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(54) **ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY DEVICE**

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CPC **G06F 3/0412** (2013.01); **G06F 3/044** (2013.01); **H01L 27/323** (2013.01); **G06F 2203/04111** (2013.01)

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Primary Examiner — Kumar Patel

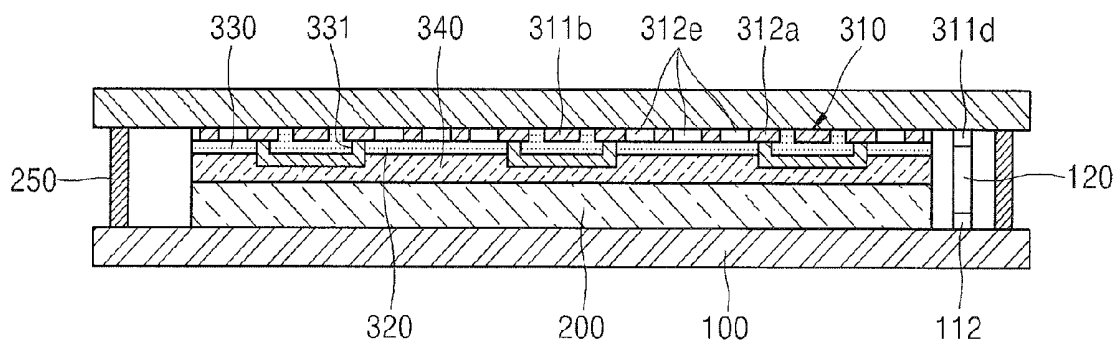
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An organic light emitting display device having an electrostatic capacitive type touch panel function with reduced thickness and improved luminance. A display panel of the organic light emitting display device includes a substrate, a display unit having a plurality of pixels on the substrate, and a touch sensing unit on the display unit. The touch sensing unit includes an encapsulation substrate and a capacitive pattern layer on a side of the encapsulation substrate facing the display unit. The capacitive pattern layer has a plurality of openings corresponding in position to the plurality of pixels.

24 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets



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FIG. 1

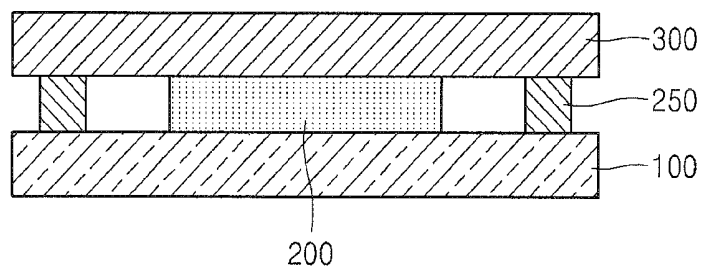


FIG. 2

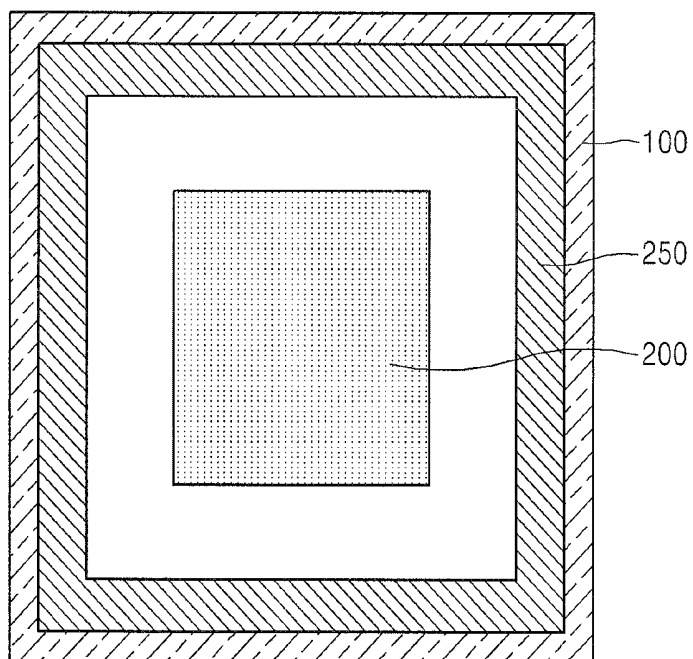


FIG. 3

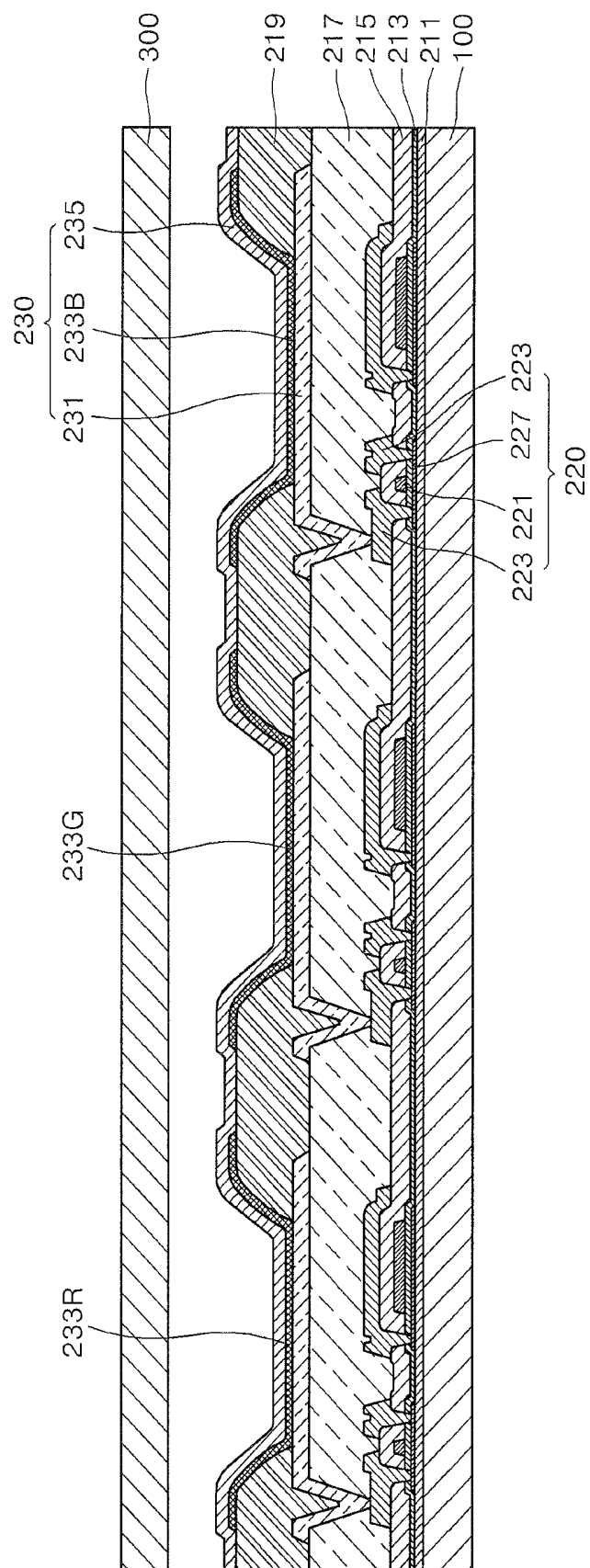


FIG. 4A

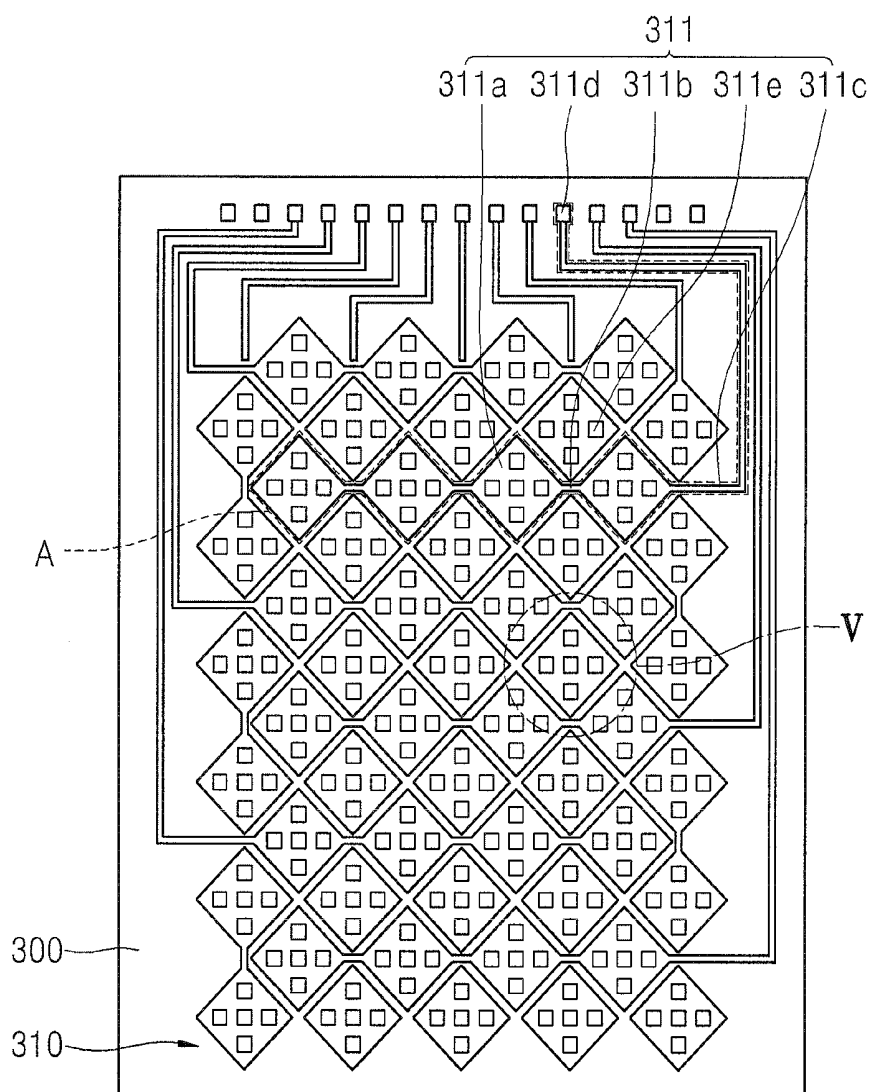


FIG. 4B

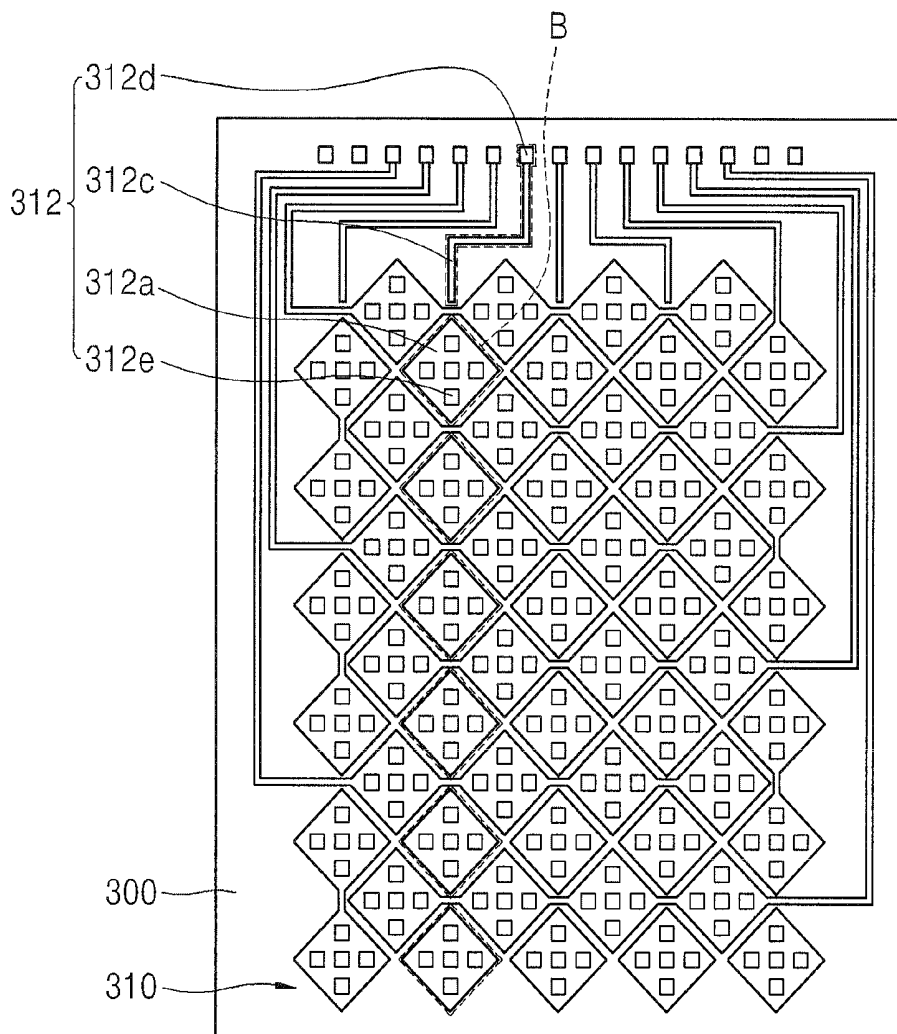


FIG. 4C

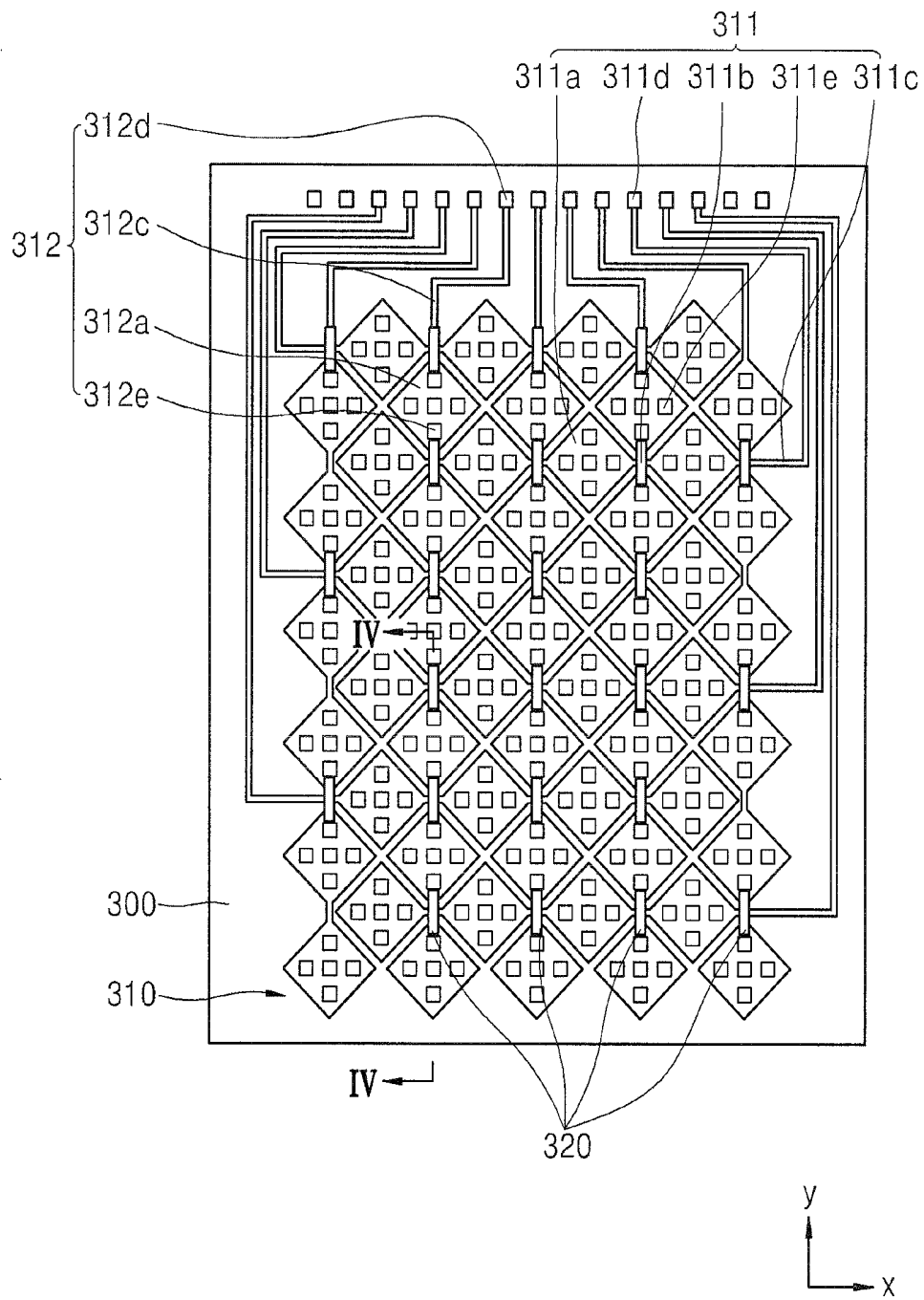


FIG. 4D

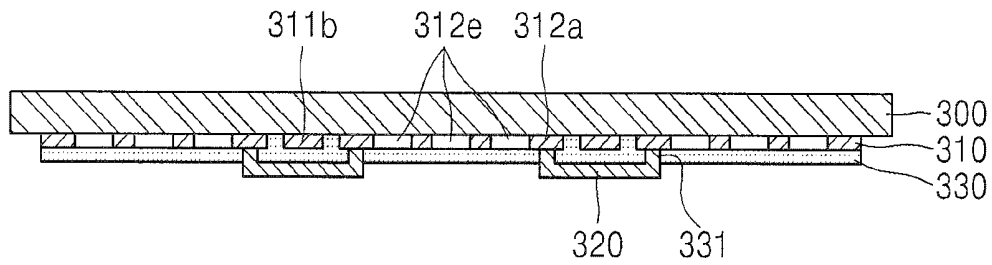


FIG. 4E

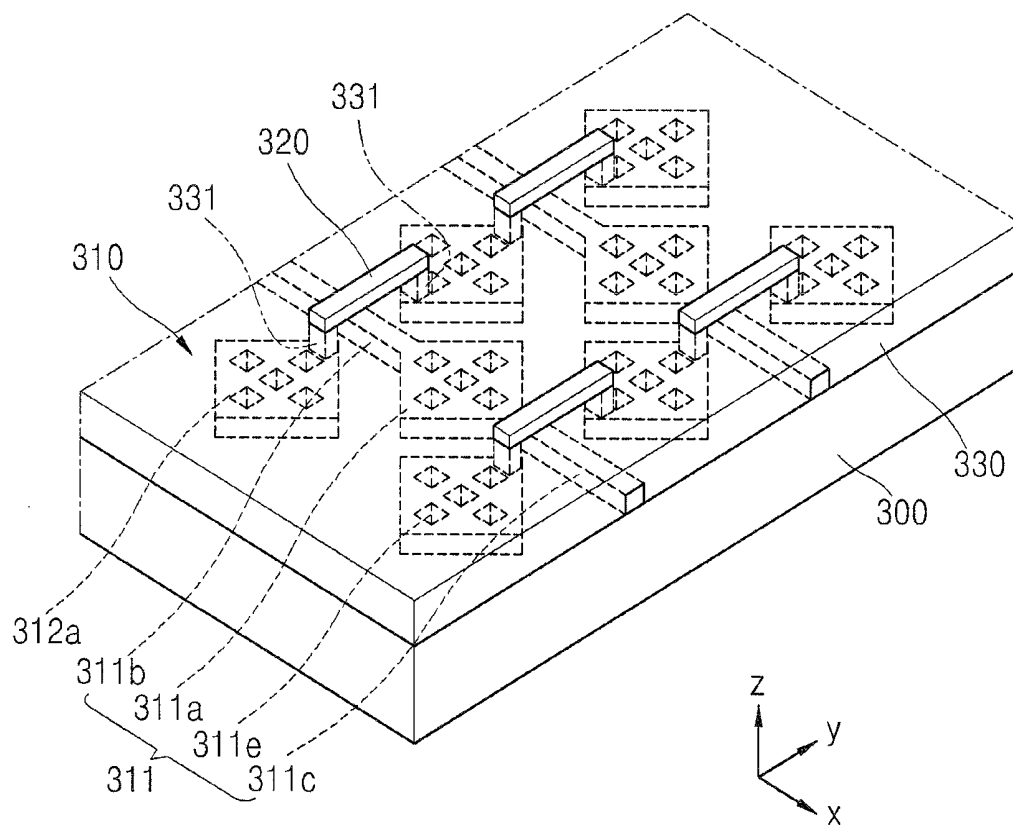


FIG. 5A

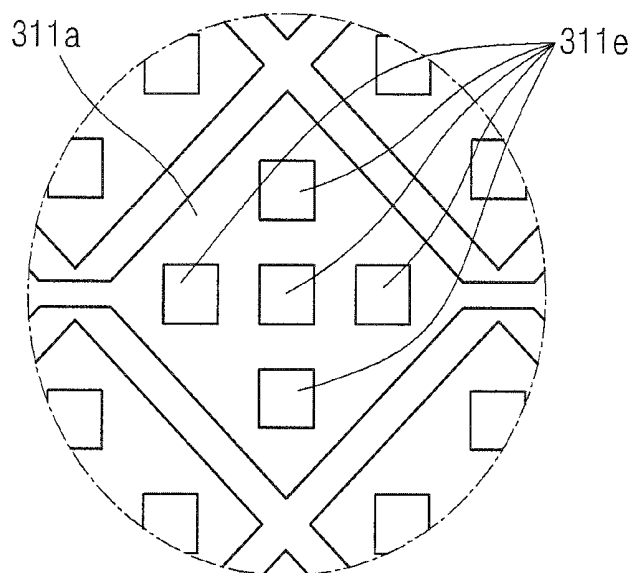
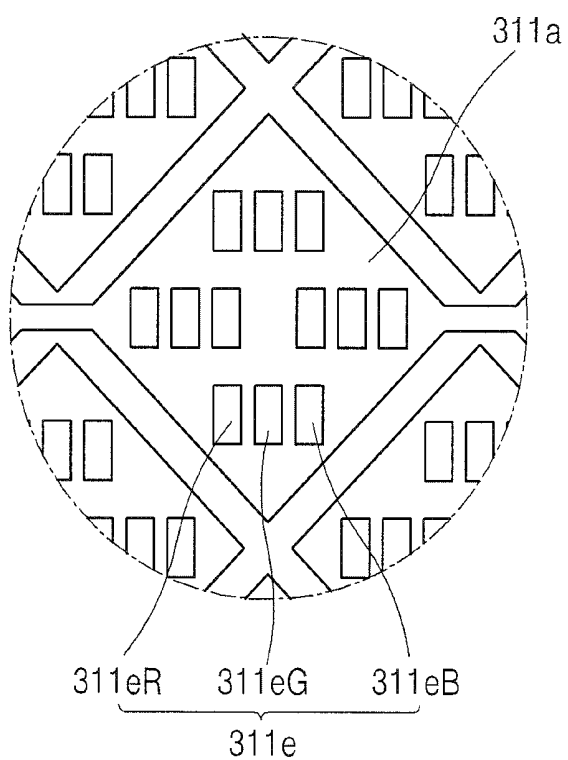


FIG. 5B



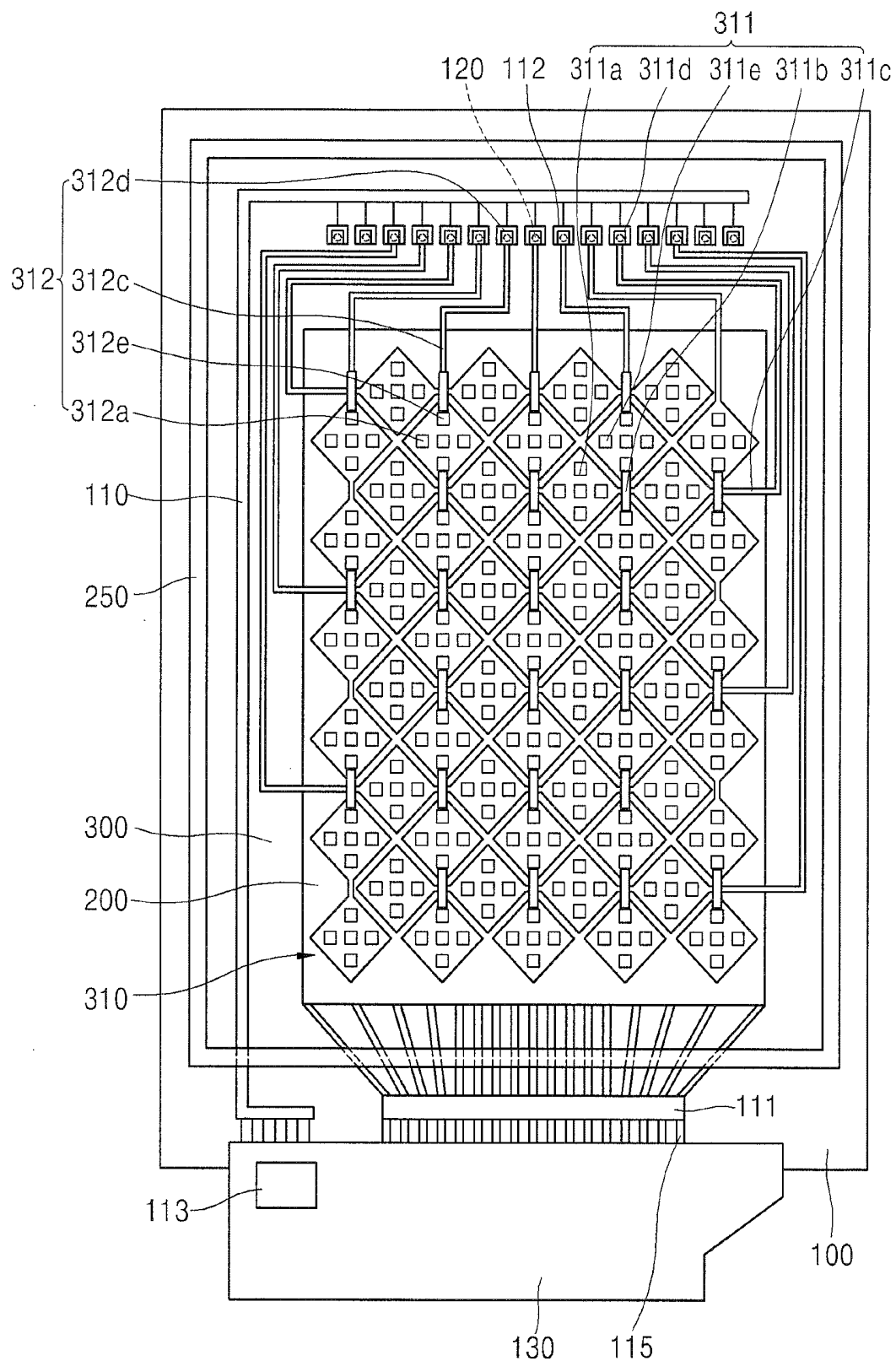


FIG. 7

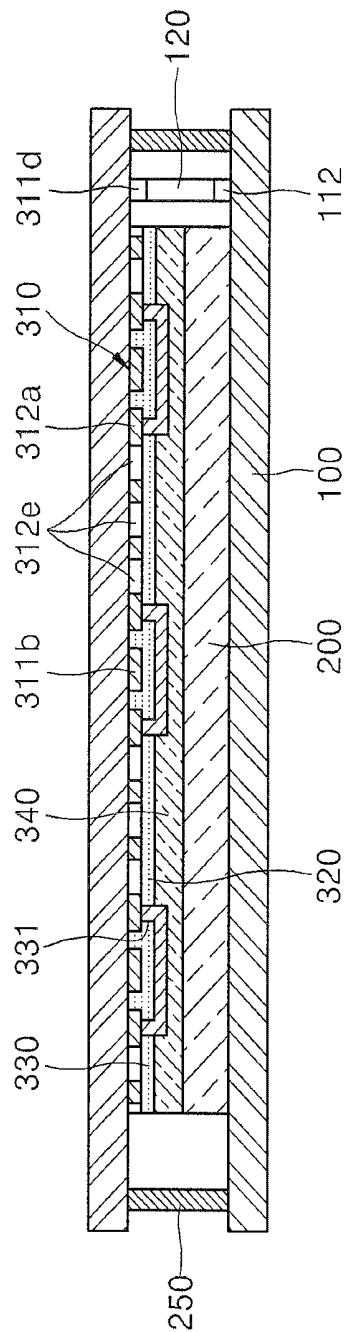


FIG. 8A

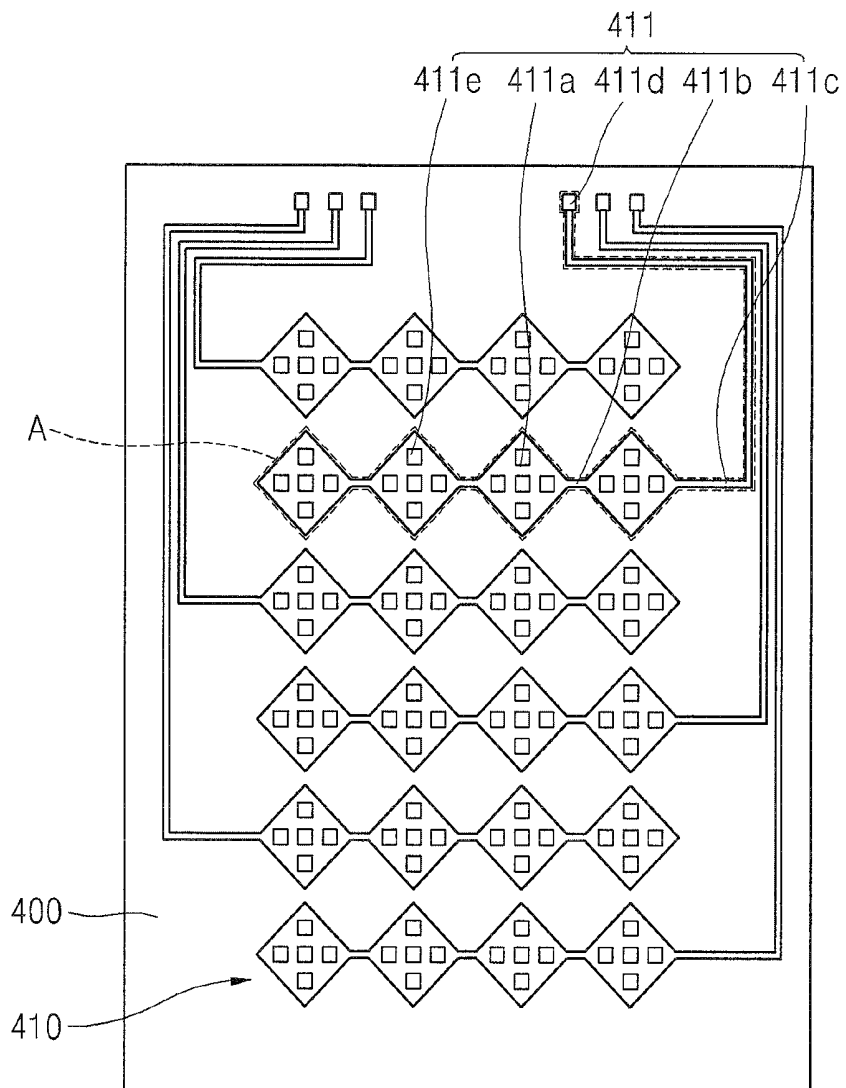


FIG. 8B

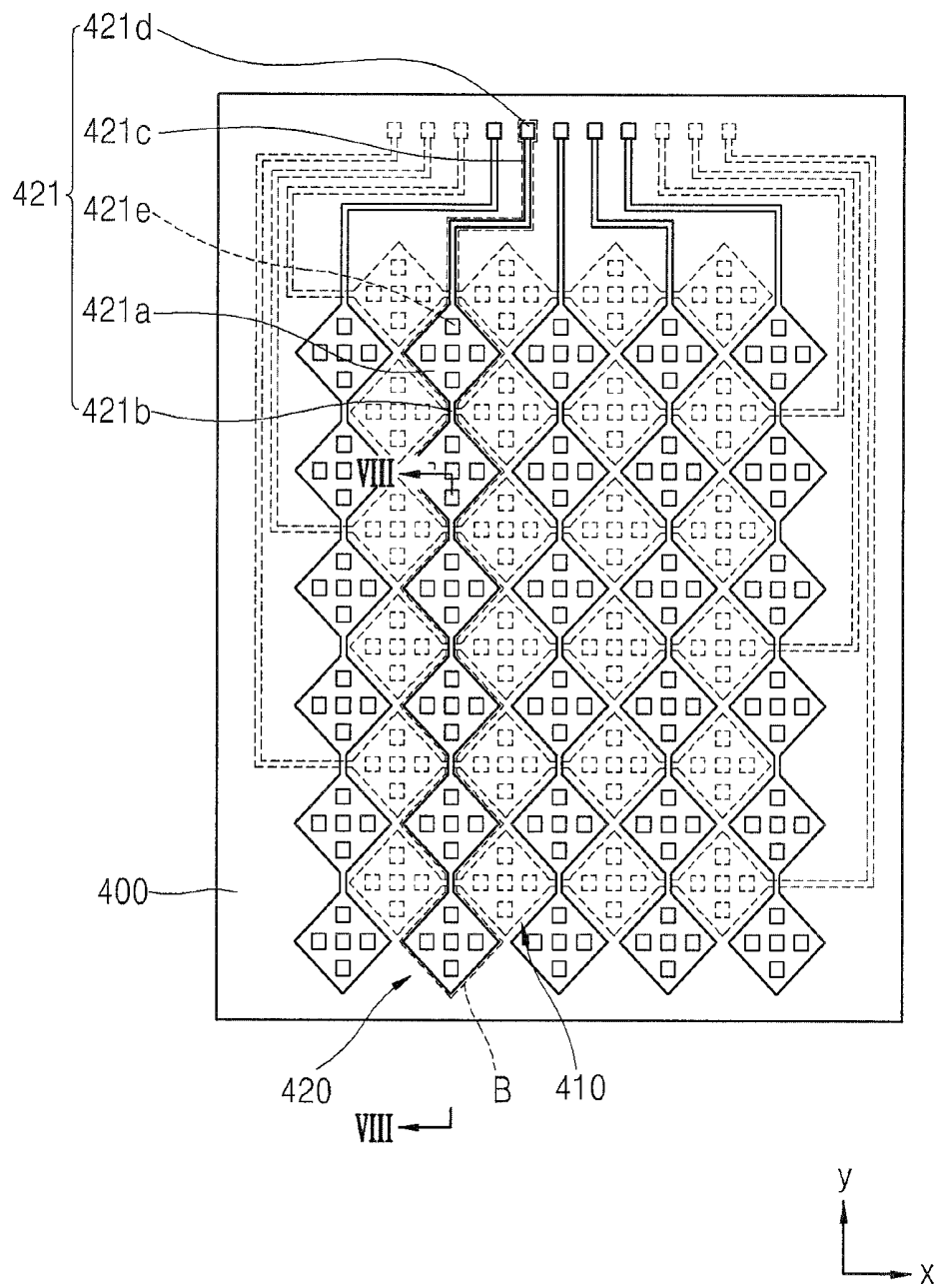


FIG. 8C

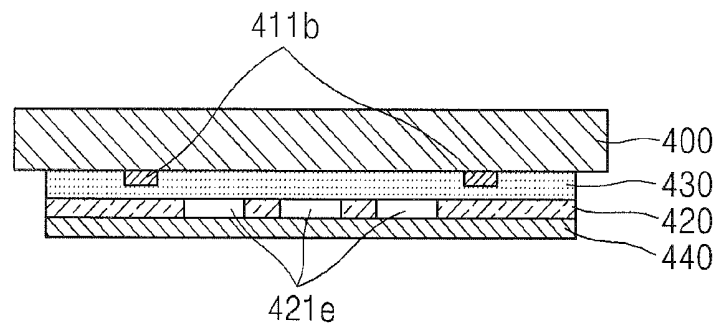
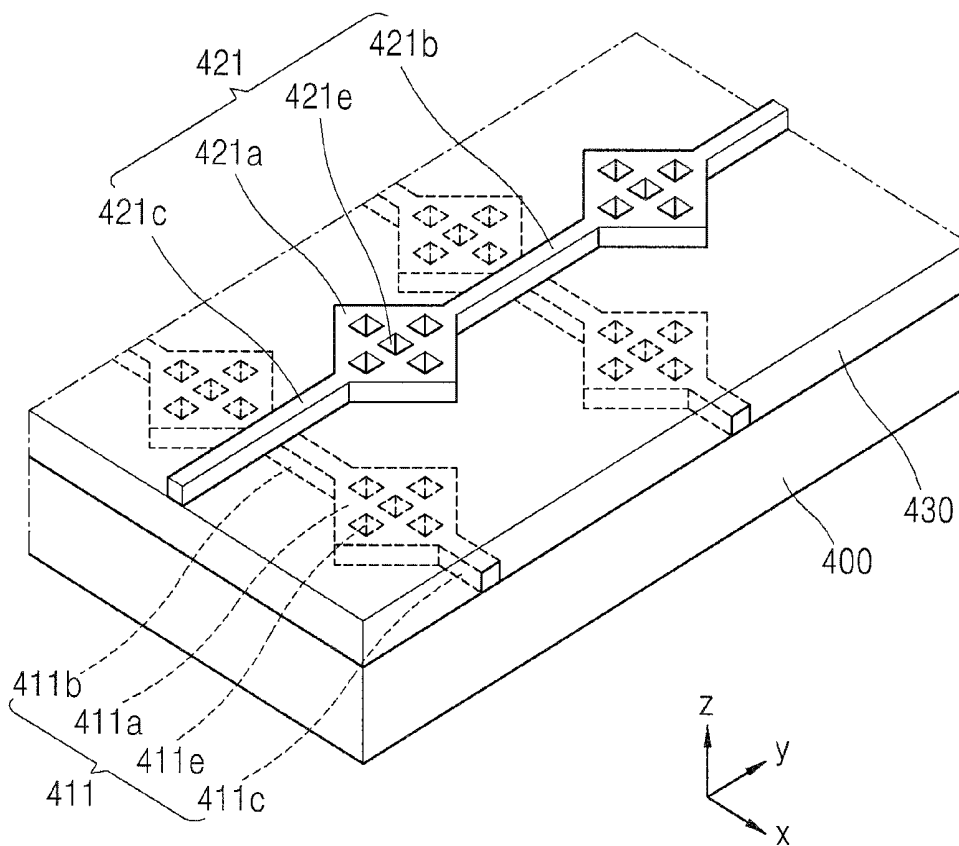


FIG. 8D



ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY DEVICE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to and the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/082,424, filed on Jul. 21, 2008, the entire content of which is incorporated herein by reference. This application is related to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/350,101 filed on Jan. 7, 2009, the entire content of which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an organic light emitting display device, and more particularly, to an organic light emitting display device having a touch panel function.

2. Description of the Related Art

Among various kinds of flat display devices, an organic light emitting display device is an active matrix type display device with a wide viewing angle, high contrast, and fast response speed. In comparison to an inorganic light emitting display device, the organic light emitting display device having an emissive layer formed of an organic material has improved performance in terms of luminance, driving voltage, response speed, and multi-color realization.

Also, in order to allow a user to input a command via a finger or a pen-type pointer, it is desirable to provide an organic light emitting display device having a touch panel function, such as an internal electrostatic capacitive type touch panel display device.

However, a typical organic light emitting display device having an internal electrostatic capacitive type touch panel has increased thickness in order to embed the touch panel function. Another problem is that indium tin oxide (ITO) electrodes are disposed on the entire surface of an encapsulation substrate to provide the touch panel function such that light emitted from organic light emitting diodes (OLEDs) is absorbed by the ITO electrodes, thereby degrading the luminance of the emitted light.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Embodiments of the present invention provide an organic light emitting display device including an encapsulation substrate, an inner surface of which is patterned using an indium tin oxide (ITO) pattern and openings are formed in the ITO pattern corresponding to an emission layer of an organic light emitting diode (OLED), so that a touch panel function can be obtained without increasing the thickness of a touch panel and with improved luminance.

According to an embodiment of the present invention, a display panel includes a substrate and a display unit on the substrate. The display unit includes a plurality of pixels. A touch sensing unit is provided on the display unit, and the touch sensing unit includes an encapsulation substrate and a capacitive pattern layer on a side of the encapsulation substrate facing the display unit. The capacitive pattern layer has a plurality of openings corresponding in position to the plurality of pixels.

The capacitive pattern layer may include a plurality of pattern units arranged in a matrix pattern.

Each of the plurality of pattern units may have at least one of the plurality of openings.

The plurality of pattern units may include a plurality of first pattern units arranged in columns extending in a first direction and a plurality of second pattern units arranged in rows extending in a second direction crossing the first direction.

The plurality of first pattern units may be electrically coupled

The display panel may further include a first insulation layer on the plurality of first pattern units and the plurality of second pattern units.

The display panel may further include a plurality of connectors on the first insulation layer for electrically coupling adjacent units of the plurality of second pattern units.

The display panel may further include a second insulation layer on the plurality of connectors.

The display panel may further include a first insulation layer between the plurality of first pattern units and the plurality of second pattern units, wherein the plurality of first pattern units are between the encapsulation substrate and the first insulation layer, and the plurality of second pattern units are on the first insulation layer.

The display panel may further include a second insulation layer on the plurality of second pattern units.

Each of the plurality of pattern units may have a substantially quadrilateral shape.

Each of the plurality of pattern units may have a substantially diamond or rectangular shape.

An opening of the plurality of openings may correspond in position to at least one pixel of the plurality of pixels.

The opening of the plurality of openings may correspond in position to only one pixel of the plurality of pixels.

The pixel may be a subpixel.

A center of the opening may be substantially aligned with a center of the pixel in a direction substantially normal to the side of the encapsulation substrate.

Each of the plurality of openings may have substantially the same shape as that of a corresponding pixel of the plurality of pixels.

An opening of the plurality of openings may have an area substantially identical to or larger than an area of a pixel of the plurality of pixels in size.

The plurality of openings may be arranged in a pattern corresponding to an arrangement pattern of the plurality of pixels.

The plurality of openings may be identical to or less than the plurality of pixels in number.

The touch sensing unit may further include a plurality of extending units on the side of the encapsulation substrate for electrically coupling the capacitive pattern layer to the substrate.

The display panel may further include a conductive member between the substrate and the touch sensing unit for coupling the plurality of extending units to the substrate.

The capacitive pattern layer may include a material selected from the group consisting of ITO, IZO, ZnO, In₂O₃, and combinations thereof.

The display unit may be an organic light emitting display.

Another embodiment of the present invention provides a method of fabricating a display panel having a touch sensing interface. A display unit is provided on a substrate, and the display unit includes a plurality of pixels. A capacitive pattern layer is formed on a side of an encapsulation substrate. A plurality of openings are formed in the capacitive pattern layer corresponding in position to the plurality of pixels and the encapsulation substrate is attached to the substrate with the display unit facing the capacitive pattern layer.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above and other features and aspects of the present invention will become more apparent by describing in detail exemplary embodiments thereof with reference to the attached drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a schematic drawing illustrating a cross-sectional view of a portion of an organic light emitting display device according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a schematic drawing illustrating a plan view of the organic light emitting display device of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a schematic drawing illustrating a cross-sectional view of a portion of the organic light emitting display device of FIG. 1;

FIGS. 4A and 4B are schematic drawings illustrating bottom views of an encapsulation substrate and a first pattern layer formed on a surface of the encapsulation substrate in the organic light emitting display device of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4C is a schematic drawing illustrating a bottom view of the first pattern layer of FIGS. 4A and 4B and a second pattern layer on the first pattern layer;

FIG. 4D is a schematic drawing illustrating a cross-sectional view taken along a line IV-IV in FIG. 4C;

FIG. 4E is a schematic drawing illustrating a perspective view of the first pattern layer and the second pattern layer of FIG. 4C;

FIGS. 5A and 5B are drawings illustrating magnified views of a portion V of FIG. 4A according to two embodiments of the present invention;

FIG. 6 is a schematic drawing illustrating a plan view of the organic light emitting display device of FIG. 1 with further details;

FIG. 7 is a schematic drawing illustrating a cross-sectional view of the organic light emitting display device of FIG. 6;

FIG. 8A is a schematic drawing illustrating a bottom view of an encapsulation substrate and a first pattern layer formed on a surface of the encapsulation substrate in an organic light emitting display device according to a second embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 8B is a schematic drawing illustrating a bottom view of the first pattern layer of FIG. 8A and a second pattern layer on the first pattern layer;

FIG. 8C is a schematic drawing illustrating a cross-sectional view taken along a line VIII-VIII in FIG. 8B; and

FIG. 8D is a schematic drawing illustrating a perspective view of the first pattern layer and the second pattern layer of FIG. 8B.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

The present invention will now be described more fully with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which exemplary embodiments of the present invention are shown.

First Embodiment

FIG. 1 is a schematic drawing illustrating a cross-sectional view of a portion of an organic light emitting display device according to a first embodiment of the present invention, and FIG. 2 is a schematic drawing illustrating a plan view of the organic light emitting display device of FIG. 1. In FIG. 2, an encapsulation substrate 300 illustrated in FIG. 1 is not shown.

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, a display unit 200 including a plurality of organic light emitting diodes (OLEDs) is formed on a substrate 100.

The substrate 100 is, for example, formed of a transparent glass containing SiO₂ as a main component, but the present invention is not limited thereto, and thus the substrate 100 may also be formed of a transparent plastic material that may be an insulating organic material selected from the group consisting of polyethersulphone (PES), polyacrylate (PAR), polyetherimide (PEI), polyethylene naphthalate (PEN), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polyphenylene sulfide (PPS), polyallylate, polyimide, polycarbonate (PC), triacetate cellulose (TAC), and cellulose acetate propionate (CAP).

When the organic light emitting display device of FIGS. 1 and 2 is a bottom emission type organic light emitting display device in which an image is viewed from the side of display device where the substrate 100 is located, the substrate 100 is desirably formed of a transparent material. However, when the organic light emitting display device of FIGS. 1 and 2 is a top emission type organic light emitting display device in which an image is viewed from the side of the display device that is away from the substrate 100, the substrate 100 may not be formed of a transparent material, and, for example, the substrate 100 may be formed of a metal material. When the substrate 100 is formed of a metal material, the substrate 100 may include at least one material selected from the group consisting of carbon, iron, chromium, manganese, nickel, titanium, molybdenum, stainless steel (SUS), Invar alloys, Inconel alloys, and Kovar alloys, but the present invention is not limited thereto, and thus the substrate 100 may also be formed of any suitable metal foil.

In addition, a buffer layer may be further formed on a top surface of the substrate 100 so as to planarize the substrate 100 and prevent (or block) impurities from penetrating into a bottom emission type organic light emitting display device including the substrate 100.

The substrate 100, having the display unit 200 formed thereon, is attached to the encapsulation substrate 300 with the display unit 200 therebetween. The encapsulation substrate 300 may be formed of a glass material, various plastic materials such as acryl, and a metal material. The encapsulation substrate 300 and touch panel related members formed on a surface of the encapsulation substrate 300 will be described later with reference to FIGS. 4A-4E.

In FIGS. 1 and 2, the substrate 100 and the encapsulation substrate 300 are attached to each other by using a sealant 250. The sealant 250 may be a sealing glass frit, as generally used in the art. Also, the sealant 250 may be formed of an organic sealant, an inorganic sealant, or a mixture of the organic and inorganic sealants.

Hereinafter, a structure of the display unit 200 in the organic light emitting display device according to the first embodiment of the present invention will be described in more detail.

FIG. 3 is a schematic drawing illustrating a cross-sectional view of a portion of the organic light emitting display device of FIG. 1 and showing a detailed configuration of a portion of the display unit 200.

Referring to FIG. 3, a plurality of thin film transistors 220 are formed on the substrate 100, and an organic light emitting diode (OLED) 230 is formed on each of the thin film transistors 220. The OLED 230 includes a pixel electrode 231 electrically connected to the thin film transistor 220, a counter electrode 235 disposed on the entire substrate 100, and intermediate layers 233R, 233G, and 233B. Each of the intermediate layers 233R, 233G, and 233B includes at least an emission layer and is disposed between the pixel electrode 231 and the counter electrode 235.

The thin film transistors 220, each of which includes a gate electrode 221, source and drain electrodes 223, a semicon-

ductor layer **227**, a gate insulating layer **213**, and an interlayer insulating layer **215**, are formed on the substrate **100**. However, the embodiment is not limited to the thin film transistors **220** of FIG. 3, and thus other suitable thin film transistors such as an organic thin film transistor including the semiconductor layer **227** formed of an organic material or a silicon thin film transistor formed of silicon may also be used. A buffer layer **211** formed of a silicon oxide or a silicon nitride is further formed between the thin film transistors **220** and the substrate **100**, however, the buffer layer **211** may be omitted in some embodiments of the present invention.

The OLED **230** includes the pixel electrode **231**, the counter electrode **235** facing the pixel electrode **231**, and the intermediate layers **233R**, **233G**, and **233B**. Each of the intermediate layers **233R**, **233G**, and **233B** is formed of an organic material and disposed between the pixel electrode **231** and the counter electrode **235**. Each of the intermediate layers **233R**, **233G**, and **233B**, including at least an emission layer, may also include a plurality of layers to be described in more detail later.

The pixel electrode **231** functions as an anode electrode, and the counter electrode **235** functions as a cathode electrode. However, the polarity of the pixel electrode **231** and the counter electrode **235** may be reversed in some embodiments of the present invention.

The pixel electrode **231** may be a transparent electrode or a reflective electrode. When the pixel electrode **231** is a transparent electrode, the pixel electrode **231** may be formed of ITO, IZO, ZnO, and/or In_2O_3 . When the pixel electrode **231** is a reflective electrode, the pixel electrode **231** may include a reflection layer, which is formed of Ag, Mg, Al, Pt, Pd, Au, Ni, Nd, Ir, and/or Cr, and a layer, which is formed of ITO, IZO, ZnO, and/or In_2O_3 , formed on the reflection layer.

The counter electrode **235** may be a transparent electrode or a reflective electrode. When the counter electrode **235** is a transparent electrode, the counter electrode **235** may include a layer in which Li, Ca, LiF/Ca, LiF/Al, Al, and/or Mg is deposited toward (or onto) the intermediate layers **233R**, **233G**, and **233B** between the pixel electrode **231** and the counter electrode **235**. The counter electrode **235** may also include a bus electrode line and an auxiliary electrode formed of ITO, IZO, ZnO, and/or In_2O_3 . When the counter electrode **235** is a reflective electrode, the counter electrode **235** may be formed by depositing Li, Ca, LiF/Ca, LiF/Al, Al, and/or Mg on the intermediate layers **233R**, **233G**, and **233B**.

Furthermore, a pixel defining layer (PDL) **219** is formed on the pixel electrode **231** to cover the edges of the pixel electrode **231** with a set or predetermined thickness. The PDL **219** defines a light emitting region and enlarges a gap between the edges of the pixel electrode **231** and the counter electrode **235** so as to reduce the concentration of an electric field on the edge portions (or edges) of the pixel electrode **231**, thereby reducing the likelihood of forming a short circuit between the pixel electrode **231** and the counter electrode **235**.

The intermediate layers **233R**, **233G**, and **233B**, each including at least an emission layer, may be formed between the pixel electrode **231** and the counter electrode **235**. In some embodiments of the present invention, the intermediate layers **233R**, **233G**, and **233B** may be formed of a low molecule organic material or a polymer organic material. The intermediate layers **233R**, **233G**, and **233B** respectively represent red subpixels, green subpixels, and blue subpixels.

When formed of a low molecule organic material, the intermediate layer **233** may have a single-layer or multiple-layer structure in which a hole injection layer (HIL), a hole transport layer (HTL), an organic light emission layer (EML), an electron transport layer (ETL), and an electron injection

layer (EIL) are stacked together. Examples of the low molecule organic material include copper phthalocyanine (CuPc); N,N'-Di(naphthalene-1-yl)-N,N'-diphenyl-benzidine (NPB); tris-8-hydroxyquinoline aluminum (Alq3); etc. The low molecule organic material may be formed by a vacuum deposition method with a mask.

When formed of a polymer organic material, the intermediate layer **233** may have a structure formed of an HTL and an EML, where the HTL may be formed of poly(3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene) (PEDOT), and the EML may be formed of poly-phenylenevinylene (PPV) and/or polyfluorene.

The OLED **230** is electrically connected to the thin film transistor **220** disposed therebelow. When a planarization layer **217** is formed to cover the thin film transistor **220**, the OLED **230** is disposed on the planarization layer **217**, and the pixel electrode **231** of the OLED **230** is electrically connected to the thin film transistor **220** via contact holes formed in the planarization layer **217**.

The OLED **230** on the substrate **100** is sealed by the encapsulation substrate **300**. The encapsulation substrate **300** may be formed of various materials such as a glass or a plastic, as described above. Also, pattern layers and insulating layers, which are to be described later, are respectively formed on the inner surface of the encapsulation substrate **300**, thereby realizing a touch panel function.

Hereinafter, the encapsulation substrate **300** and the touch panel related members formed on the surface of the encapsulation substrate **300** in the organic light emitting display device according to the first embodiment of the present invention will be described in more detail.

FIGS. 4A and 4B are schematic drawings illustrating bottom views of the encapsulation substrate **300** and a first pattern layer formed on a surface of the encapsulation substrate **300** in the organic light emitting display device of FIG. 1. FIG. 4C is a schematic drawing illustrating a bottom view of the first pattern layer of FIGS. 4A and 4B, and a second pattern layer on the first pattern layer. FIG. 4D is a schematic drawing illustrating a cross-sectional view taken along a line IV-IV in FIG. 4C. FIG. 4E is a schematic drawing illustrating a perspective view of the first pattern layer and the second pattern layer of FIG. 4C.

Referring to FIGS. 4A through 4E, a first pattern layer **310**, a first insulating layer **330**, a second pattern layer **320**, and a second insulating layer **340** (see FIG. 7) are respectively formed on a surface of the encapsulation substrate **300** that faces the substrate **100**.

In a conventional organic light emitting display device having an internal electrostatic capacitive type touch panel, the thickness of the touch panel is increased in order to realize a touch panel function. According to the first embodiment of the present invention, an indium tin oxide (ITO) pattern is formed on an inner surface of the encapsulation substrate **300** of the organic light emitting display device. In the conventional organic light emitting display device having the internal electrostatic capacitive type touch panel, ITO electrodes are disposed on the entire surface of an encapsulation substrate that provides the touch panel function such that light emitted from OLEDs is absorbed by the ITO electrodes, whereby a luminance of the emitted light is degraded. According to the first embodiment of the present invention, a plurality of openings are formed in the ITO pattern of the organic light emitting display device, whereby the luminance degradation of the light emitted from the OLEDs is improved.

For example, the first pattern layer **310** is formed on the surface of the encapsulation substrate **300** that faces the substrate **100** (see FIG. 1). The first pattern layer **310** includes a plurality of first direction pattern units **311** arranged in par-

allel rows extending in a first direction (e.g., an X direction in FIG. 4A), and a plurality of second direction pattern units **312** arranged in parallel columns extending in a second direction (e.g., a Y direction in FIG. 4B) that is substantially perpendicular to the first direction. As illustrated in FIGS. 4A and 4B, the first direction pattern units **311** and the second direction pattern units **312** are alternately disposed on the encapsulation substrate **300**. That is, the first direction pattern units **311** in each of the parallel rows are arranged with their horizontally opposite corners facing each other along the first direction (e.g., the X direction in FIG. 4A) on the surface of the encapsulation substrate **300**, and the second direction pattern units **312** in each of the parallel columns are arranged with their vertically opposite corners facing each other along the second direction (e.g., the Y direction in FIG. 4B).

In FIG. 4A, character A indicates one of the first direction pattern units **311**, the first direction pattern units **311** include a plurality of main bodies **311a**, a plurality of connecting units **311b**, a plurality of extending units **311c**, and a plurality of contact units **311d**. The main bodies **311a** each have a quadrilateral shape (e.g., a diamond shape) and are formed in parallel rows extending in the first direction, i.e., the X direction in FIG. 4A. Each of the connecting units **311b** is formed between two of the main bodies **311a** and connects the two main bodies **311a** that are adjacent to each other. The extending units **311c** extend from the ends of the parallel rows of first direction pattern units **311**. Furthermore, the extending units **311c** may be routed toward one direction, e.g., the Y direction in FIG. 4A, so that the plurality of extending units **311c** may gather at one end of the encapsulation substrate **300**, for example, an upper end of the encapsulation substrate **300** in FIG. 4A. The contact units **311d** are formed at the ends of the extending units **311c**, and are electrically connected to a plurality of contact units **112** (see FIG. 7) of the substrate **100** (see FIG. 7) via a conductive member **120** (see FIG. 7) which are to be described later.

A plurality of openings **311e** are formed on each of the main bodies **311a** in each of the first direction pattern units **311**. The openings **311e** may be formed to be vertically above the intermediate layers **233R**, **233G**, and **233B** (see FIG. 3). Furthermore, each of the intermediate layers **233R**, **233G**, and **233B** (see FIG. 3) includes at least an emission layer. In this manner, by locating the openings **311e** above the emission layer from which light is emitted, the light emitted from the emission layer may pass through the first direction pattern units **311** via the openings **311e** without significant reduction in luminance.

FIG. 5A is a diagram of the openings **311e**, wherein each of the openings **311e** corresponds to a pixel according to an embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 5B is a diagram of the openings **311e**, wherein each of the openings **311e** corresponds to a subpixel according to an embodiment of the present invention. That is, as illustrated in FIG. 5A, the openings **311e** may be formed to individually correspond to each of a plurality of pixels in the display unit **200** (see FIG. 2), wherein each of the pixels includes R/G/B subpixels. In addition, as illustrated in FIG. 5B, a plurality of openings **311eR**, **311eG**, and **311eB** may be formed to individually correspond to each of the R/G/B subpixels in the display unit **200** (see FIG. 2).

In some embodiments of the present invention, the openings **311e** may be formed to have substantially the same shape and size as that of the pixels as illustrated in FIG. 5A, or the openings **311eR**, **311eG**, and **311eB** may be formed to have substantially the same shape and size as that of the subpixels as illustrated in FIG. 5B. However, the present invention is not limited thereto. That is, the shape, size, and arrangement of

the openings may vary according to, for example, the shape, size, and arrangement of each pixel and each subpixel.

Referring to FIG. 4B, the reference character B indicates one of the second direction pattern units **312**. The second direction pattern units **312** include a plurality of main bodies **312a**, extending units **312c**, and contact units **312d**. The main bodies **312a** each have a quadrilateral shape (e.g., a diamond shape), and are formed in parallel columns extending in the second direction, i.e., a Y direction in FIG. 4B. Unlike the first direction pattern units **311**, each of the second direction pattern units **312** in FIG. 4B does not include a connecting unit. Thus, the main bodies **312a** are connected to each other not by a connecting unit but by the second pattern layer **320** (See FIG. 4C). The extending units **312c** extend from the ends of the second direction pattern units **312**. Furthermore, the extending units **312c** may be routed toward one direction, e.g., the Y direction in FIG. 4B, so that the extending units **312c** may gather at one end of the encapsulation substrate **300** such as an upper end of the encapsulation substrate **300** in FIG. 4B. The contact units **312d** are formed at the ends of the extending units **312c** and are electrically connected to the plurality of contact units **112** (see FIG. 7) of the substrate **100** (see FIG. 7) via the conductive member **120** (see FIG. 7), which are to be described in more detail later.

A plurality of openings **312e** are formed in each of the main bodies **312a** in each of the second direction pattern units **312**. The openings **312e** may be formed to be vertically above the intermediate layers **233R**, **233G**, and **233B** (see FIG. 3). Furthermore, each of the intermediate layers **233R**, **233G**, and **233B** (see FIG. 3) includes at least an emission layer. In this manner, by forming the openings **312e** above the emission layer from which light is actually emitted, the light emitted from the emission layer may pass through the second direction pattern units **312** via the openings **312e** without reduction in luminance.

Referring to FIGS. 4D and 4E, the first insulating layer **330** is formed on the surface of the encapsulation substrate **300** so as to face the substrate **100** and to cover the first pattern layer **310**. The first insulating layer **330** insulates the first pattern layer **310** from the second pattern layer **320**. A plurality of contact holes **331** may be formed at set or predetermined positions in the first insulating layer **330**, e.g., at positions that correspond to corners of the main bodies **312a** of the second direction pattern units **312** which face each other. The second pattern layer **320** and the main bodies **312a** of the second direction pattern units **312** are connected via the contact holes **331**.

As illustrated in FIGS. 4C through 4E, the second pattern layer **320** is formed on a surface of the first insulating layer **330** so as to face the substrate **100**. Furthermore, the second pattern layer **320** is formed to fill the contact holes **331** of the first insulating layer **330**, thereby electrically connecting the main bodies **312a** of the second direction pattern units **312** that are adjacent to each other.

As illustrated in FIG. 4E, the first direction pattern units **311** and the second direction pattern units **312**, which are alternately disposed on the encapsulation substrate **300**, do not intersect each other, so that a short circuit between the first direction pattern units **311** and the second direction pattern units **312** may be prevented or blocked.

The first pattern layer **310** and the second pattern layer **320** may be formed of transparent materials such as ITO, IZO, ZnO, or In₂O₃. Also, the first pattern layer **310** and the second pattern layer **320** may be formed by a photolithography process. That is, an ITO layer, formed by a deposition method, a spin coating method, a sputtering method, and/or an inkjet

method, may be patterned to form the first pattern layer 310 and the second pattern layer 320.

The second insulating layer 340 is formed on the surface of the first insulating layer 330 so as to face the substrate 100 and to cover the second pattern layer 320. The second insulating layer 340 insulates the second pattern layer 320 from the display unit 200 (see FIG. 7).

Therefore, according to the first embodiment of the present invention, a touch panel function is realized without increasing the thickness of the touch panel. Also, since an electrostatic capacitive pattern is formed on the inner surface of the encapsulation substrate 300, slim or shallow etching may be performed.

Hereinafter, the connection between a pattern layer of an encapsulation substrate and a printed circuit board (PCB) of a

FIG. 6 is a schematic drawing illustrating a detailed plan view of the organic light emitting display device of FIG. 1 according to the first embodiment of the present invention, and FIG. 7 is a schematic drawing illustrating a cross-sectional view of the organic light emitting display device of FIG. 6.

Referring to FIGS. 6 and 7, the contact units 311d of the first direction pattern units 311 and the contact units 312d of the second direction pattern units 312, which are formed on an encapsulation substrate 300, are electrically connected to a data line 110 formed on the substrate 100. Furthermore, the organic light emitting display device according to the first embodiment of the present invention includes a conductive member 120 (see FIG. 7).

As described above, the display unit 200 for realizing an image is formed on the substrate 100. A flexible PCB 130, on which various kinds of electrical components for drive and control of the display unit 200 are disposed, is arranged along a side of the display unit 200. A plurality of first PCB connecting units 115 are formed to connect the display unit 200 to the flexible PCB 130.

The data line 110 is formed around the display unit 200 above the substrate 100. The data line 110 delivers electrical signals, which are generated by the first and the second pattern layers 310 and 320 formed on the inner surface of the encapsulation substrate 300, to the flexible PCB 130. The data line 110 further includes a plurality of contact units 112 and a plurality of second PCB connecting units 113.

The contact units 112 are formed at positions respectively corresponding to the contact units 311d of the first direction pattern units 311 and the contact units 312d of the second direction pattern units 312. The contact units 112 formed above the substrate 100 and the contact units 311d and 312d formed on the encapsulation substrate 300 are electrically connected by the conductive member 120. Various suitable conductive materials including a silver paste may be used as the conductive member 120. Furthermore, the contact units 112 are individually connected to the data line 110 that is connected to the flexible PCB 130 via the second PCB connecting units 113.

Various kinds of electrical components for drive and control of the display unit 200 are disposed on the flexible PCB 130. Furthermore, various electrical components for receiving the electrical signals to drive and control a touch panel may also be disposed on the flexible PCB 130, wherein the electrical signals are generated by the first and the second pattern layers 310 and 320 formed on the inner surface of the encapsulation substrate 300.

According to the first embodiment of the present invention, the organic light emitting display device includes a conventional flexible PCB that may be used in a display device, so as

to realize an integrated interface for enabling a touch panel function. As such, the manufacturing cost may be reduced, and the manufacturing process may be improved.

In FIG. 6, the first PCB connecting units 115 connected to the display unit 200 and the second PCB connecting units 113 connected to the data line 110 are separately arranged, and are separately connected to the flexible PCB 130, but the present invention is not limited thereto. That is, the first PCB connecting units 115 and the second PCB connecting units 113 may be formed as a single PCB connecting unit, so that the single PCB connecting unit can be concurrently connected to the display unit 200 and the data line 110. Therefore, the manufacturing cost may be reduced, and the manufacturing process may be improved.

Also, a display drive integrated circuit (DDI) may be formed in the flexible PCB 130 to provide the functions of a touch panel drive integrated circuit (IC). By doing so, the manufacturing costs can be effectively reduced, and the manufacturing process can be simplified.

Hereinafter, a method of driving the organic light emitting display device according to the first embodiment of the present invention will now be described.

Referring back to FIGS. 6 and 7, when a finger, a conductive object, or a high dielectric object approaches or touches a touch sensing surface of the organic light emitting display device according to the first embodiment of the present invention, the organic light emitting display device interprets a change of an electrostatic capacity (capacitance) of conductors caused by such approach, thereby sensing a touch. In response, an output is generated that includes the coordinates of a location on the touch surface that senses the touch and a value representing the strength (e.g., pressure) of the touch.

Furthermore, a constant cathode voltage is applied at the counter electrode 235 (see FIG. 3) of the display unit 200 which contacts the second insulating layer 340. Thus, the first pattern layer 310 and the counter electrode 235 form a capacitor, and the capacitance between the first pattern layer 310 and the counter electrode 235 is maintained constant. When a finger, a conductive object, or a high dielectric object approaches or touches a surface above the encapsulation substrate 300, the finger and the first pattern layer 310 form another capacitor. Thus, these two capacitors are connected in serial, and the total capacitance changes. By sensing the position where the change of the capacitance occurs and a magnitude of the change, a touch sensing system can be realized.

Second Embodiment

FIG. 8A is a schematic drawing illustrating a bottom view of an encapsulation substrate with a first pattern layer formed on a surface of the encapsulation substrate in an organic light emitting display device according to a second embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 8B is a schematic drawing illustrating a bottom view of the first pattern layer of FIG. 8A and a second pattern layer on the first pattern layer. FIG. 8C is a schematic drawing illustrating a cross-sectional view taken along a line VIII-VIII in FIG. 8B. FIG. 8D is a schematic drawing illustrating a perspective view of the first pattern layer and the second pattern layer of FIG. 8B.

Referring to FIGS. 8A through 8D, a first pattern layer 410, a first insulating layer 430, a second pattern layer 420, and a second insulating layer 440 are respectively formed on a surface of an encapsulation substrate 400 so as to face a substrate.

Different from the first embodiment, the second embodiment shown in FIGS. 8A through 8D includes second direction pattern units 421 that are not formed on the first pattern

layer **410** while the first direction pattern units **411** are formed on the first pattern layer **410**. Instead, the second direction pattern units **421** are formed on the second pattern layer **420**.

Furthermore, the first pattern layer **410** is formed on the surface of the encapsulation substrate **400** facing the substrate. The plurality of first direction pattern units **411** of the first pattern layer **410** are arranged in parallel rows extending in a first direction (e.g., an X direction in FIG. 8A). Reference character A illustrated in FIG. 8A indicates one of the first direction pattern units **411**.

Referring to the reference character A in FIG. 8A. The first direction pattern units **411** includes a plurality of main bodies **411a**, a plurality of connecting units **411b**, a plurality of extending units **411c**, and a plurality of contact units **411d**. The main bodies **411a** have a quadrilateral shape (e.g., a diamond shape) and are arranged in a plurality of parallel rows extending in the first direction, i.e., the X direction in FIG. 8A. Each of the connecting units **411b** is formed between two adjacent main bodies **411a**, thereby connecting the adjacent main bodies **411a**. Each of the extending units **411c** extends from an end of a row of the first direction pattern units **411**. The extending unit **411c** may be routed toward a same direction, e.g., a Y direction in FIG. 8A, so that the extending units **411c** may gather at one end of the encapsulation substrate **400**, for example, an upper end of the encapsulation substrate **400** in FIG. 8A. The contact units **411d** are respectively formed at the ends of the extending units **411c**, and the contact units **411d** are electrically connected to a data line of the substrate.

A plurality of openings **411e** are formed in each of the main bodies **411a**. The openings **411e** may be formed to be vertically above the intermediate layers **233R**, **233G**, and **233B** (see FIG. 3). Furthermore, each of the intermediate layers **233R**, **233G**, and **233B** (see FIG. 3) includes at least an emission layer. In this manner, by forming the openings **411e** above the emission layer from which light is emitted, the light emitted from the emission layer can pass through the first direction pattern units **411** via the openings **411e** without significant luminance reduction.

Referring to FIGS. 8C and 8D, the first insulating layer **430** is formed on the surface of the encapsulation substrate **400** so as to face the substrate and to cover the first pattern layer **410**. The first insulating layer **430** insulates the first pattern layer **410** from the second pattern layer **420**.

As illustrated in FIGS. 8B through 8D, the second pattern layer **420** is formed on a surface of the first insulating layer **430** so as to face the substrate.

Furthermore, the second pattern layer **420** includes the second direction pattern units **421** formed in parallel columns extending in the second direction (e.g., the Y direction in FIG. 8B). Reference character B illustrated in FIG. 8B indicates one of the second direction pattern units **421**. In FIG. 8B, dash lines illustrate the first pattern layer **410** illustrated in FIG. 8A.

Referring to the reference character B in FIG. 8B, the second direction pattern units **421** include a plurality of main bodies **421a**, a plurality of connecting units **421b**, a plurality of extending units **421c**, and a plurality of contact units **421d**. The main bodies **421a** each have a quadrilateral shape (e.g., a diamond shape) and are formed in parallel rows extending in the second direction, i.e., the Y direction in FIG. 8B. Each of the connecting units **421b** is formed between two adjacent main bodies **421a**, thereby connecting the two adjacent main bodies **421a** to each other. Each of the extending units **421c** extends from an end of a column of the second direction pattern units **421**. The extending units **421c** may be routed toward the same direction, e.g., the Y direction in FIG. 8B, so

that the extending units **421c** may gather (or converge) at one end of the encapsulation substrate **400**, for example, an upper end of the encapsulation substrate **400** in FIG. 8B. The contact units **421d** are respectively formed at the ends of the extending unit **421c** and are electrically connected to the data line of the substrate.

A plurality of openings **421e** are formed in each of the main bodies **421a**. The openings **421e** may be formed to be vertically above the intermediate layers **233R**, **233G**, and **233B** (see FIG. 3). Furthermore, each of the intermediate layers **233R**, **233G**, and **233B** (see FIG. 3) includes at least an emission layer. In this manner, by forming the openings **421e** above the emission layer from which light is emitted, the light emitted from the emission layer may pass through the second direction pattern units **421** via the openings **421e** without significant reduction in luminance.

The first pattern layer **410** and the second pattern layer **420** may be formed of a transparent material such as ITO, IZO, ZnO, and/or In₂O₃. Also, the first pattern layer **410** and the second pattern layer **420** may be formed by a photolithography process. That is, an ITO layer, formed by a deposition method, a spin coating method, a sputtering method, and/or an inkjet method, may be patterned to form the first pattern layer **410** and the second pattern layer **420**.

The second insulating layer **440** is formed on the surface of the first insulating layer **430** so as to face the substrate and to cover the second pattern layer **420**. The second insulating layer **440** insulates the second pattern layer **420** from the display unit **200** (see FIG. 7).

In this manner, according to the embodiments of the present invention, it is possible to realize a touch panel function without increasing the thickness of a touch panel. Also, since an electrostatic capacitive pattern is formed on an inner surface of the encapsulation substrate **400**, slim or shallow etching is possible.

According to the embodiments of the present invention, a touch panel function may be incorporated in the organic light emitting display device without significant increase in the thickness of the touch panel and without significant reduction in luminance.

While the present invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to exemplary embodiments thereof, it will be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the following claims and equivalents thereof.

What is claimed is:

1. A display panel comprising:

a substrate;

a display unit on the substrate, the display unit comprising a plurality of pixels; and

a touch sensing unit on the display unit, the touch sensing unit comprising:

an encapsulation substrate; and

a capacitive pattern layer on a side of the encapsulation substrate facing the display unit, the capacitive pattern layer having a plurality of openings corresponding in position to the plurality of pixels, at least one of the pixels being aligned with a corresponding one of the openings along a direction perpendicular to the substrate,

wherein the capacitive pattern layer comprises a plurality of first pattern units extending in a first direction and a plurality of second pattern units arranged in a second direction crossing the first direction, at least one of the first pattern units having at least one of the plurality of

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openings and at least one of the second pattern units having at least one of the plurality of openings, and wherein the plurality of first pattern units and the plurality of second pattern units are on the side of the encapsulation substrate facing the display unit.

2. The display panel of claim 1, wherein the first and second pattern units are arranged in a matrix pattern.

3. The display panel of claim 2, wherein the plurality of first pattern units is arranged in columns extending in the first direction and the plurality of second pattern units is arranged in rows extending in the second direction crossing the first direction.

4. The display panel of claim 3, wherein the plurality of first pattern units are electrically coupled to each other.

5. The display panel of claim 3, further comprising a first insulation layer on the plurality of first pattern units and the plurality of second pattern units.

6. The display panel of claim 5, further comprising a plurality of connectors on the first insulation layer for electrically coupling adjacent units of the plurality of second pattern units.

7. The display panel of claim 6, further comprising a second insulation layer on the plurality of connectors.

8. A display panel comprising:

a substrate;

a display unit on the substrate, the display unit comprising a plurality of pixels;

a touch sensing unit on the display unit, the touch sensing unit comprising:

an encapsulation substrate; and

a capacitive pattern layer on a side of the encapsulation substrate facing the display unit, the capacitive pattern layer having a plurality of openings corresponding in position to the plurality of pixels, at least one of the pixels being aligned with a corresponding one of the openings along a direction perpendicular to the substrate,

wherein the capacitive pattern layer comprises a plurality of pattern units arranged in a matrix pattern, the plurality of pattern units comprising a plurality of first pattern units arranged in columns extending in a first direction and a plurality of second pattern units arranged in rows extending in a second direction crossing the first direction; and

a first insulation layer between the plurality of first pattern units and the plurality of second pattern units, wherein the plurality of first pattern units are between the encapsulation substrate and the first insulation layer, and the plurality of second pattern units are on the first insulation layer.

9. The display panel of claim 8, further comprising a second insulation layer on the plurality of second pattern units.

10. The display panel of claim 2, wherein each of the first and second pattern units has a substantially quadrilateral shape.

11. The display panel of claim 2, wherein each of the first and second pattern units has a substantially diamond or rectangular shape.

12. The display panel of claim 1, wherein an opening of the plurality of openings corresponds in position to at least one pixel of the plurality of pixels.

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13. The display panel of claim 12, wherein the opening of the plurality of openings corresponds in position to only one pixel of the plurality of pixels.

14. The display panel of claim 13, wherein the pixel is a subpixel.

15. The display panel of claim 13, wherein a center of the opening is substantially aligned with a center of the pixel in a direction substantially normal to the side of the encapsulation substrate.

16. The display panel of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of openings has substantially the same shape as that of a corresponding pixel of the plurality of pixels.

17. The display panel of claim 1, wherein an opening of the plurality of openings has an area substantially identical to or larger than an area of a pixel of the plurality of pixels in size.

18. The display panel of claim 1, wherein the plurality of openings are arranged in a pattern corresponding to an arrangement pattern of the plurality of pixels.

19. The display panel of claim 1, wherein the plurality of openings are identical to or less than the plurality of pixels in number.

20. The display panel of claim 1, wherein the touch sensing unit further comprises a plurality of extending units on the side of the encapsulation substrate for electrically coupling the capacitive pattern layer to the substrate.

21. The display panel of claim 20, further comprising a conductive member between the substrate and the touch sensing unit for coupling the plurality of extending units to the substrate.

22. The display panel of claim 1, wherein the capacitive pattern layer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of ITO, IZO, ZnO, In₂O₃, and combinations thereof.

23. The display panel of claim 1, wherein the display unit is an organic light emitting display.

24. A method of fabricating a display panel having a touch sensing interface, the method comprising:

providing a display unit on a substrate, the display unit comprising a plurality of pixels;

forming a capacitive pattern layer on a side of an encapsulation substrate;

forming a plurality of openings in the capacitive pattern layer corresponding in position to the plurality of pixels, at least one of the pixels being aligned with a corresponding one of the openings along a direction perpendicular to the substrate; and

attaching the encapsulation substrate to the substrate with the display unit facing the capacitive pattern layer, wherein the forming of the capacitive pattern layer comprises:

forming a plurality of first pattern units extending in a first direction; and

forming a plurality of second pattern units extending in a second direction crossing the first direction,

wherein the forming of the plurality of openings comprises forming at least one of the plurality of openings in at least one of the first pattern units and forming at least one of the plurality of openings in at least one of the second pattern units, and

wherein the plurality of first pattern units and the plurality of second pattern units are formed on the side of the encapsulation substrate facing the display unit.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	有机发光显示装置		
公开(公告)号	US9342176	公开(公告)日	2016-05-17
申请号	US12/409375	申请日	2009-03-23
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	金荣DAE 崔钟HYUN IM CHOONG烈 LEE IL JEONG		
申请(专利权)人(译)	金荣DAE 崔钟铉 IM忠烈 LEE IL-JEONG		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	三星DISPLAY CO. , LTD.		
[标]发明人	KIM YOUNG DAE CHOI JONG HYUN IM CHOONG YOUL LEE IL JEONG		
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摘要(译)

一种具有静电电容型触摸板功能的有机发光显示装置，其具有减小的厚度和改善的亮度。有机发光显示装置的显示面板包括基板，在基板上具有多个像素的显示单元，以及在显示单元上的触摸感测单元。触摸感测单元包括封装基板和位于封装基板的面向显示单元的一侧上的电容图案层。电容图案层具有多个开口，这些开口在位置上对应于多个像素。

