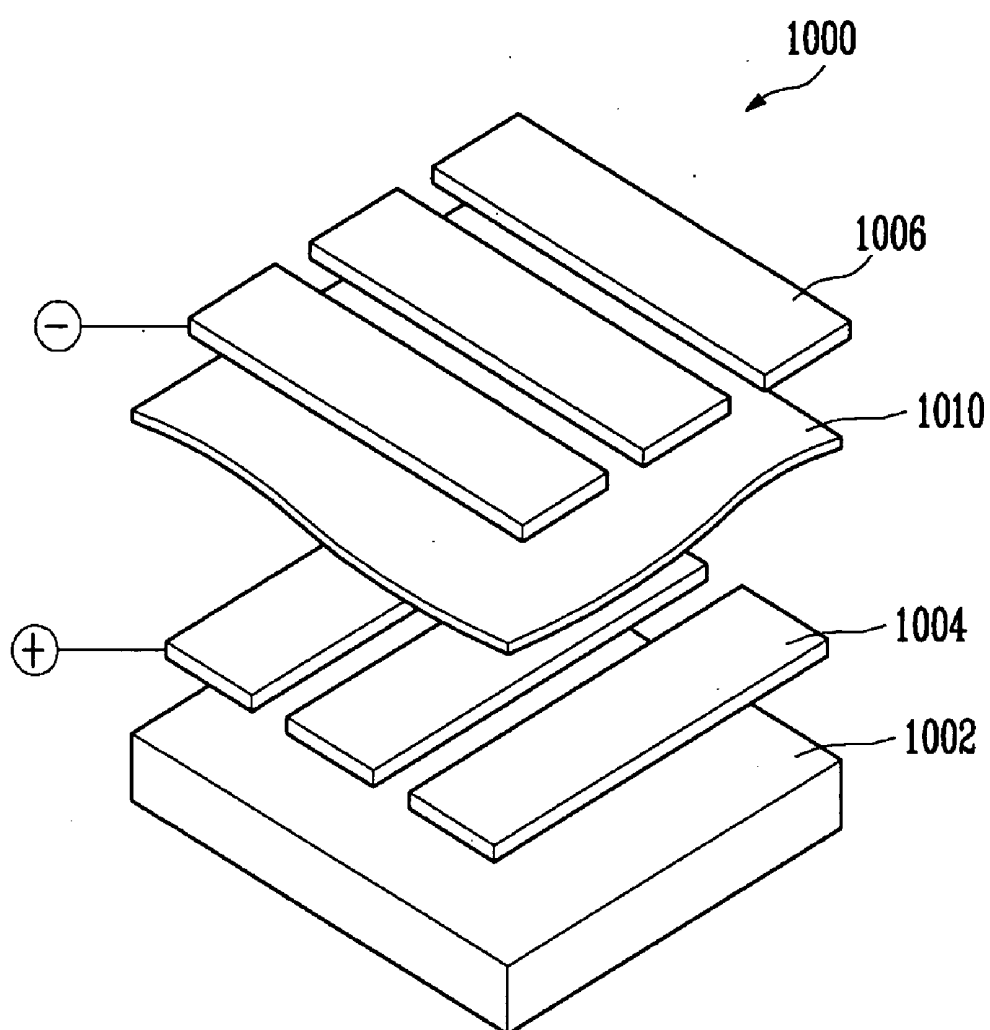


FIG. 5B

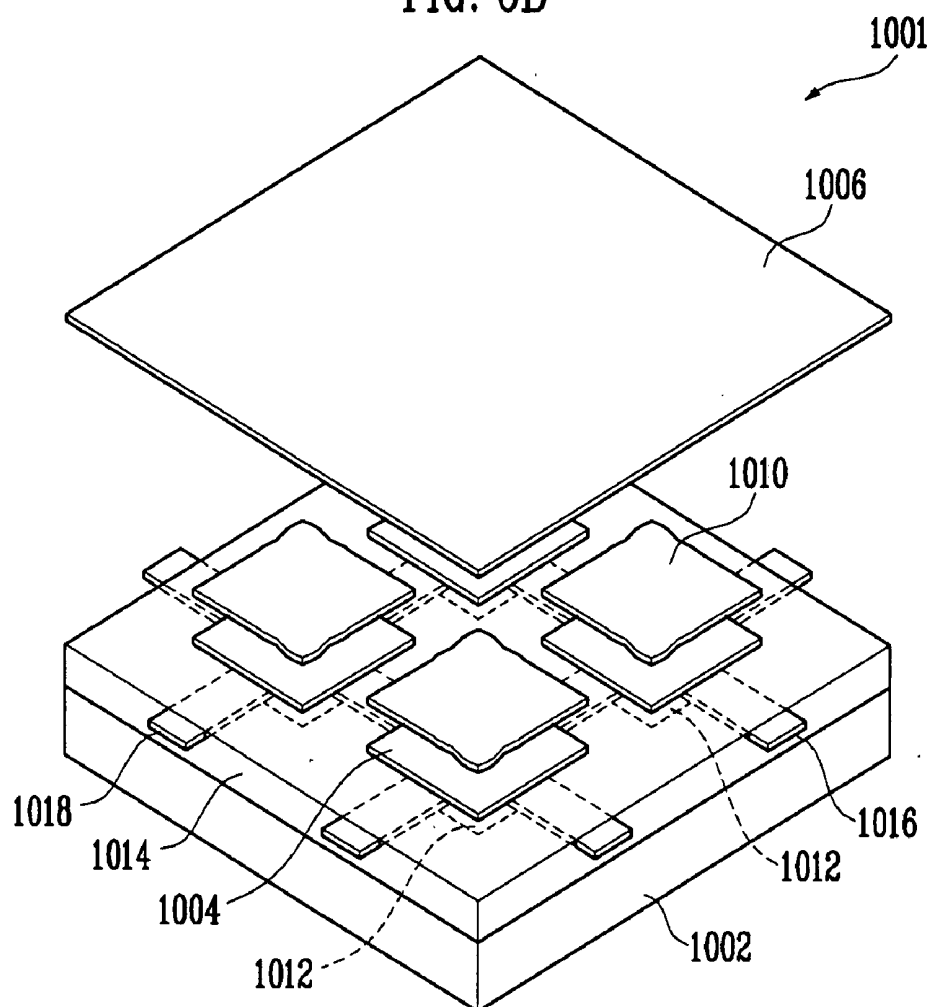


FIG. 5C

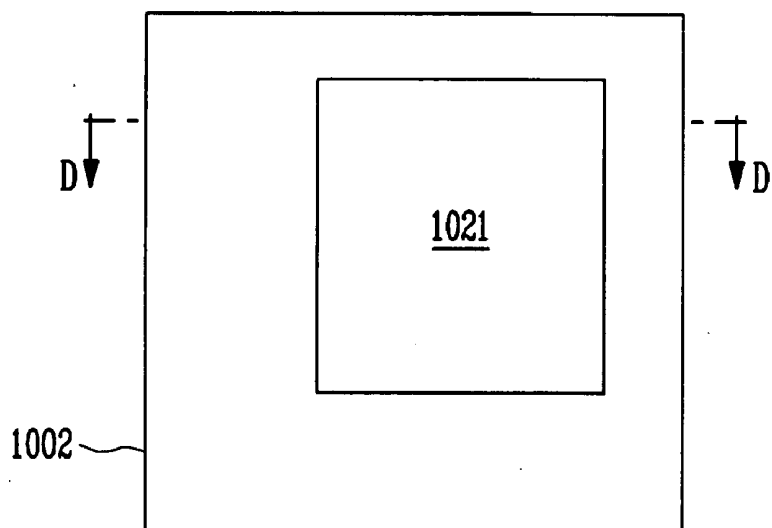


FIG. 5D

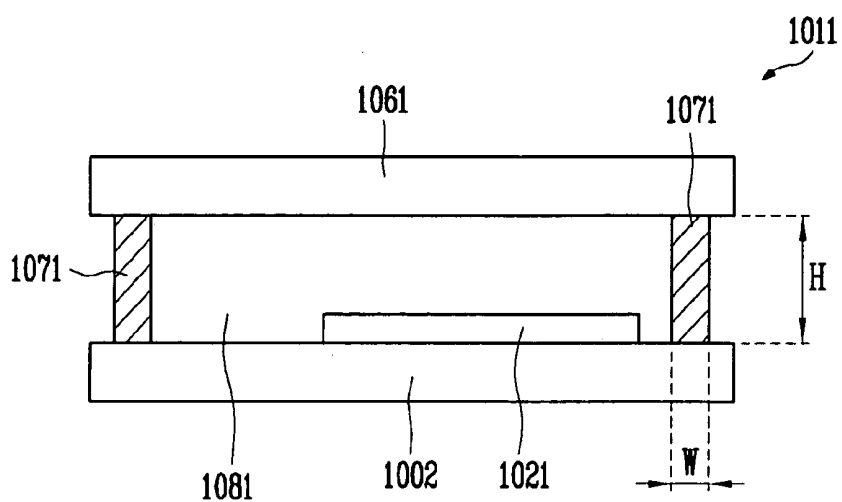
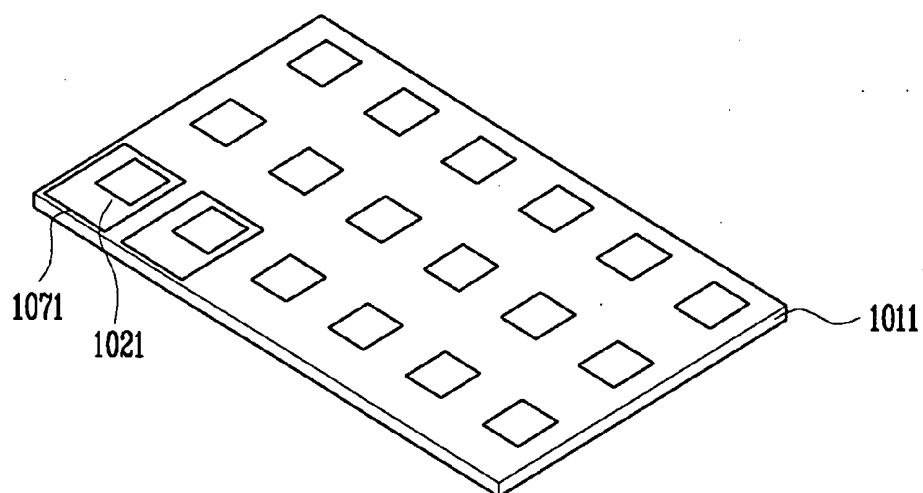


FIG. 5E



**ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DISPLAY
DEVICE WITH FRIT SEAL AND
REINFORCING STRUCTURE BONDED TO
FRAME**

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of Korean Patent Application No. 2006-7893, filed on Jan. 25, 2006, in the Korean Intellectual Property Office, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. This application is related to and incorporates herein by reference the entire contents of the following concurrently filed applications:

Title	Atty. Docket No.	Filing Date	Application No.
ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DISPLAY DEVICE AND METHOD OF FABRICATING THE SAME	SDISHN.043AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DISPLAY DEVICE AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME	SDISHN.045AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY DEVICE	SDISHN.048AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DISPLAY DEVICE WITH FRIT SEAL AND REINFORCING STRUCTURE	SDISHN.051AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY DEVICE METHOD OF FABRICATING THE SAME	SDISHN.052AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY AND METHOD OF FABRICATING THE SAME	SDISHN.053AUS		
METHOD FOR PACKAGING ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY WITH FRIT SEAL AND REINFORCING STRUCTURE	SDISHN.055AUS		
METHOD FOR PACKAGING ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY WITH FRIT SEAL AND REINFORCING STRUCTURE	SDISHN.056AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DISPLAY DEVICE AND THE PREPARATION METHOD OF THE SAME	SDISHN.060AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY AND FABRICATING METHOD OF THE SAME	SDISHN.061AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DISPLAY AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME	SDISHN.062AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY AND FABRICATING METHOD OF THE SAME	SDISHN.063AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY DEVICE AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF	SDISHN.064AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DISPLAY DEVICE AND MANUFACTURING METHOD OF THE SAME	SDISHN.066AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY AND METHOD OF FABRICATING THE SAME	SDISW.017AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY DEVICE METHOD OF FABRICATING THE SAME	SDISW.018AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY AND METHOD OF FABRICATING THE SAME	SDISW.020AUS		

BACKGROUND

[0002] 1. Field of the Invention

[0003] The present invention relates to organic light-emitting display devices and, more particularly, to packaging such devices.

[0004] 2. Discussion of Related Art

[0005] An organic light-emitting display device is one of the flat panel displays in which an electron injected to one electrode and a hole injected to the other electrode binds to each other in an organic light-emitting layer when the organic light-emitting layer is arranged between facing electrodes and a voltage is applied to both electrodes, wherein when luminescent molecules of the light-emitting layer are excited by binding of the electron and the hole, energy is emitted by returning to a ground state, and then converted into the light. The organic light-emitting display devices exhibiting such a light-emission principle has drawn attention as a next-generation display since they are excellent in visibility, and they may be also manufactured in a light weight and thin shape and driven at a low voltage. U.S. Pat. No. 6,998,776 B2 discloses that an organic light-emitting display includes a first substrate plate, a second substrate plate and a frit connecting the plates.

SUMMARY OF CERTAIN INVENTIVE ASPECTS

[0006] An aspect of the invention provides an organic light-emitting display device, which may comprises: an organic light-emitting display unit comprising: a front substrate comprising a front surface and a first side surface, a rear substrate comprising a rear surface and a first side surface, the rear substrate opposing the front substrate, an array of organic light-emitting pixels interposed between the front and rear substrates, a frit seal interposed between the front substrate and the rear substrate while surrounding the array, wherein the frit seal, the front substrate and the rear substrate together define an enclosed space in which the array is located, the frit seal comprising a first side surface, and a first side comprising the first side surfaces of the front substrate, the rear substrate and the frit seal; a bracket comprising a first surface generally opposing the first side of the unit and connected to the first side of the unit; and a first structure interconnecting the first surface of the bracket and the first side of the unit.

[0007] In the foregoing device, the first structure may be formed in substantially the entire area between the first surface of the bracket and the first side of the unit. The first structure may be formed on substantially throughout the first surface of the bracket. The first structure may be bonded to the first surface of the bracket and bonded to either or both of the first side surfaces of the front and rear substrates. The first structure may be bonded to the first side surface of the frit seal. The front substrate, the rear substrate and the first side surface of the frit seal may define a gap space, and wherein the first structure may comprise a portion extending into the gap space and interposed between the front and rear substrates. The bracket may further comprise a rear wall opposing the rear substrate. The rear wall of the bracket may be bonded to the rear surface of the rear substrate. The bracket may comprise a rear wall opposing the rear substrate, and the bracket may further comprise a plurality of side walls extending from the rear wall at an angle, and wherein a first one of the plurality of the side walls may

provide the first surface opposing the first side of the unit. The first side wall may extend substantially parallel to at least one of the first side surfaces of the front and rear substrates. The first side wall may cover substantially the entirety of the first side of the unit. The first side wall may not cover at least part of the first side surface of the front substrate while generally opposing the first side of the unit. The first side wall may not cover the first side surface of the front substrate while generally opposing the first side of the unit. The structure may comprise a layer comprising a polymeric material.

[0008] Still in the foregoing device, the unit may further comprise a plurality additional sides, wherein the bracket comprises a first side wall and a plurality of additional side walls, the first side wall providing the first surface of the frame, wherein each of the plurality of additional side walls of the bracket may comprise a surface generally opposing one of the plurality of additional sides of the unit, wherein the device may further comprise a plurality of additional structures, each of which interconnects one of the plurality of additional side walls and one of the plurality of additional sides of the unit. The first side wall and the plurality of additional side walls may form a closed loop surrounding the first side and the plurality of additional sides of the unit. The front substrate may further comprise a second side surface, wherein the rear substrate may further comprise a second side surface, wherein the frit seal may further comprise a second side surface, wherein the second side surfaces of the front substrate, the second substrate and the frit seal generally face the same direction, wherein the unit may further comprise a second side comprising a second side surface of the front substrate, a second side surface of the rear substrate and a second side surface of the frit seal, wherein the bracket may further comprise a second surface generally opposing the second side of the device, and wherein the unit may further comprise a second structure interconnecting the second side of the unit and the second surface of the frame. The first and second structures may be integrated. The first and second structures may be separated. The frit seal may comprise one or more materials selected from the group consisting of magnesium oxide (MgO), calcium oxide (CaO), barium oxide (BaO), lithium oxide (Li₂O), sodium oxide (Na₂O), potassium oxide (K₂O), boron oxide (B₂O₃), vanadium oxide (V₂O₅), zinc oxide (ZnO), tellurium oxide (TeO₂), aluminum oxide (Al₂O₃), silicon dioxide (SiO₂), lead oxide (PbO), tin oxide (SnO), phosphorous oxide (P₂O₅), ruthenium oxide (Ru₂O), rubidium oxide (Rb₂O), rhodium oxide (Rh₂O), ferrite oxide (Fe₂O₃), copper oxide (CuO), titanium oxide (TiO₂), tungsten oxide (WO₃), bismuth oxide (Bi₂O₃), antimony oxide (Sb₂O₃), lead-borate glass, tin-phosphate glass, vanadate glass, and borosilicate.

[0009] Another aspect of the invention provides a method of making an organic light-emitting display device, which may comprises: providing a device comprising: a front substrate comprising a front surface and a first side surface, a rear substrate comprising a rear surface and a first side surface, the rear substrate opposing the front substrate, an array of organic light-emitting pixels interposed between the front and rear substrates, a frit seal interposed between the front substrate and the rear substrate while surrounding the array, wherein the frit seal, the front substrate and the rear substrate together define an enclosed space in which the array is located, the frit seal comprising a first side surface,

and a first side comprising the first sides of the front substrate, the rear substrate and the frit seal; placing a bracket comprising a first surface so as to generally the first side of the device; and forming a structure between and interconnecting the first surface of the bracket and the first side of the device.

[0010] In the foregoing method, the method may further comprise forming a curable material on the first surface of the frame, and wherein placing the bracket may comprise arranging the bracket with respect to the device such that the curable material contacts the first side of the device. The method may further comprise curing the curable material, thereby forming the structure. A viscosity of the curable material may be less than about 5000 cP. The bracket may further comprise a rear wall, and wherein placing the bracket may further comprise arranging the rear wall so as to oppose the rear substrate.

[0011] Still another aspect of the present invention provides an organic light-emitting display device including a first substrate comprising a pixel region in which an organic light-emitting diode is formed in a surface thereof, and a non-pixel region formed in a circumference of the pixel region, the organic light-emitting diode comprising an organic light-emitting layer between a first electrode and a second electrode; a second substrate attached to one surface comprising the pixel region of the first substrate; a frit provided between the non-pixel region of the first substrate and the second substrate and attaching the first substrate and the second substrate to each other; a bracket with which the first substrate and the second substrate, both attached to each other, are mounted; and a reinforcement material applied to an inner wall of the bracket, infiltrated between the attached first and second substrates, and then cured.

[0012] Further aspect of the present invention provides a method for preparing an organic light-emitting display device including a first substrate including an organic light-emitting diode, and an encapsulation substrate for encapsulating at least a pixel region of the substrate, the method including the first step of applying a frit to form a line spaced apart from an edge of the encapsulation substrate; the second step of attaching a deposition substrate, on which an organic light-emitting diode is deposited, to the second substrate; the third step of melting the frit to attach the first substrate and the second substrate to each other by irradiating a laser or an infrared ray to the frit between the first substrate and the second substrate, both attached to each other; the fourth step of applying a reinforcement material for filling a gap between the first substrate and the second substrate in an inner wall of the bracket with which the attached first and second substrates are mounted; and the fifth step of mounting the first and second substrates so that the sealing material applied in the inner wall of the bracket can be in contact with the gap between the first substrate and the second substrate, both attached to each other. The organic light-emitting diode may be completely protected from the open air by completely coalescing a substrate and an encapsulation substrate to each other using a frit and solving brittleness of the organic light-emitting display device when the frit is used herein.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0013] These and other aspects and advantages of the invention will become apparent and more readily appreci-

ated from the following description of the embodiments, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings of which:

[0014] FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view showing an organic light-emitting display device;

[0015] FIG. 2 is a plan view showing an organic light-emitting display device according to one embodiment of the present invention;

[0016] FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken along a line A-A' of FIG. 2;

[0017] FIGS. 4a to 4d are cross-sectional views showing a process for preparing an organic light-emitting display device according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0018] FIG. 5A is a schematic exploded view of a passive matrix type organic light emitting display device in accordance with one embodiment.

[0019] FIG. 5B is a schematic exploded view of an active matrix type organic light emitting display device in accordance with one embodiment.

[0020] FIG. 5C is a schematic top plan view of an organic light emitting display in accordance with one embodiment.

[0021] FIG. 5D is a cross-sectional view of the organic light emitting display of FIG. 5C, taken along the line d-d.

[0022] FIG. 5E is a schematic perspective view illustrating mass production of organic light emitting devices in accordance with one embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

[0023] Hereinafter, embodiments according to the present invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

[0024] An organic light emitting display (OLED) is a display device comprising an array of organic light emitting diodes. Organic light emitting diodes are solid state devices which include an organic material and are adapted to generate and emit light when appropriate electrical potentials are applied.

[0025] OLEDs can be generally grouped into two basic types dependent on the arrangement with which the stimulating electrical current is provided. FIG. 6A schematically illustrates an exploded view of a simplified structure of a passive matrix type OLED 1000. FIG. 5B schematically illustrates a simplified structure of an active matrix type OLED 1001. In both configurations, the OLED 1000, 1001 includes OLED pixels built over a substrate 1002, and the OLED pixels include an anode 1004, a cathode 1006 and an organic layer 1010. When an appropriate electrical current is applied to the anode 1004, electric current flows through the pixels and visible light is emitted from the organic layer.

[0026] Referring to FIG. 5A, the passive matrix OLED (PMOLED) design includes elongate strips of anode 1004 arranged generally perpendicular to elongate strips of cathode 1006 with organic layers interposed therebetween. The intersections of the strips of cathode 1006 and anode 1004 define individual OLED pixels where light is generated and emitted upon appropriate excitation of the corresponding strips of anode 1004 and cathode 1006. PMOLEDs provide the advantage of relatively simple fabrication.

[0027] Referring to FIG. 5B, the active matrix OLED (AMOLED) includes local driving circuits 1012 arranged between the substrate 1002 and an array of OLED pixels. An individual pixel of AMOLEDs is defined between the common cathode 1006 and an anode 1004, which is electrically isolated from other anodes. Each driving circuit 1012 is

coupled with an anode **1004** of the OLED pixels and further coupled with a data line **1016** and a scan line **1018**. In embodiments, the scan lines **1018** supply scan signals that select rows of the driving circuits, and the data lines **1016** supply data signals for particular driving circuits. The data signals and scan signals stimulate the local driving circuits **1012**, which excite the anodes **1004** so as to emit light from their corresponding pixels.

[**0028**] In the illustrated AMOLED, the local driving circuits **1012**, the data lines **1016** and scan lines **1018** are buried in a planarization layer **1014**, which is interposed between the pixel array and the substrate **1002**. The planarization layer **1014** provides a planar top surface on which the organic light emitting pixel array is formed. The planarization layer **1014** may be formed of organic or inorganic materials, and formed of two or more layers although shown as a single layer. The local driving circuits **1012** are typically formed with thin film transistors (TFT) and arranged in a grid or array under the OLED pixel array. The local driving circuits **1012** may be at least partly made of organic materials, including organic TFT. AMOLEDs have the advantage of fast response time improving their desirability for use in displaying data signals. Also, AMOLEDs have the advantages of consuming less power than passive matrix OLEDs.

[**0029**] Referring to common features of the PMOLED and AMOLED designs, the substrate **1002** provides structural support for the OLED pixels and circuits. In various embodiments, the substrate **1002** can comprise rigid or flexible materials as well as opaque or transparent materials, such as plastic, glass, and/or foil. As noted above, each OLED pixel or diode is formed with the anode **1004**, cathode **1006** and organic layer **1010** interposed therebetween. When an appropriate electrical current is applied to the anode **1004**, the cathode **1006** injects electrons and the anode **1004** injects holes. In certain embodiments, the anode **1004** and cathode **1006** are inverted; i.e., the cathode is formed on the substrate **1002** and the anode is oppositely arranged.

[**0030**] Interposed between the cathode **1006** and anode **1004** are one or more organic layers. More specifically, at least one emissive or light emitting layer is interposed between the cathode **1006** and anode **1004**. The light emitting layer may comprise one or more light emitting organic compounds. Typically, the light emitting layer is configured to emit visible light in a single color such as blue, green, red or white. In the illustrated embodiment, one organic layer **1010** is formed between the cathode **1006** and anode **1004** and acts as a light emitting layer. Additional layers, which can be formed between the anode **1004** and cathode **1006**, can include a hole transporting layer, a hole injection layer, an electron transporting layer and an electron injection layer.

[**0031**] Hole transporting and/or injection layers can be interposed between the light emitting layer **1010** and the anode **1004**. Electron transporting and/or injecting layers can be interposed between the cathode **1006** and the light emitting layer **1010**. The electron injection layer facilitates injection of electrons from the cathode **1006** toward the light emitting layer **1010** by reducing the work function for injecting electrons from the cathode **1006**. Similarly, the hole injection layer facilitates injection of holes from the anode **1004** toward the light emitting layer **1010**. The hole and electron transporting layers facilitate movement of the carriers injected from the respective electrodes toward the light emitting layer.

[**0032**] In some embodiments, a single layer may serve both electron injection and transportation functions or both hole injection and transportation functions. In some embodiments, one or more of these layers are lacking. In some embodiments, one or more organic layers are doped with one or more materials that help injection and/or transportation of the carriers. In embodiments where only one organic layer is formed between the cathode and anode, the organic layer may include not only an organic light emitting compound but also certain functional materials that help injection or transportation of carriers within that layer.

[**0033**] There are numerous organic materials that have been developed for use in these layers including the light emitting layer. Also, numerous other organic materials for use in these layers are being developed. In some embodiments, these organic materials may be macromolecules including oligomers and polymers. In some embodiments, the organic materials for these layers may be relatively small molecules. The skilled artisan will be able to select appropriate materials for each of these layers in view of the desired functions of the individual layers and the materials for the neighboring layers in particular designs.

[**0034**] In operation, an electrical circuit provides appropriate potential between the cathode **1006** and anode **1004**. This results in an electrical current flowing from the anode **1004** to the cathode **1006** via the interposed organic layer(s). In one embodiment, the cathode **1006** provides electrons to the adjacent organic layer **1010**. The anode **1004** injects holes to the organic layer **1010**. The holes and electrons recombine in the organic layer **1010** and generate energy particles called "excitons." The excitons transfer their energy to the organic light emitting material in the organic layer **1010**, and the energy is used to emit visible light from the organic light emitting material. The spectral characteristics of light generated and emitted by the OLED **1000**, **1001** depend on the nature and composition of organic molecules in the organic layer(s). The composition of the one or more organic layers can be selected to suit the needs of a particular application by one of ordinary skill in the art.

[**0035**] OLED devices can also be categorized based on the direction of the light emission. In one type referred to as "top emission" type, OLED devices emit light and display images through the cathode or top electrode **1006**. In these embodiments, the cathode **1006** is made of a material transparent or at least partially transparent with respect to visible light. In certain embodiments, to avoid losing any light that can pass through the anode or bottom electrode **1004**, the anode may be made of a material substantially reflective of the visible light. A second type of OLED devices emits light through the anode or bottom electrode **1004** and is called "bottom emission" type. In the bottom emission type OLED devices, the anode **1004** is made of a material which is at least partially transparent with respect to visible light. Often, in bottom emission type OLED devices, the cathode **1006** is made of a material substantially reflective of the visible light. A third type of OLED devices emits light in two directions, e.g. through both anode **1004** and cathode **1006**. Depending upon the direction(s) of the light emission, the substrate may be formed of a material which is transparent, opaque or reflective of visible light.

[**0036**] In many embodiments, an OLED pixel array **1021** comprising a plurality of organic light emitting pixels is arranged over a substrate **1002** as shown in FIG. 5C. In embodiments, the pixels in the array **1021** are controlled to

be turned on and off by a driving circuit (not shown), and the plurality of the pixels as a whole displays information or image on the array **1021**. In certain embodiments, the OLED pixel array **1021** is arranged with respect to other components, such as drive and control electronics to define a display region and a non-display region. In these embodiments, the display region refers to the area of the substrate **1002** where OLED pixel array **1021** is formed. The non-display region refers to the remaining areas of the substrate **1002**. In embodiments, the non-display region can contain logic and/or power supply circuitry. It will be understood that there will be at least portions of control/drive circuit elements arranged within the display region. For example, in PMOLEDs, conductive components will extend into the display region to provide appropriate potential to the anode and cathodes. In AMOLEDs, local driving circuits and data/scan lines coupled with the driving circuits will extend into the display region to drive and control the individual pixels of the AMOLEDs.

[0037] One design and fabrication consideration in OLED devices is that certain organic material layers of OLED devices can suffer damage or accelerated deterioration from exposure to water, oxygen or other harmful gases. Accordingly, it is generally understood that OLED devices be sealed or encapsulated to inhibit exposure to moisture and oxygen or other harmful gases found in a manufacturing or operational environment. FIG. 5D schematically illustrates a cross-section of an encapsulated OLED device **1011** having a layout of FIG. 5C and taken along the line d-d of FIG. 5C. In this embodiment, a generally planar top plate or substrate **1061** engages with a seal **1071** which further engages with a bottom plate or substrate **1002** to enclose or encapsulate the OLED pixel array **1021**. In other embodiments, one or more layers are formed on the top plate **1061** or bottom plate **1002**, and the seal **1071** is coupled with the bottom or top substrate **1002**, **1061** via such a layer. In the illustrated embodiment, the seal **1071** extends along the periphery of the OLED pixel array **1021** or the bottom or top plate **1002**, **1061**.

[0038] In embodiments, the seal **1071** is made of a frit material as will be further discussed below. In various embodiments, the top and bottom plates **1061**, **1002** comprise materials such as plastics, glass and/or metal foils which can provide a barrier to passage of oxygen and/or water to thereby protect the OLED pixel array **1021** from exposure to these substances. In embodiments, at least one of the top plate **1061** and the bottom plate **1002** are formed of a substantially transparent material.

[0039] To lengthen the life time of OLED devices **1011**, it is generally desired that seal **1071** and the top and bottom plates **1061**, **1002** provide a substantially non-permeable seal to oxygen and water vapor and provide a substantially hermetically enclosed space **1081**. In certain applications, it is indicated that the seal **1071** of a frit material in combination with the top and bottom plates **1061**, **1002** provide a barrier to oxygen of less than approximately 10^{-3} cc/m²-day and to water of less than 10^{-6} g/m²-day. Given that some oxygen and moisture can permeate into the enclosed space **1081**, in some embodiments, a material that can take up oxygen and/or moisture is formed within the enclosed space **1081**.

[0040] The seal **1071** has a width W, which is its thickness in a direction parallel to a surface of the top or bottom substrate **1061**, **1002** as shown in FIG. 5D. The width varies

among embodiments and ranges from about 300 μ m to about 3000 μ m, optionally from about 500 μ m to about 1500 μ m. Also, the width may vary at different positions of the seal **1071**. In some embodiments, the width of the seal **1071** may be the largest where the seal **1071** contacts one of the bottom and top substrate **1002**, **1061** or a layer formed thereon. The width may be the smallest where the seal **1071** contacts the other. The width variation in a single cross-section of the seal **1071** relates to the cross-sectional shape of the seal **1071** and other design parameters.

[0041] The seal **1071** has a height H, which is its thickness in a direction perpendicular to a surface of the top or bottom substrate **1061**, **1002** as shown in FIG. 5D. The height varies among embodiments and ranges from about 2 μ m to about 30 μ m, optionally from about 10 μ m to about 15 μ m. Generally, the height does not significantly vary at different positions of the seal **1071**. However, in certain embodiments, the height of the seal **1071** may vary at different positions thereof.

[0042] In the illustrated embodiment, the seal **1071** has a generally rectangular cross-section. In other embodiments, however, the seal **1071** can have other various cross-sectional shapes such as a generally square cross-section, a generally trapezoidal cross-section, a cross-section with one or more rounded edges, or other configuration as indicated by the needs of a given application. To improve hermeticity, it is generally desired to increase the interfacial area where the seal **1071** directly contacts the bottom or top substrate **1002**, **1061** or a layer formed thereon. In some embodiments, the shape of the seal can be designed such that the interfacial area can be increased.

[0043] The seal **1071** can be arranged immediately adjacent the OLED array **1021**, and in other embodiments, the seal **1071** is spaced some distance from the OLED array **1021**. In certain embodiment, the seal **1071** comprises generally linear segments that are connected together to surround the OLED array **1021**. Such linear segments of the seal **1071** can extend, in certain embodiments, generally parallel to respective boundaries of the OLED array **1021**. In other embodiment, one or more of the linear segments of the seal **1071** are arranged in a non-parallel relationship with respective boundaries of the OLED array **1021**. In yet other embodiments, at least part of the seal **1071** extends between the top plate **1061** and bottom plate **1002** in a curvilinear manner.

[0044] As noted above, in certain embodiments, the seal **1071** is formed using a frit material or simply "frit" or glass frit," which includes fine glass particles. The frit particles includes one or more of magnesium oxide (MgO), calcium oxide (CaO), barium oxide (BaO), lithium oxide (Li₂O), sodium oxide (Na₂O), potassium oxide (K₂O), boron oxide (B₂O₃), vanadium oxide (V₂O₅), zinc oxide (ZnO), tellurium oxide (TeO₂), aluminum oxide (Al₂O₃), silicon dioxide (SiO₂), lead oxide (PbO), tin oxide (SnO), phosphorous oxide (P₂O₃), ruthenium oxide (Ru₂O), rubidium oxide (Rb₂O), rhodium oxide (Rh₂O), ferrite oxide (Fe₂O₃), copper oxide (CuO), titanium oxide (TiO₂), tungsten oxide (WO₃), bismuth oxide (Bi₂O₃), antimony oxide (Sb₂O₃), lead-borate glass, tin-phosphate glass, vanadate glass, and borosilicate, etc. In embodiments, these particles range in size from about 2 μ m to about 30 μ m, optionally about 5 μ m to about 10 μ m, although not limited only thereto. The particles can be as large as about the distance between the

top and bottom substrates **1061**, **1002** or any layers formed on these substrates where the frit seal **1071** contacts.

[0045] The frit material used to form the seal **1071** can also include one or more filler or additive materials. The filler or additive materials can be provided to adjust an overall thermal expansion characteristic of the seal **1071** and/or to adjust the absorption characteristics of the seal **1071** for selected frequencies of incident radiant energy. The filler or additive material(s) can also include inversion and/or additive fillers to adjust a coefficient of thermal expansion of the frit. For example, the filler or additive materials can include transition metals, such as chromium (Cr), iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), cobalt (Co), copper (Cu), and/or vanadium. Additional materials for the filler or additives include ZnSiO_4 , PbTiO_3 , ZrO_2 , eucryptite.

[0046] In embodiments, a frit material as a dry composition contains glass particles from about 20 to 90 about wt %, and the remaining includes fillers and/or additives. In some embodiments, the frit paste contains about 10-30 wt % organic materials and about 70-90% inorganic materials. In some embodiments, the frit paste contains about 20 wt % organic materials and about 80 wt % inorganic materials. In some embodiments, the organic materials may include about 0-30 wt % binder(s) and about 70-100 wt % solvent(s). In some embodiments, about 10 wt % is binder(s) and about 90 wt % is solvent(s) among the organic materials. In some embodiments, the inorganic materials may include about 0-10 wt % additives, about 20-40 wt % fillers and about 50-80 wt % glass powder. In some embodiments, about 0-5 wt % is additive(s), about 25-30 wt % is filler(s) and about 65-75 wt % is the glass powder among the inorganic materials.

[0047] In forming a frit seal, a liquid material is added to the dry frit material to form a frit paste. Any organic or inorganic solvent with or without additives can be used as the liquid material. In embodiments, the solvent includes one or more organic compounds. For example, applicable organic compounds are ethyl cellulose, nitro cellulose, hydroxyl propyl cellulose, butyl carbitol acetate, terpineol, butyl cellusolve, acrylate compounds. Then, the thus formed frit paste can be applied to form a shape of the seal **1071** on the top and/or bottom plate **1061**, **1002**.

[0048] In one exemplary embodiment, a shape of the seal **1071** is initially formed from the frit paste and interposed between the top plate **1061** and the bottom plate **1002**. The seal **1071** can in certain embodiments be pre-cured or pre-sintered to one of the top plate and bottom plate **1061**, **1002**. Following assembly of the top plate **1061** and the bottom plate **1002** with the seal **1071** interposed therebetween, portions of the seal **1071** are selectively heated such that the frit material forming the seal **1071** at least partially melts. The seal **1071** is then allowed to resolidify to form a secure joint between the top plate **1061** and the bottom plate **1002** to thereby inhibit exposure of the enclosed OLED pixel array **1021** to oxygen or water.

[0049] In embodiments, the selective heating of the frit seal is carried out by irradiation of light, such as a laser or directed infrared lamp. As previously noted, the frit material forming the seal **1071** can be combined with one or more additives or filler such as species selected for improved absorption of the irradiated light to facilitate heating and melting of the frit material to form the seal **1071**.

[0050] In some embodiments, OLED devices **1011** are mass produced. In an embodiment illustrated in FIG. 5E, a

plurality of separate OLED arrays **1021** is formed on a common bottom substrate **1101**. In the illustrated embodiment, each OLED array **1021** is surrounded by a shaped frit to form the seal **1071**. In embodiments, common top substrate (not shown) is placed over the common bottom substrate **1101** and the structures formed thereon such that the OLED arrays **1021** and the shaped frit paste are interposed between the common bottom substrate **1101** and the common top substrate. The OLED arrays **1021** are encapsulated and sealed, such as via the previously described enclosure process for a single OLED display device. The resulting product includes a plurality of OLED devices kept together by the common bottom and top substrates. Then, the resulting product is cut into a plurality of pieces, each of which constitutes an OLED device **1011** of FIG. 5D. In certain embodiments, the individual OLED devices **1011** then further undergo additional packaging operations to further improve the sealing formed by the frit seal **1071** and the top and bottom substrates **1061**, **1002**.

[0051] One problem of the organic light-emitting display device is that the device can be deteriorated when moisture contacts organic materials constituting the organic light-emitting elements. FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view showing an encapsulation structure of an organic light-emitting device that can prevent moisture from contacting organic materials. In the illustrated structure, the organic light-emitting display device is including a substrate **1**, an encapsulation substrate **2**, a sealing material **3**, a moisture-absorbing material **4** and a bracket **5**. The substrate **1** includes a pixel region including at least one organic light-emitting device, and a non-pixel region formed outside the pixel region, and the encapsulation substrate **2** is attached against a surface in which organic light-emitting elements of the substrate **1** are formed.

[0052] In order to attach the substrate **1** to the encapsulation substrate **2**, the sealing material **3** is applied along edges of the deposition substrate **1** and the encapsulation substrate **2**, and the sealing material **3** is then cured using UV irradiation, etc. A moisture-absorbing material **4** is included in the encapsulation substrate **2** for capturing moisture and certain gases such as hydrogen, oxygen. The bracket **5** is a kind of a frame for supporting an organic light-emitting panel to which the substrate **1** and the encapsulation substrate **2** are attached. In one embodiment, the bracket **5** and the organic light-emitting device may be attached with a double side adhesive tape. Even in the illustrated device, however, the sealing material **3** may not completely prevent moisture or air entering into the enclosed space. Also, there may be cracks in the sealing material **3** and in the interfacial area where the sealing material **3** contacts the substrate for various reasons.

[0053] FIG. 2 is a plan view showing an organic light-emitting display device according to one embodiment of the present invention; and FIG. 3 is a plane view taken along a line A-A' of FIG. 2. Referring to figures, the organic light-emitting display device includes a substrate **100**, an encapsulation substrate **200**, a frit **150** and a reinforcement material or structure **160**. For the sake of convenience, the deposition substrate **101** refers to a base, on which circuits and layers are formed, and the substrate **100** refers to an unfinished product including the deposition substrate **101** and circuits and layers formed thereon, including an array of organic light emitting pixels.

[0054] The substrate **100**, which is equivalent to the bottom plate **1002**, is a plate including organic light-emitting diodes or pixels, and includes a pixel region **100a** in which at least one organic light-emitting diode or pixel is formed, and a non-pixel region **100b** formed outside of the pixel region **100a**, the organic light-emitting diode including a first electrode **119**, an organic layer **121** and a second electrode **122**. Hereinafter, the pixel region **100a** is referred to as a region for displaying a predetermined image using the light emitted from an organic light-emitting diode, and the non-pixel region **100b** is referred to as the entire region except the pixel region **100a** on the substrate **100** in the description of this application.

[0055] The pixel region **100a** includes a plurality of scan lines (S1 to Sm) arranged in a horizontal direction, and a plurality of data lines (D1 to Dm) arranged in a vertical direction, and a plurality of pixels are formed in the scan lines (S1 to Sm) and the data lines (D1 to Dm), the pixels receiving signals from driver integrated circuits **300,400** for driving an organic light-emitting diode. Also, a driver integrated circuit (Driver IC) for driving an organic light-emitting diodes or pixels, and metal wirings electrically attached to each of the scan lines (S1 to Sm) and the data lines (D1 to Dm) of the pixel region are formed in the non-pixel region **100b**. In an embodiment, the driver integrated circuit includes a data driving unit **170** and a scan driving unit **180**.

[0056] The organic light-emitting diode is driven in an active matrix method, as shown in the drawings, and its configuration will be described in brief. A buffer layer **111** is formed on a deposition substrate **101**, and the buffer layer **111** is formed of insulating materials such as silicon oxide (SiO₂) or silicon nitride (SiNx). The buffer layer **111** prevents the substrate **100** from being damaged by factors such as heat from the outside, etc. On at least one region of the buffer layer **111** is formed a semiconductor layer **112** including an active layer **112a** and an ohmic contact layer **112b**. On the semiconductor layer **112** and the buffer layer **111** is formed a gate insulating layer **113**, and on one region of the gate insulating layer **113** is formed a gate electrode **114** having a size corresponding to a width of the active layer **112a**.

[0057] An interlayer insulating layer **115** includes the gate electrode **114** and is formed on the gate insulating layer **113**, and source and drain electrodes **116a, 116b** are formed on a predetermined region of the interlayer insulating layer **115**. The source and drain electrodes **116a, 116b** are formed so that they can be connected to one exposed region of the ohmic contact layer **112b**, and an overcoat **117** includes the source and drain electrodes **116a, 116b** and is formed on the interlayer insulating layer **115**. A first electrode **119** is formed on one region of the overcoat **117**, wherein the first electrode **119** is connected with one exposed region of either one of the source and drain electrodes **116a, 116b** by means of a via hole **118**.

[0058] A pixel definition layer **120** includes the first electrode **119** and is formed on the overcoat **117**, the pixel definition layer **120** having an opening (not shown) to which at least one region of the first electrode **119** is exposed. An organic layer **121** is formed on the opening of the pixel definition layer **120**, and a second electrode layer **122** includes the organic layer **121** and is formed on the pixel definition layer **120**. In an embodiment, a passivation layer may be further formed in an upper portion of the second

electrode layer **122**. However, various modifications and changes may be made in an active matrix structure or a passive matrix structure of the organic light-emitting diode.

[0059] The encapsulation substrate **200**, which is equivalent to the top plate **1061**, is a member for encapsulating at least one pixel region **100a** of the substrate in which the organic light-emitting diode is formed, and is formed of transparent materials in the case of top emission or dual emission and formed of translucent materials in the case of bottom emission. Various materials of the encapsulation substrate **200** can be used in the embodiments of the present invention, but a glass may be preferably used in this embodiment, for example in the case of the top emission, although not limited thereto.

[0060] In an embodiment, the encapsulation substrate **200** is formed in a plate shape in this embodiment, and encapsulates a pixel region in which the organic light-emitting diode is formed on at least the substrate **100**. For example, the entire region is encapsulated except a data driving unit and a pad unit in this embodiment. The frit **150** is formed between the encapsulation substrate **200** and the non-pixel region **100b** of the substrate **100** to seal the pixel region **100a** so that the air or moisture is prevented from being infiltrated.

[0061] In an embodiment, the frit **150** preferably forms a line spaced apart at a constant distance from an edge of an interface in which the encapsulation substrate **200** and the substrate **100** are coalesced to each other. This is to secure a space that forms a reinforcement material **160**, as described later. The frit **150** includes a glass material, a absorbing material for absorbing a laser, a filler for reducing a thermal expansion coefficient, etc., and is applied to the encapsulation substrate **200** in a state of frit paste, melted and cured to form the frit seal between the encapsulation substrate **200** and the substrate **100** using a laser or an infrared ray to seal between the encapsulation substrate **200** and the substrate **100**. In an embodiment, the line in which the frit **150** is formed preferably has a width of about 0.5 to about 1.5 mm. Also, a height of each frit **150** preferably ranges from about 10 to about 20 μm .

[0062] Meanwhile, various configurations and materials of a surface of the substrate **100** which the frit **150** contacts can be used although not limited thereto. In an embodiment, the frit is not overlapped with a metal wiring as possible as it is, except an area where a metal wiring directly connected with a driver integrated circuit. As described above, if the frit **150** is overlapped with the metal wiring, the metal wiring may be damaged due to irradiation of a laser or an infrared ray.

[0063] The bracket **400** is a kind of a frame for supporting an organic light-emitting panel to which a substrate **100** and an encapsulation substrate **200** are attached. In an embodiment illustrated in FIG. 3, the bracket **400** has a rear wall **450** and a plurality of side walls **460** extending from the rear wall **450**. In an embodiment, the bracket does not have a rear wall **450** shown in FIG. 3 and may have a closed loop shape formed by the plurality of side walls **460** shown in FIG. 3. In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 3, the rear wall **450** of the bracket **400** and a surface of the organic light-emitting panel may be attached with an adhesive tape, etc.

[0064] In an embodiment, the reinforcement material **160** is a member that is formed in a gap between a surface of the organic light-emitting panel and an inner surface of the bracket and then cured, and therefore the reinforcement material **160** prevents an organic light-emitting display

device from being easily damaged or broken and also functions as a sealing material when the frit 150 is not attached or its adhesive force is reduced. In an embodiment, curable materials which are naturally cured, thermally cured or UV-cured, may be used. Liquid materials can be used for forming the reinforcement material 160. For example, cyanoacrylate may be used as the naturally cured material; acrylate may be used as the material that is thermally cured at a temperature of about 80° C. or less; and epoxy, acrylate and urethane acrylate may be used as the UV-cured materials.

[0065] Hereinafter, embodiments of a method for preparing an organic light-emitting display device according to the present invention will be described in detail. FIGS. 4a to 4e are process views showing a process for preparing an organic light-emitting display device. Firstly, a frit 150 is applied in a linear shape in a point spaced apart at a predetermined distance from an edge of an encapsulation substrate 200, and the frit 150 is formed in a point corresponding to a non-pixel region 100a of the substrate 100, as described later. In an embodiment, a height of the frit 150 preferably ranges from about 10 to about 20 μm . The frit 150 is applied to the encapsulation substrate 200 at a state of the frit paste, sintered to remove moisture or organic binders that are included in the paste, and then cured.

[0066] Next, a substrate 100 including a pixel region including an organic light-emitting diode, and a non-pixel region in which a driver integrated circuit and a metal wiring, etc. are formed is provided, and an encapsulation substrate 200 is coalesced. In an embodiment, encapsulation substrate 200 may or may not encapsulate a driver integrated circuit of the substrate 100, depending on its design. (FIG. 4b) Next, a laser or an infrared ray is irradiated to the frit 150 between the substrate 100 and the encapsulation substrate 200, both coalesced to each other, to melt the frit 150 between the substrate 100 and the encapsulation substrate 200. In an embodiment, the irradiated laser or infrared ray preferably has, for example, a wavelength of about 800 to about 1200 nm (and preferably about 810 nm), its power preferably ranges from about 25 to about 45 watt, and a region except the frit is preferably masked. A bilayer of copper and aluminum may be used as materials of the mask. Then, the substrate 100 and the encapsulation substrate 200 are attached to each other by curing the melted frit 150. (FIG. 4c)

[0067] Next, a curable material for forming a reinforcement material 160 is applied, for example by using a dispenser, in an inner wall surface of a bracket 400 for mounting an organic light-emitting panel including the substrate 100 and the encapsulation substrate 200, both attached to each other. Generally, metal materials are mainly used for the bracket 400, although not limited thereto, and plastics are also used for the bracket 400. In an embodiment, the curable material for forming the reinforcement material 160 is preferably applied at a liquid state. (FIG. 4d)

[0068] Next, the organic light-emitting panel or device is mounted on the bracket 400. In an embodiment, the organic light-emitting panel contacts the curable material for the reinforcement material 160 applied in the inner surface of the bracket 400 while it is mounted on the bracket 400, and then the curable material for the reinforcement material 160 moves into a gap between the substrate 100 and the encapsulation substrate 200. (FIG. 4e) In an embodiment, gaps are generated in the edge regions of the substrate 100 and the

encapsulation substrate 200 since the frit 150 is not formed adjacent to the edges, but formed spaced apart at a predetermined distance from the edges. Accordingly, the curable material for the reinforcement material 160 moves into the gaps in the edge regions, and then cured. In an embodiment, the dimension of the gap between the substrate 100 and the encapsulation substrate 200 will be identical to the height of the frit, and if a liquid of the reinforcement material is applied on the edges, then the liquid moves into gaps by a capillary phenomenon, and then cured.

[0069] Meanwhile, if the materials of the reinforcement material 160 are naturally cured, then preparation of an organic light-emitting diode may be completed without an additional process, but if the materials of the reinforcement material 160 are UV-cured, then there is required an additional process for masking the reinforcement material 160 and irradiating it with UV ray, and if the materials of the reinforcement material 160 are thermally cured, then there is required an additional process for subjecting the heat to the reinforcement material

[0070] The present invention has been described in detail with reference to embodiments. However, it would be appreciated that modifications and changes might be made in these embodiments without departing from the principles and spirit of the invention. For example, an encapsulation substrate may be prepared in a cap shape, and changes may be easily made in materials of a bracket or frame.

[0071] Although a few embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described, it would be appreciated by those skilled in the art that changes might be made in this embodiment without departing from the principles and spirit of the present invention, the scope of which is defined in the claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. An organic light-emitting display device, comprising: an organic light-emitting display unit comprising:

a front substrate comprising a front surface and a first side surface,

a rear substrate comprising a rear surface and a first side surface, the rear substrate opposing the front substrate,

an array of organic light-emitting pixels interposed between the front and rear substrates,

a frit seal interposed between the front substrate and the rear substrate while surrounding the array, wherein the frit seal, the front substrate and the rear substrate together define an enclosed space in which the array is located, the frit seal comprising a first side surface, and

a first side comprising the first side surfaces of the front substrate, the rear substrate and the frit seal;

a bracket comprising a first surface generally opposing the first side of the unit and connected to the first side of the unit; and

a first structure interconnecting the first surface of the bracket and the first side of the unit.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the first structure is formed in substantially the entire area between the first surface of the bracket and the first side of the unit.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein the first structure is formed on substantially throughout the first surface of the bracket.

4. The device of claim 1, wherein the first structure is bonded to the first surface of the bracket and bonded to either or both of the first side surfaces of the front and rear substrates.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein the first structure is bonded to the first side surface of the frit seal.

6. The device of claim 1, wherein the front substrate, the rear substrate and the first side surface of the frit seal define a gap space, and wherein the first structure comprises a portion extending into the gap space and interposed between the front and rear substrates.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein the bracket further comprises a rear wall opposing the rear substrate.

8. The device of claim 7, wherein the rear wall of the bracket is bonded to the rear surface of the rear substrate.

9. The device of claim 1, wherein the bracket comprises a rear wall opposing the rear substrate, and the bracket further comprises a plurality of side walls extending from the rear wall at an angle, and wherein a first one of the plurality of the side walls provides the first surface opposing the first side of the unit.

10. The device of claim 9, wherein the first side wall extends substantially parallel to at least one of the first side surfaces of the front and rear substrates.

11. The device of claim 9, wherein the first side wall covers substantially the entirety of the first side of the unit.

12. The device of claim 9, wherein the first side wall does not cover at least part of the first side surface of the front substrate while generally opposing the first side of the unit.

13. The device of claim 9, wherein the first side wall does not cover the first side surface of the front substrate while generally opposing the first side of the unit.

14. The device of claim 1, wherein the structure comprises a layer comprising a polymeric material.

15. The device of claim 1, wherein the unit further comprises a plurality additional sides, wherein the bracket comprises a first side wall and a plurality of additional side walls, the first side wall providing the first surface of the frame, wherein each of the plurality of additional side walls of the bracket comprises a surface generally opposing one of the plurality of additional sides of the unit, wherein the device further comprises a plurality of additional structures, each of which interconnects one of the plurality of additional side walls and one of the plurality of additional sides of the unit.

16. The device of claim 15, wherein the first side wall and the plurality of additional side walls form a closed loop surrounding the first side and the plurality of additional sides of the unit.

17. The device of claim 1, wherein the front substrate further comprises a second side surface, wherein the rear substrate further comprises a second side surface, wherein the frit seal further comprises a second side surface, wherein the second side surfaces of the front substrate, the second substrate and the frit seal generally face the same direction, wherein the unit further comprises a second side comprising a second side surface of the front substrate, a second side surface of the rear substrate and a second side surface of the frit seal, wherein the bracket further comprises a second

surface generally opposing the second side of the device, and wherein the unit further comprises a second structure interconnecting the second side of the unit and the second surface of the frame.

18. The device of claim 17, wherein the first and second structures are integrated.

19. The device of claim 17, wherein the first and second structures are separated.

20. The device of claim 1, wherein the frit seal comprises one or more materials selected from the group consisting of magnesium oxide (MgO), calcium oxide (CaO), barium oxide (BaO), lithium oxide (Li₂O), sodium oxide (Na₂O), potassium oxide (K₂O), boron oxide (B₂O₃), vanadium oxide (V₂O₅), zinc oxide (ZnO), tellurium oxide (TeO₂), aluminum oxide (Al₂O₃), silicon dioxide (SiO₂), lead oxide (PbO), tin oxide (SnO), phosphorous oxide (P₂O₅), ruthenium oxide (Ru₂O), rubidium oxide (Rb₂O), rhodium oxide (Rh₂O), ferrite oxide (Fe₂O₃), copper oxide (CuO), titanium oxide (TiO₂), tungsten oxide (WO₃), bismuth oxide (Bi₂O₃), antimony oxide (Sb₂O₃), lead-borate glass, tin-phosphate glass, vanadate glass, and borosilicate.

21. A method of making an organic light-emitting display device, the method comprising:

providing a device comprising:

a front substrate comprising a front surface and a first side surface,

a rear substrate comprising a rear surface and a first side surface, the rear substrate opposing the front substrate,

an array of organic light-emitting pixels interposed between the front and rear substrates,

a frit seal interposed between the front substrate and the rear substrate while surrounding the array, wherein the frit seal, the front substrate and the rear substrate together define an enclosed space in which the array is located, the frit seal comprising a first side surface, and

a first side comprising the first sides of the front substrate, the rear substrate and the frit seal;

placing a bracket comprising a first surface so as to generally oppose the first side of the device; and forming a structure between and interconnecting the first surface of the bracket and the first side of the device.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises forming a curable material on the first surface of the frame, and wherein placing the bracket comprises arranging the bracket with respect to the device such that the curable material contacts the first side of the device.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the method further comprises curing the curable material, thereby forming the structure.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein a viscosity of the curable material is less than about 5000 cP.

25. The method of claim 21, wherein the bracket further comprises a rear wall, and wherein placing the bracket further comprises arranging the rear wall so as to oppose the rear substrate.

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摘要(译)

公开了一种有机发光显示装置，其中基板和封装基板通过玻璃料和增强结构连接。第一基板具有其中形成有机发光二极管的像素区域，以及形成在像素区域外部的非像素区域。第二基板通过玻璃料附着在第一基板上。支架通过加强结构与基板连接。将可固化材料施加到框架内部，在第一和第二基板之间移动，然后固化以形成加强结构。

