



US 20070134514A1

(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication** (10) **Pub. No.: US 2007/0134514 A1**
Kondakov et al. (43) **Pub. Date: Jun. 14, 2007**(54) **ELECTROLUMINESCENT HOST MATERIAL****Publication Classification**(75) Inventors: **Denis Y. Kondakov**, Kendall, NY (US);
Tommie L. Royster JR., Rochester,
NY (US); **Christopher T. Brown**,
Rochester, NY (US)(51) **Int. Cl.****H01L 51/54** (2006.01)(52) **U.S. Cl.** **428/690**; 428/917; 313/504;
313/506; 257/E51; 257/E51;
257/102; 257/103

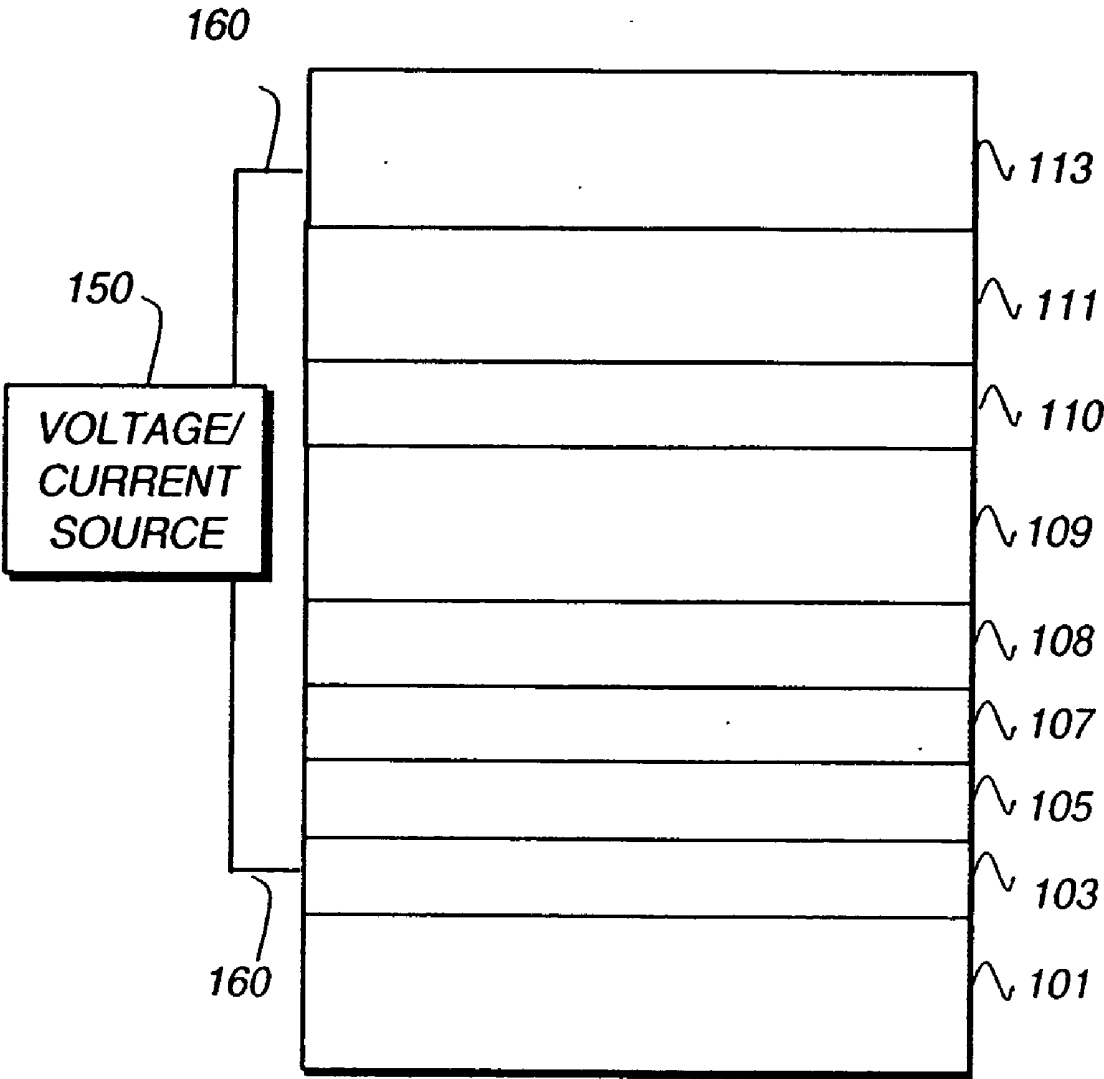
Correspondence Address:

Paul A. Leipold**Patent Legal Staff****Eastman Kodak Company****343 State Street****Rochester, NY 14650-2201 (US)**(73) Assignee: **Eastman Kodak Company**(21) Appl. No.: **11/302,884**(22) Filed: **Dec. 14, 2005**

(57)

ABSTRACT

An OLED device comprises a cathode, an anode, and has therebetween a light-emitting layer containing a phosphorescent emitter and a host comprising a first aluminum or gallium complex containing at least one 2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)pyridine ligand and at least one phenoxy ligand, wherein the phenoxy ligand is substituted by an amine or there is further present adjacent to the light-emitting layer on the cathode side a layer containing a second aluminum or gallium complex containing at least one 2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)pyridine ligand and at least one phenoxy ligand.



ELECTROLUMINESCENT HOST MATERIAL

FIELD OF INVENTION

[0001] This invention relates to organic electroluminescent (EL) devices containing a light emitting layer including a phosphorescent emitter and a particular aluminum or gallium complex host. More specifically, this invention relates to efficient and low voltage phosphorescent EL devices.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] While organic electroluminescent (EL) devices have been known for over two decades, their performance limitations have represented a barrier to many desirable applications. In simplest form, an organic EL device is comprised of an anode for hole injection, a cathode for electron injection, and an organic medium sandwiched between these electrodes to support charge recombination that yields emission of light. These devices are also commonly referred to as organic light-emitting diodes, or OLEDs. Representative of earlier organic EL devices are Gurnee et al. U.S. Pat. No. 3,172,862, issued Mar. 9, 1965; Gurnee U.S. Pat. No. 3,173,050, issued Mar. 9, 1965; Dresner, "Double Injection Electroluminescence in Anthracene", RCA Review, Vol. 30, pp. 322-334, 1969; and Dresner U.S. Pat. No. 3,710,167, issued Jan. 9, 1973. The organic layers in these devices, usually composed of a polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon, were very thick (much greater than 1 μm). Consequently, operating voltages were very high, often >100V.

[0003] More recent organic EL devices include an organic EL element consisting of extremely thin layers (e.g. <1.0 μm) between the anode and the cathode. Herein, the term "organic EL element" encompasses the layers between the anode and cathode electrodes. Reducing the thickness lowered the resistance of the organic layer and has enabled devices that operate at a much lower voltage. In a basic two-layer EL device structure, described first in U.S. Pat. No. 4,356,429, one organic layer of the EL element adjacent to the anode is specifically chosen to transport holes, therefore, it is referred to as the hole-transporting layer, and the other organic layer is specifically chosen to transport electrons, referred to as the electron-transporting layer. Recombination of the injected holes and electrons within the organic EL element results in efficient electroluminescence.

[0004] There have also been proposed three-layer organic EL devices that contain an organic light-emitting layer (LEL) between the hole-transporting layer and electron-transporting layer, such as that disclosed by Tang et al [*J. Applied Physics*, Vol. 65, Pages 3610-3616, 1989]. The light-emitting layer commonly consists of a host material doped with a guest material. Still further, there has been proposed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,769,292 a four-layer EL element comprising a hole-injecting layer (HIL), a hole-transporting layer (HTL), a light-emitting layer (LEL) and an electron transport/injection layer (ETL). These structures have resulted in improved device efficiency.

[0005] Many emitting materials that have been described as useful in an OLED device emit light from their excited singlet state by fluorescence. The excited singlet state is created when excitons formed in an OLED device transfer their energy to the excited state of the dopant. However, it

is generally believed that only 25% of the excitons created in an EL device are singlet excitons. The remaining excitons are triplet, which cannot readily transfer their energy to the singlet excited state of a dopant. This results in a large loss in efficiency since 75% of the excitons are not used in the light emission process.

[0006] Triplet excitons can transfer their energy to a dopant if it has a triplet excited state that is low enough in energy. If the triplet state of the dopant is emissive it can produce light by phosphorescence. In many cases singlet excitons can also transfer their energy to lowest singlet excited state of the same dopant. The singlet excited state can often relax, by an intersystem crossing process, to the emissive triplet excited state. Thus, it is possible, by the proper choice of host and dopant, to collect energy from both the singlet and triplet excitons created in an OLED device and to produce a very efficient phosphorescent emission.

[0007] The light-emitting layer is typically composed of a host material and a dopant. Aluminum complexes are not common materials for use as a host material in phosphorescent devices. However their use in combination with a particular electron transporting material has been described in US2004/0124769. An example of an aluminum complex as the entire light-emitting layer has also been disclosed in JP200357588.

[0008] A hole-blocking layer (HBL) located between the LEL and the ETL is often useful to confine holes to the LEL, to help confine the excitons or electron-hole recombination centers to the light emitting layer. One example of a hole-blocking material is bis(2-methyl-8-quinolinolato)(4-phenylphenolato)Aluminum(III) (BalQ); other aluminum compounds are disclosed in US2005/0019605.

[0009] Notwithstanding these developments, there remains a need for new complexes that will function as triplet host and hole-blocking materials in electroluminescent devices having improved efficient and low drive voltage.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0010] The invention provides an OLED device comprising a cathode, an anode, and having therebetween a light-emitting layer containing a phosphorescent emitter and a host comprising a first aluminum or gallium complex containing at least one 2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)pyridine ligand and at least one phenoxy ligand, wherein the phenoxy ligand is substituted by an amine or there is further present adjacent to the light-emitting layer on the cathode side a layer containing a second aluminum or gallium complex containing at least one 2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)pyridine ligand and at least one phenoxy ligand.

[0011] The devices of the invention exhibit improved luminance efficiency and/or low drive voltage.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012] FIG. 1 shows a cross-section of a schematic of a typical OLED device of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

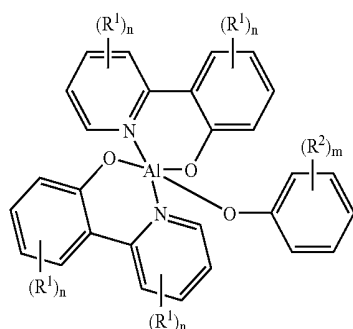
Embodiment A

[0013] The invention provides an OLED device comprising a cathode, an anode, and having therebetween a light-

emitting layer containing a phosphorescent emitter and a host comprising a first aluminum or gallium complex containing at least one 2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)pyridine ligand and at least one phenoxy ligand, wherein there is further present adjacent to the light-emitting layer on the cathode side a layer containing a second aluminum or gallium complex containing at least one 2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)pyridine ligand and at least one phenoxy ligand.

[0014] In one embodiment the first complex is an aluminum complex. In addition it is possible for the first and second complexes to be the same compound. The emitter in the light-emitting layer may be an iridium phosphorescent emitter.

[0015] Suitably, the first complex is represented by Formula I:

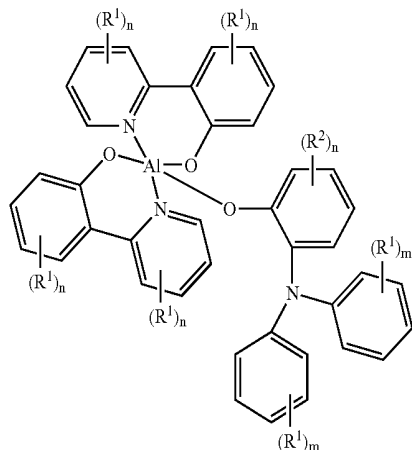


Formula I

wherein; R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, aryl amine, alkyl amine, and cyano groups, provided that groups may join together to form fused rings; n is independently 0 to 4; and m is 0 to 5. In a preferred embodiment, R^2 is a phenyl or aryl amine group.

[0016] Phenoxy pyridine ligands have higher triplet energy than various quinolates such as those in Alq and BALq. Even higher triplet energies can be achieved by placing substituents, particularly ortho substituents which will induce twisting of the bond between the phenol and pyridine rings of the ligand.

[0017] In another embodiment, the first complex is represented by Formula II:

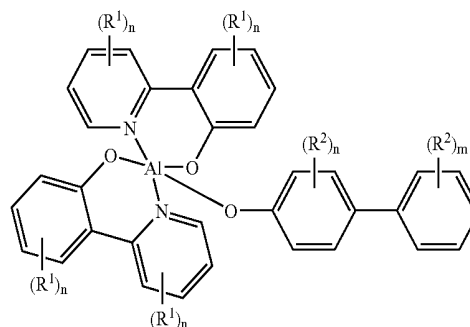


Formula II

wherein; R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, aryl amine, alkyl amine, and cyano groups, provided that groups may join together to form fused rings; n is independently 0 to 4; and m is independently 0 to 5.

[0018] In another embodiment, the first complex is represented by Formula III:

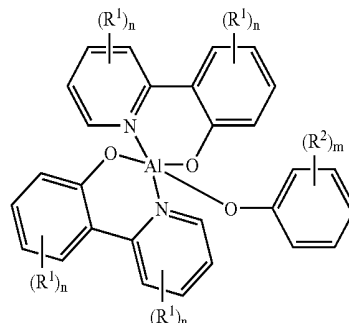
Formula III



wherein; R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, aryl amine, alkyl amine, and cyano groups, provided that groups may join together to form fused rings; n is independently 0 to 4; and m is 0 to 5.

[0019] In a preferred embodiment, the second complex is represented by Formula I:

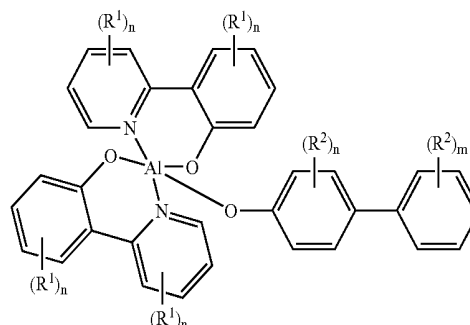
Formula I



wherein; R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, aryl amine, alkyl amine, and cyano groups, provided that groups may join together to form fused rings; n is independently 0 to 4; and m is 0 to 5.

[0020] In another preferred embodiment, the second complex is represented by Formula III:

Formula III

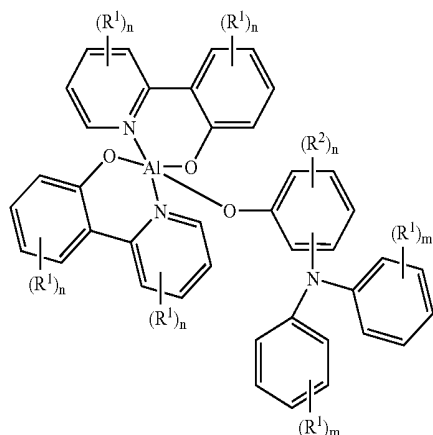


wherein; R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, aryl amine, alkyl amine, and cyano groups, provided that groups may join together to form fused rings; n is independently 0 to 4; and m is 0 to 5.

Embodiment B

[0021] In another embodiment, the OLED devices comprises a cathode, an anode, and having therebetween a light-emitting layer containing a phosphorescent emitter and a host comprising a first aluminum or gallium complex containing at least one 2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)pyridine ligand and at least one phenoxy ligand substituted with an amine. The emitter in the light-emitting layer may be an iridium phosphorescent emitter. Suitably, the amine is selected from pyridine, pyrrole, and indole.

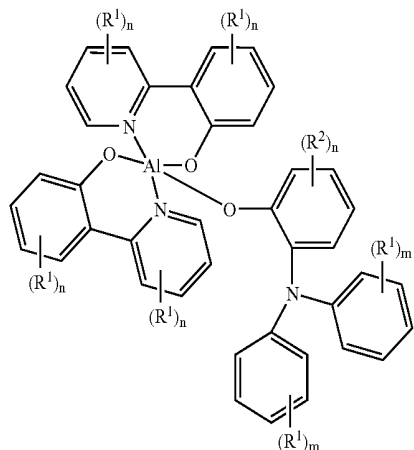
[0022] In one embodiment, the first complex is represented by Formula IV:



Formula IV

wherein; R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, aryl amine, alkyl amine, and cyano groups, provided that groups may join together to form fused rings; n is independently 0 to 4; and m is independently 0 to 5.

[0023] In a preferred embodiment the first complex is represented by Formula II:



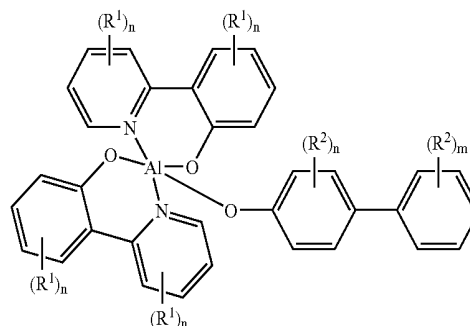
Formula II

wherein; R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, aryl amine, alkyl amine, and cyano groups, provided that groups may join together to form fused rings; n is independently 0 to 4; and m is independently 0 to 5.

[0024] In a more preferred embodiment, there is further present adjacent to the light-emitting layer on the cathode side a layer containing a second aluminum or gallium complex containing at least one 2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)pyridine ligand and at least one phenoxy ligand.

[0025] The second complex may be represented by Formula III:

Formula III



[0026] wherein; R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, aryl amine, alkyl amine, and cyano groups, provided that groups may join together to form fused rings; n is independently 0 to 4; and m is 0 to 5.

[0027] Embodiments of the invention may provide advantageous features such as operating efficiency, higher luminance, color hue, low drive voltage, and improved operating stability. Embodiments of the organometallic compounds useful in the invention may provide a wide range of hues including those useful in the emission of white light (directly or through filters to provide multicolor displays).

[0028] Unless otherwise specifically stated, use of the term "substituted" or "substituent" means any group or atom other than hydrogen. Additionally, when the term "group" is used, it means that when a substituent group contains a substitutable hydrogen, it is also intended to encompass not only the substituent's unsubstituted form, but also its form further substituted with any substituent group or groups as herein mentioned, so long as the substituent does not destroy properties necessary for device utility. Suitably, a substituent group may be halogen or may be bonded to the remainder of the molecule by an atom of carbon, silicon, oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorous, sulfur, selenium, or boron. The substituent may be, for example, halogen, such as chloro, bromo or fluoro; nitro; hydroxyl; cyano; carboxyl; or groups which may be further substituted, such as alkyl, including straight or branched chain or cyclic alkyl, such as methyl, trifluoromethyl, ethyl, t-butyl, 3-(2,4-di-t-pentylphenoxy) propyl, and tetradecyl; alkenyl, such as ethylene, 2-butene; alkoxy, such as methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, butoxy, 2-methoxyethoxy, sec-butoxy, hexyloxy, 2-ethylhexyloxy, tetradecyloxy, 2-(2,4-di-t-pentylphenoxy)ethoxy, and 2-dodecyloxy-

ethoxy; aryl such as phenyl, 4-t-butylphenyl, 2,4,6-trimethylphenyl, naphthyl; aryloxy, such as phenoxy, 2-methylphenoxy, alpha- or beta-naphthyloxy, and 4-tolyloxy; carbonamido, such as acetamido, benzamido, butyramido, tetradecanamido, alpha-(2,4-di-t-pentyl-phenoxy)acetamido, alpha-(2,4-di-t-pentylphenoxy)butyramido, alpha-(3-pentadecylphenoxy)-hexanamido, alpha-(4-hydroxy-3-t-butylphenoxy)-tetradecanamido, 2-oxo-pyrrolidin-1-yl, 2-oxo-5-tetradecylpyrrolin-1-yl, N-methyltetradecanamido, N-succinimido, N-phthalimido, 2,5-dioxo-1-oxazolidinyl, 3-dodecyl-2,5-dioxo-1-imidazolyl, and N-acetyl-N-dodecylamino, ethoxycarbonylamino, phenoxycarbonylamino, benzyloxycarbonylamino, hexadecyloxycarbonylamino, 2,4-di-t-butylphenoxy carbonylamino, phenyl carbonylamino, 2,5-(di-t-pentylphenyl) carbonylamino, p-dodecylphenyl carbonylamino, p-tolyl carbonyl amino, N-methylureido, N,N-dimethylureido, N-methyl-N-dodecylureido, N-hexadecylureido, N,N-di-octadecylureido, N,N-di-octyl-N'-ethylureido, N-phenylureido, N,N-diphenylureido, N-phenyl-N-p-tolylureido, N-(m-hexadecylphenyl)ureido, N,N-(2,5-di-t-pentylphenyl)-N'-ethylureido, and t-butyl carbonamido; sulfonamido, such as methylsulfonamido, benzenesulfonamido, p-tolylsulfonamido, p-dodecylbenzenesulfonamido, N-methyltetradecylsulfonamido, N,N-dipropyl-sulfamoylamino, and hexadecylsulfonamido; sulfamoyl, such as N-methylsulfamoyl, N-ethylsulfamoyl, N,N-dipropylsulfamoyl, N-hexadecylsulfamoyl, N,N-dimethylsulfamoyl, N-[3-(dodecyloxy)propyl]sulfamoyl, N-[4-(2,4-di-t-pentylphenoxy)butyl]sulfamoyl, N-methyl-N-tetradecylsulfamoyl, and N-dodecylsulfamoyl; carbamoyl, such as N-methylcarbamoyl, N,N-dibutylcarbamoyl, N-octadecylcarbamoyl, N-[4-(2,4-di-t-pentylphenoxy)butyl]carbamoyl, N-methyl-N-tetradecylcarbamoyl, and N,N-di-octylcarbamoyl; acyl, such as acetyl, (2,4-di-t-amylphenoxy)acetyl, phenoxycarbonyl, p-dodecyloxyphenoxycarbonyl methoxycarbonyl, butoxycarbonyl, tetradecyloxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, 3-pentadecyloxycarbonyl, and dodecyloxycarbonyl; sulfonyl, such as methoxysulfonyl, octyloxysulfonyl, tetradecyloxysulfonyl, 2-ethylhexyloxysulfonyl, phenoxysulfonyl, 2,4-di-t-pentylphenoxy sulfonyl, methylsulfonyl, octylsulfonyl, 2-ethylhexylsulfonyl, dodecylsulfonyl, hexadecylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, 4-nonylphenylsulfonyl, and p-tolylsulfonyl; sulfonyloxy, such as dodecylsulfonyloxy, and hexadecylsulfonyloxy; sulfinyl, such as methylsulfinyl, octylsulfinyl, 2-ethylhexylsulfinyl, dodecylsulfinyl, hexadecylsulfinyl, phenylsulfinyl, 4-nonylphenylsulfinyl, and p-tolylsulfinyl; thio, such as ethylthio, octylthio, benzylthio, tetradecylthio, 2-(2,4-di-t-pentylphenoxy)ethylthio, phenylthio, 2-butoxy-5-t-octylphenylthio, and p-tolylthio; acyloxy, such as acetyloxy, benzoyloxy, octadecanoyloxy, p-dodecylamidobenzoyloxy, N-phenylcarbamoyloxy, N-ethylcarbamoyloxy, and cyclohexylcarbamoyloxy; amine, such as phenylanilino, 2-chloroanilino, diethylamine, dodecylamine; imino, such as 1 (N-phenylimido)ethyl, N-succinimido or 3-benzylhydantoinyl; phosphate, such as dimethylbutylphosphate and ethylbutylphosphate; phosphite, such as diethyl and dihexylphosphite; a heterocyclic group, a heterocyclic oxy group or a heterocyclic thio group, each of which may be substituted and which contain a 3 to 7 membered heterocyclic ring composed of carbon atoms and at least one hetero atom selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur or phosphorous, such as pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, azolyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl,

imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, 2-furyl, 2-thienyl, 2-benzimidazolyl or 2-benzothiazolyl; quaternary ammonium, such as triethylammonium; quaternary phosphonium, such as triphenylphosphonium; and silyloxy, such as trimethylsilyloxy.

[0029] If desired, the substituents may themselves be further substituted one or more times with the described substituent groups. The particular substituents used may be selected by those skilled in the art to attain desirable properties for a specific application and can include, for example, electron-withdrawing groups, electron-donating groups, and steric groups. When a molecule may have two or more substituents, the substituents may be joined together to form a ring such as a fused ring unless otherwise provided. Generally, the above groups and substituents thereof may include those having up to 48 carbon atoms, typically 1 to 36 carbon atoms and usually less than 24 carbon atoms, but greater numbers are possible depending on the particular substituents selected.

[0030] For the purpose of this invention, also included in the definition of a heterocyclic ring are those rings that include coordinate or dative bonds. The definition of a coordinate bond can be found in *Grant & Hack's Chemical Dictionary*, page 91. In essence, a coordinate bond is formed when electron rich atoms such as O or N, donate a pair of electrons to electron deficient atoms such as Al or B.

[0031] It is well within the skill of the art to determine whether a particular group is electron donating or electron accepting. The most common measure of electron donating and accepting properties is in terms of Hammett σ values. Hydrogen has a Hammett σ value of zero, while electron donating groups have negative Hammett σ values and electron accepting groups have positive Hammett σ values. Lange's handbook of Chemistry, 12th Ed., McGraw Hill, 1979, Table 3-12, pp. 3-134 to 3-138, here incorporated by reference, lists Hammett σ values for a large number of commonly encountered groups. Hammett σ values are assigned based on phenyl ring substitution, but they provide a practical guide for qualitatively selecting electron donating and accepting groups.

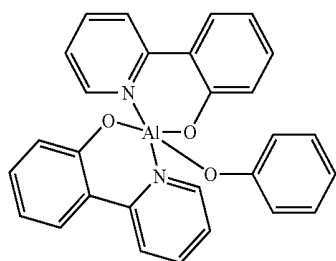
[0032] Suitable electron donating groups may be selected from $-R'$, $-OR'$, and $-NR'(R'')$ where R' is a hydrocarbon containing up to 6 carbon atoms and R'' is hydrogen or R' . Specific examples of electron donating groups include methyl, ethyl, phenyl, methoxy, ethoxy, phenoxy, $-N(CH_3)_2$, $-N(CH_2CH_3)_2$, $-NHCH_3$, $-N(C_6H_5)_2$, $-N(CH_3)(C_6H_5)$, and $-NHC_6H_5$.

[0033] Suitable electron accepting groups may be selected from the group consisting of cyano, α -haloalkyl, α -haloalkoxy, amido, sulfonyl, carbonyl, carbonyloxy and oxycarbonyl substituents containing up to 10 carbon atoms. Specific examples include $-CN$, $-F$, $-CF_3$, $-OCF_3$, $-CONHC_6H_5$, $-SO_2C_6H_5$, $-COC_6H_5$, $-CO_2C_6H_5$, and $-OCOC_6H_5$.

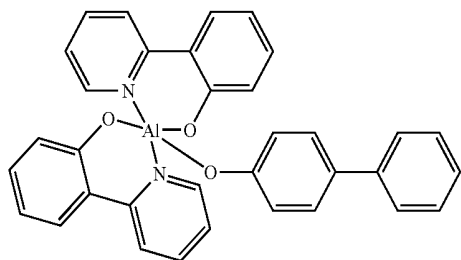
[0034] Unless otherwise specified, the term "percentage" or "percent" and the symbol "%" of a material indicates the volume percent of the material in the layer in which it is present.

[0035] Compounds useful in this invention include:

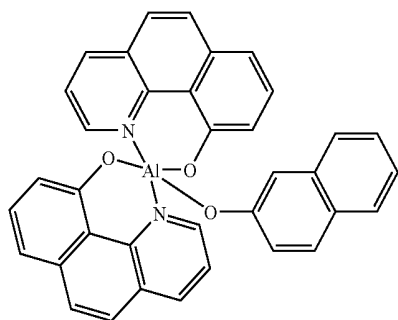
-continued



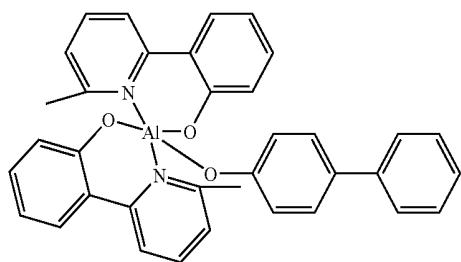
Inv-1



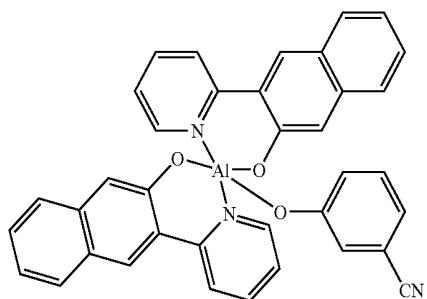
Inv-2



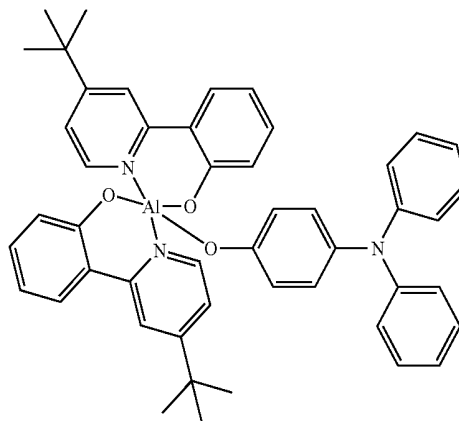
Inv-3



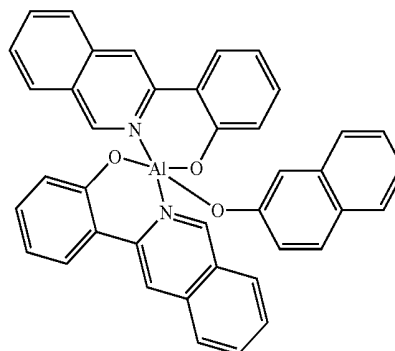
Inv-4



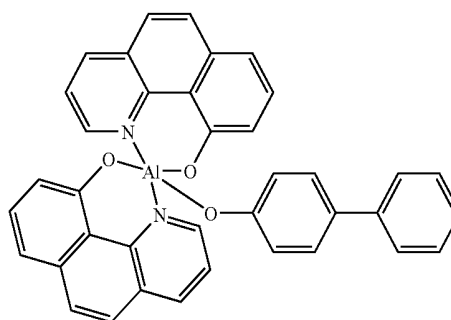
Inv-5



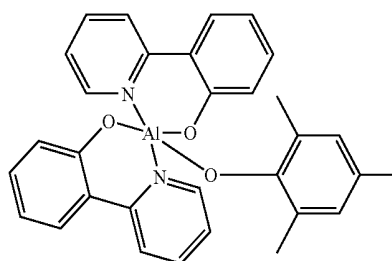
Inv-6



Inv-7

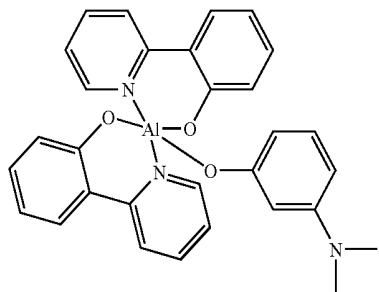


Inv-8



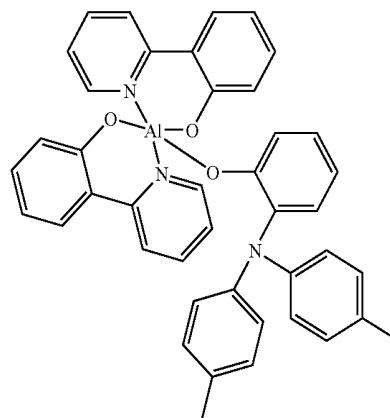
Inv-9

-continued



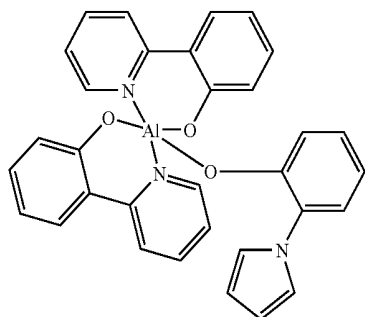
Inv-10

-continued

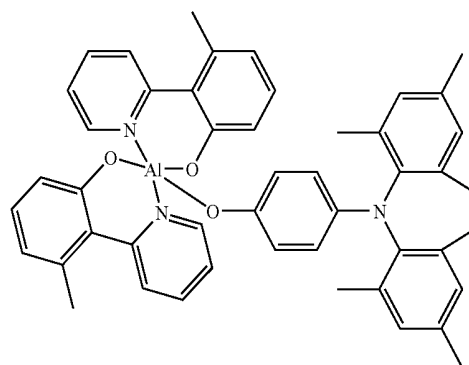


Inv-14

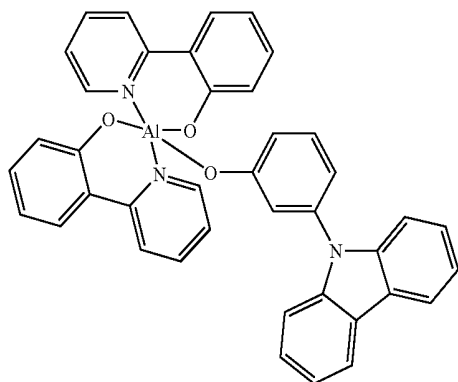
Inv-11



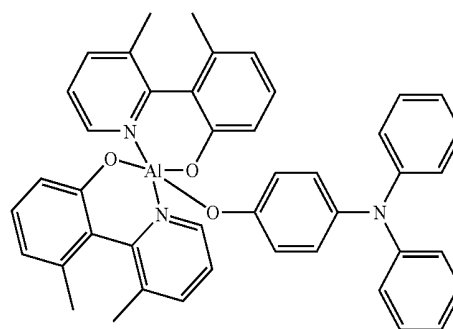
Inv-15



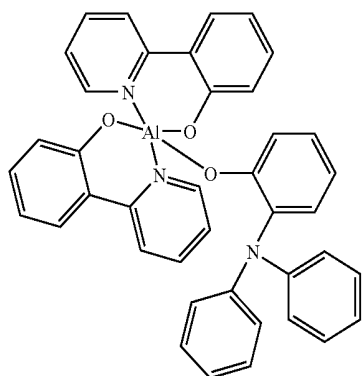
Inv-12



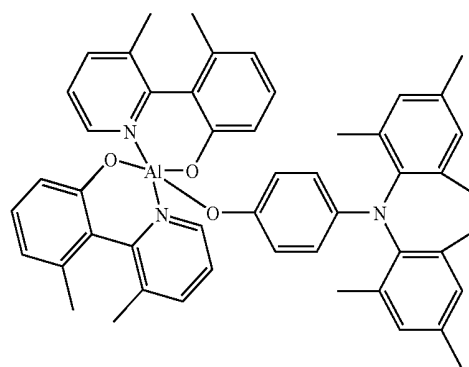
Inv-16



Inv-13



Inv-17



General Device Architecture

[0036] The present invention can be employed in many OLED device configurations using small molecule materials, oligomeric materials, polymeric materials, or combinations thereof. These include very simple structures comprising a single anode and cathode to more complex devices, such as passive matrix displays comprised of orthogonal arrays of anodes and cathodes to form pixels, and active-matrix displays where each pixel is controlled independently, for example, with thin film transistors (TFTs).

[0037] There are numerous configurations of the organic layers wherein the present invention can be successfully practiced. The essential requirements of an OLED are an anode, a cathode, and an organic light-emitting layer located between the anode and cathode. Additional layers may be employed as more fully described hereafter.

[0038] A typical structure, especially useful for of a small molecule device, is shown in FIG. 1 and is comprised of a substrate **101**, an anode **103**, a hole-injecting layer **105**, a hole-transporting layer **107**, exciton blocking layer, **108**, a light-emitting layer **109**, a hole- or exciton-blocking layer **110**, an electron-transporting layer **111**, and a cathode **113**. These layers are described in detail below. Note that the substrate may alternatively be located adjacent to the cathode, or the substrate may actually constitute the anode or cathode. The organic layers between the anode and cathode are conveniently referred to as the organic EL element. Also, the total combined thickness of the organic layers is desirably less than 500 nm.

[0039] The anode and cathode of the OLED are connected to a voltage/current source **150** through electrical conductors **160**. The OLED is operated by applying a potential between the anode and cathode such that the anode is at a more positive potential than the cathode. Holes are injected into the organic EL element from the anode and electrons are injected into the organic EL element at the cathode. Enhanced device stability can sometimes be achieved when the OLED is operated in an AC mode where, for some time period in the cycle, the potential bias is reversed and no current flows. An example of an AC driven OLED is described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,552,678.

Substrate

[0040] The OLED device of this invention is typically provided over a supporting substrate **101** where either the cathode or anode can be in contact with the substrate. The substrate can be a complex structure comprising multiple layers of materials. This is typically the case for active matrix substrates wherein TFTs are provided below the OLED layers. It is still necessary that the substrate, at least in the emissive pixilated areas, be comprised of largely transparent materials. The electrode in contact with the substrate is conveniently referred to as the bottom electrode. Conventionally, the bottom electrode is the anode, but this invention is not limited to that configuration. The substrate can either be light transmissive or opaque, depending on the intended direction of light emission. The light transmissive property is desirable for viewing the EL emission through the substrate. Transparent glass or plastic is commonly employed in such cases. For applications where the EL emission is viewed through the top electrode, the transmissive characteristic of the bottom support can be light trans-

missive, light absorbing or light reflective. Substrates for use in this case include, but are not limited to, glass, plastic, semiconductor materials, silicon, ceramics, and circuit board materials. It is necessary to provide in these device configurations a light-transparent top electrode.

Anode

[0041] When the desired electroluminescent light emission (EL) is viewed through the anode, the anode **103** should be transparent or substantially transparent to the emission of interest. Common transparent anode materials used in this invention are indium-tin oxide (ITO), indium-zinc oxide (IZO) and tin oxide, but other metal oxides can work including, but not limited to, aluminum- or indium-doped zinc oxide, magnesium-indium oxide, and nickel-tungsten oxide. In addition to these oxides, metal nitrides, such as gallium nitride, and metal selenides, such as zinc selenide, and metal sulfides, such as zinc sulfide, can be used as the anode. For applications where EL emission is viewed only through the cathode, any conductive material can be used, transparent, opaque or reflective. Example conductors for this application include, but are not limited to, gold, iridium, molybdenum, palladium, and platinum. Typical anode materials, transmissive or otherwise, have a work function of 4.1 eV or greater. Desired anode materials are commonly deposited by any suitable means such as evaporation, sputtering, chemical vapor deposition, or electrochemical means. Anodes can be patterned using well-known photolithographic processes. Optionally, anodes may be polished prior to application of other layers to reduce surface roughness so as to minimize shorts or enhance reflectivity.

Hole-Injecting Layer (HIL)

[0042] A hole-injecting layer **105** may be provided between the anode and the hole-transporting layer. The hole-injecting material can serve to improve the film formation property of subsequent organic layers and to facilitate injection of holes into the hole-transporting layer. Suitable materials for use in the hole-injecting layer include, but are not limited to, porphyrinic compounds as described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,720,432, plasma-deposited fluorocarbon polymers as described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,127,004, U.S. Pat. No. 6,208,075 and U.S. Pat. No. 6,208,077, some aromatic amines, for example, MTDATA (4,4',4"-tris[(3-methylphenyl)phenylamino]triphenylamine), and inorganic oxides including vanadium oxide (VOx), molybdenum oxide (MoOx), and nickel oxide (NiOx). Alternative hole-injecting materials reportedly useful in organic EL devices are described in EP 0 891 121 A1 and EP 1 029 909 A1.

[0043] The thickness of a hole injection layer containing a plasma-deposited fluorocarbon polymer can be in the range of 0.2 nm to 15 nm and suitably in the range of 0.3 to 1.5 nm.

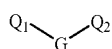
Hole-Transporting Layer (HTL)

[0044] It is usually advantageous to have a hole transporting layer **107** deposited between the anode and the emissive layer. A hole transporting material deposited in said hole transporting layer between the anode and the light emitting layer may be the same or different from a hole transporting compound used as a co-host or in exciton blocking layer according to the invention. The hole transporting layer may optionally include a hole injection layer. The hole transport-

ing layer may include more than one hole transporting compound, deposited as a blend or divided into separate layers.

[0045] The hole-transporting layer contains at least one hole-transporting compound such as an aromatic tertiary amine, where the latter is understood to be a compound containing at least one trivalent nitrogen atom that is bonded only to carbon atoms, at least one of which is a member of an aromatic ring. In one form the aromatic tertiary amine can be an arylamine, such as a monoarylamine, diarylamine, triarylamine, or a polymeric arylamine. Exemplary mono-meric triarylaminos are illustrated by Klupfel et al. U.S. Pat. No. 3,180,730. Other suitable triarylaminos substituted with one or more vinyl radicals and/or comprising at least one active hydrogen containing group are disclosed by Brantley et al U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,567,450 and 3,658,520.

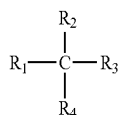
[0046] A more preferred class of aromatic tertiary amines is those which include at least two aromatic tertiary amine moieties as described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,720,432 and U.S. Pat. No. 5,061,569. Such compounds include those represented by structural formula (HT1):



(HT1)

wherein

[0047] Q_1 and Q_2 are independently selected aromatic tertiary amine moieties, and G is a linking group such as an arylene, cycloalkylene, or alkylene group of a carbon to carbon bond. In one embodiment, at least one of Q_1 or Q_2 contains a polycyclic fused ring structure, e.g., a naphthalene. When G is an aryl group, it is conveniently a phenylene, biphenylene, or naphthalene moiety. A useful class of triarylaminos satisfying structural formula (HT1) and containing two triarylamine moieties is represented by structural formula (HT2):

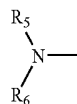


(HT2)

wherein

[0048] R_1 and R_2 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an aryl group, or an alkyl group or R_1 and R_2 together represent the atoms completing a cycloalkyl group; and

[0049] R_3 and R_4 each independently represents an aryl group, which is in turn substituted with a diaryl substituted amino group, as indicated by structural formula (HT3):

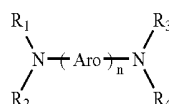


(HT3)

wherein

[0050] R_5 and R_6 are independently selected aryl groups. In one embodiment, at least one of R_5 or R_6 contains a polycyclic fused ring structure, e.g., a naphthalene.

[0051] Another class of aromatic tertiary amines is the tetraaryldiamines. Desirable tetraaryldiamines include two diarylamino groups, such as indicated by formula (HT3), linked through an arylene group. Useful tetraaryldiamines include those represented by formula (HT4):



(HT4)

wherein

[0052] each Aro is an independently selected arylene group, such as a phenylene or anthracene moiety,

[0053] n is an integer of from 1 to 4, and

[0054] R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , and R_4 are independently selected aryl groups. In a typical embodiment, at least one of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , and R_4 is a polycyclic fused ring structure, e.g., a naphthalene.

[0055] The various alkyl, alkylene, aryl, and arylene moieties of the foregoing structural formulae (HT1), (HT2), (HT3), (HT4) can each in turn be substituted. Typical substituents include alkyl groups, alkoxy groups, aryl groups, aryloxy groups, and halide such as fluoride, chloride, and bromide. The various alkyl and alkylene moieties typically contain from about 1 to 6 carbon atoms. The cycloalkyl moieties can contain from 3 to about 10 carbon atoms, but typically contain five, six, or seven ring carbon atoms, such as cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, and cycloheptyl ring structures. The aryl and arylene moieties are usually phenyl and phenylene moieties.

[0056] The hole transporting layer can be formed of a single tertiary amine compound or a mixture of such compounds. Specifically, one may employ a triarylamine, such as a triarylamine satisfying the formula (HT2), in combination with a tetraaryldiamine, such as indicated by formula (HT4). Illustrative of useful aromatic tertiary amines are the following:

[0057] 1,1-Bis(4-di-p-tolylaminophenyl)cyclohexane (TAPC);

[0058] 1,1-Bis(4-di-p-tolylaminophenyl)-4-phenylcyclohexane;

[0059] N,N,N',N'-tetraphenyl-4,4''-diamino-1,1':4',1'':4'',1'''-quaterphenyl;

- [0060] Bis(4-dimethylamino-2-methylphenyl)phenyl-methane;
- [0061] 1,4-bis[2-[4-[N,N-di(p-tolyl)amino]phenyl]vinyl]benzene (BDTAPVB);
- [0062] N,N,N',N'-Tetra-p-tolyl-4,4'-diaminobiphenyl;
- [0063] N,N,N',N'-Tetraphenyl-4,4'-diaminobiphenyl;
- [0064] N,N,N',N'-tetra-1-naphthyl-4,4'-diaminobiphenyl;
- [0065] N,N,N',N'-tetra-2-naphthyl-4,4'-diaminobiphenyl;
- [0066] N-Phenylcarbazole;
- [0067] 4,4'-Bis[N-(1-naphthyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl (NPB);
- [0068] 4,4'-Bis[N-(3-methylphenyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl (TPD);
- [0069] 4,4'-Bis[N-(1-naphthyl)-N-(2-naphthyl)amino]biphenyl (TNB);
- [0070] 4,4'-Bis[N-(1-naphthyl)-N-phenylamino]p-terphenyl;
- [0071] 4,4'-Bis[N-(2-naphthyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl;
- [0072] 4,4'-Bis[N-(3-acenaphthenyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl;
- [0073] 1,5-Bis[N-(1-naphthyl)-N-phenylamino]naphthalene;
- [0074] 4,4'-Bis[N-(9-anthryl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl;
- [0075] 4,4'-Bis[N-(1-anthryl)-N-phenylamino]p-terphenyl;
- [0076] 4,4'-Bis[N-(2-phenanthryl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl;
- [0077] 4,4'-Bis[N-(8-fluoranthryl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl;
- [0078] 4,4'-Bis[N-(2-pyrenyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl;
- [0079] 4,4'-Bis[N-(2-naphthacenyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl;
- [0080] 4,4'-Bis[N-(2-perylenyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl;
- [0081] 4,4'-Bis[N-(1-coroneryl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl;
- [0082] 2,6-Bis(di-p-tolylamino)naphthalene;
- [0083] 2,6-Bis[di-(1-naphthyl)amino]naphthalene;
- [0084] 2,6-Bis[N-(1-naphthyl)-N-(2-naphthyl)amino]naphthalene;
- [0085] N,N,N',N'-Tetra(2-naphthyl)-4,4''-diamino-p-terphenyl;
- [0086] 4,4'-Bis {N-phenyl-N-[4-(1-naphthyl)-phenyl]amino}biphenyl;
- [0087] 2,6-Bis[N,N-di(2-naphthyl)amino]fluorine;
- [0088] 4,4',4''-tris[(3-methylphenyl)phenylamino]triphenylamine(MTDATA);
- [0089] N,N-bis[2,5-dimethyl-4-[(3-methylphenyl)phenylamino]phenyl]-2,5-dimethyl-N'-(3-methylphenyl)-N'-phenyl-1,4-benzenediamine;

- [0090] 4-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)-N,N-bis[4-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)phenyl]-benzenamine (TCTA);
- [0091] 4-(3-phenyl-9H-carbazol-9-yl)-N,N-bis[4(3-phenyl-9H-carbazol-9-yl)phenyl]-benzenamine;
- [0092] 9,9'-(2,2'-dimethyl[1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-diyl)bis-9H-carbazole (CDBP);
- [0093] 9,9'-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-diylbis-9H-carbazole (CBP);
- [0094] 9,9'-(1,3-phenylene)bis-9H-carbazole (mCP);
- [0095] 9-[4-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)phenyl]-N,N-diphenyl-9H-carbazol-3-amine;
- [0096] 9,9'-(1,4-phenylene)bis[N,N-diphenyl-9H-carbazol-3-amine];
- [0097] 9-[4-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)phenyl]-N,N,N',N'-tetraphenyl-9H-carbazole-3,6-diamine.

Another class of useful hole-transporting materials includes polycyclic aromatic compounds as described in EP 1 009 041. Some hole-injecting materials described in EP 0 891 121 A1 and EP 1 029 909 A1, can also make useful hole-transporting materials. In addition, polymeric hole-transporting materials can be used including poly(N-vinylcarbazole) (PVK), polythiophenes, polypyrrole, polyaniline, and copolymers including poly(3,4-ethylene-dioxythiophene)/poly(4-styrenesulfonate) also called PEDOT/PSS.

Exciton Blocking Layer

[0098] An OLED device according to the invention may include one or more exciton blocking layers, **108** (FIG. 1), placed adjacent the light emitting layer **109** on the anode side, to help confine triplet excitons to the light emitting layer. For the exciton blocking layer to be capable of confining triplet excitons, the material or materials of this layer should have triplet energies that exceed that of the phosphorescent emitter. If the triplet energy level of any material in the layer adjacent the light emitting layer is lower than that of the phosphorescent emitter, often that material will quench excited states in the light emitting layer, decreasing device luminous efficiency. In a preferred embodiment, the exciton blocking layer also helps to confine electron-hole recombination events to the light emitting layer by blocking the escape of electrons from the light emitting layer into the exciton blocking layer. In order for the exciton blocking layer to have this electron blocking property, the material of this layer should have a lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) energy level that is greater than that of the host material in the light emitting layer by at least 0.2 eV. In an embodiment wherein the host comprises a mixture of host materials, the LUMO energy level of the exciton block should be greater by at least 0.2 eV than that of the host material having the lowest LUMO energy level in order to have the preferred electron blocking property.

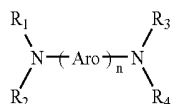
[0099] The relative energy levels of the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) and the LUMO of materials may be estimated by several methods known in the art. When comparing energy levels of two materials, it is important to use estimated energy levels obtained by the same method for each. Two methods for estimating the HOMO energy level include measuring the ionization potential of the material by

ultraviolet photoelectron spectroscopy and measuring the oxidation potential by an electrochemical technique such as cyclic voltammetry. The LUMO energy level may then be estimated by adding the optical band gap energy to the previously determined HOMO energy level. The optical band gap is estimated to be the energy difference between the LUMO and the HOMO. The relative LUMO energy levels of materials may also be estimated from reduction potentials of the materials measured in solution by an electrochemical technique such as cyclic voltammetry.

[0100] We have found that luminous yield and power efficiency in the OLED device employing a phosphorescent emitter in the light emitting layer can be improved significantly if the selected exciton blocking material or materials have a triplet energy greater or equal to 2.5 eV, especially for the case of green or blue-emitting phosphorescent emitters.

[0101] The exciton blocking layer is often between 1 and 500 nm thick and suitably between 10 and 300 nm thick. Thicknesses in this range are relatively easy to control in manufacturing. In addition to having high triplet energy, the exciton blocking layer 108 must be capable of transporting holes to the light emitting layer 109. Exciton blocking layer 108 can be used alone or with a hole-transporting layer 107. The exciton blocking layer may include more than one compound, deposited as a blend or divided into separate layers. In an embodiment wherein a hole transporting compound is used as a host or co-host, a hole transporting material deposited in the exciton blocking layer between the anode and the light emitting layer may be the same or different from the hole transporting compound used as a host or co-host. The exciton blocking material can comprise compounds containing one or more triarylamine groups, provided that their triplet energy exceeds that of the phosphorescent material. In a preferred embodiment the triplet energy is greater or equal to 2.5 eV. To meet the triplet energy requirement for the preferred embodiment of 2.5 eV or greater, said compounds should not contain aromatic hydrocarbon fused rings (e.g., a naphthalene group).

[0102] The substituted triarylamines that function as the exciton blocking material in the present invention may be selected from compounds having the chemical formula (EBF-1):



(EBF-1)

[0103] In formula (EBF-1), Aro is independently selected from alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, or substituted aryl group;

[0104] R₁-R₄ are independently selected aryl groups;

[0105] n is an integer of from 1 to 4.

[0106] In a preferred embodiment, Aro and R₁-R₄ do not include aromatic hydrocarbon fused rings.

[0107] Example materials useful in the exciton blocking layer 108 include, but are not limited to:

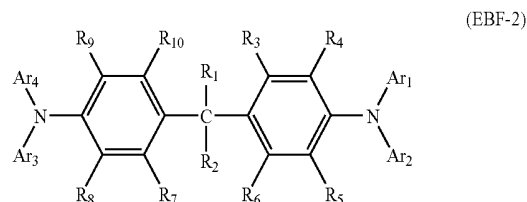
[0108] 2,2'-dimethyl-N,N,N',N'-tetrakis(4-methylphenyl)-1,1'-biphenyl-4,4'-diamine.

[0109] 4,4',4''-tris[(3-methylphenyl)phenylamino]triphenylamine (MTDATA);

[0110] 4,4',4''-tris(N,N-diphenyl-amino)triphenylamine (TDATA);

[0111] N,N-bis[2,5-dimethyl-4-[(3-methylphenyl)phenylamino]phenyl]-2,5-dimethyl-N'-(3-methylphenyl)-N'-phenyl-1,4-benzenediamine.

[0112] In one desirable embodiment the material in the exciton blocking layer is selected from formula (EBF-2):



(EBF-2)

[0113] In formula (EBF-2), R₁ and R₂ represent substituents, provided that R₁ and R₂ can join to form a ring. For example, R₁ and R₂ can be methyl groups or join to form a cyclohexyl ring. Ar₁-Ar₄ represent independently selected aromatic groups, for example phenyl groups or tolyl groups. R₃-R₁₀ independently represent hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl group. In one desirable embodiment, R₁-R₂, Ar₁-Ar₄ and R₃-R₁₀ do not contain fused aromatic rings.

[0114] Some non-limiting examples of such materials are:

[0115] 1,1-Bis(4-(N,N-di-p-tolylamino)phenyl)cyclohexane (TAPC);

[0116] 1,1-Bis(4-(N,N-di-p-tolylamino)phenyl)cyclopentane;

[0117] 4,4'-(9H-fluoren-9-ylidene)bis[N,N-bis(4-methylphenyl)-benzenamine];

[0118] 1,1-Bis(4-(N,N-di-p-tolylamino)phenyl)-4-phenylcyclohexane;

[0119] 1,1-Bis(4-(N,N-di-p-tolylamino)phenyl)-4-methylcyclohexane;

[0120] 1,1-Bis(4-(N,N-di-p-tolylamino)phenyl)-3-phenylpropane;

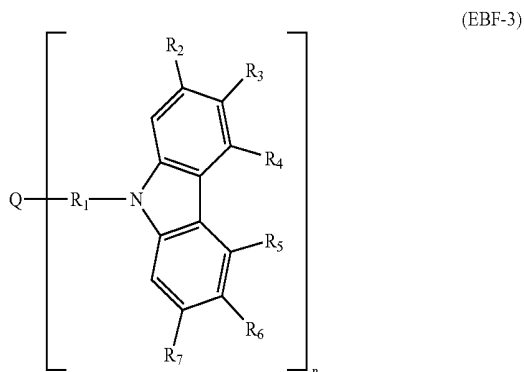
[0121] Bis[4-(N,N-diethylamino)-2-methylphenyl](4-methylphenyl)methane;

[0122] Bis[4-(N,N-diethylamino)-2-methylphenyl](4-methylphenyl)ethane;

[0123] 4-(4-Diethylaminophenyl)triphenylmethane;

[0124] 4,4'-Bis(4-diethylaminophenyl)diphenylmethane.

[0125] In one suitable embodiment the exciton blocking material comprises a material of formula (EBF-3):



wherein n is an integer from 1 to 4;

Q is N, C, aryl, or substituted aryl group;

R₁ is phenyl, substituted phenyl, biphenyl, substituted biphenyl, aryl or substituted aryl;

R₂ through R₇ are independently hydrogen, alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl, aryl amine, carbazole, or substituted carbazole; provided that R₂-R₇ do not contain aromatic hydrocarbon fused rings.

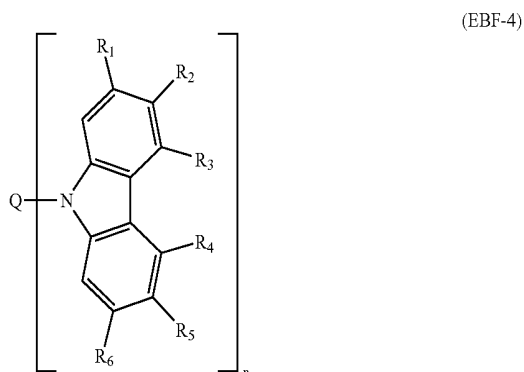
[0126] Some non-limiting examples of such materials are:

[0127] 4-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)-N,N-bis[4-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)phenyl]-benzenamine (TCTA);

[0128] 4-(3-phenyl-9H-carbazol-9-yl)-N,N-bis[4(3-phenyl-9H-carbazol-9-yl)phenyl]-benzenamine;

[0129] 9,9'-[5'-[4-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)phenyl][1,1':3',1'-terphenyl]-4,4''-diyl]bis-9H-carbazole.

[0130] In one suitable embodiment the exciton blocking material comprises a material of formula (EBF-4):



[0131] wherein n is an integer from 1 to 4;

[0132] Q is phenyl, substituted phenyl, biphenyl, substituted biphenyl, aryl, or substituted aryl group;

[0133] R₁ through R₆ are independently hydrogen, alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl, aryl amine, carbazole, or substituted carbazole;

[0134] provided that R₁-R₆ do not contain aromatic hydrocarbon fused rings.

[0135] Non-limiting examples of suitable materials are:

[0136] 9,9'-(2,2'-dimethyl[1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-diyl)bis-9H-carbazole (CDBP);

[0137] 9,9'-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-diylbis-9H-carbazole (CBP);

[0138] 9,9'-(1,3-phenylene)bis-9H-carbazole (mCP);

[0139] 9,9'-(1,4-phenylene)bis-9H-carbazole;

[0140] 9,9',9''-(1,3,5-benzenetriyl)tris-9H-carbazole;

[0141] 9,9'-(1,4-phenylene)bis[N,N,N',N'-tetraphenyl-9H-carbazole-3,6-diamine];

[0142] 9-[4-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)phenyl]-N,N-diphenyl-9H-carbazol-3-amine;

[0143] 9,9'-(1,4-phenylene)bis[N,N-diphenyl-9H-carbazol-3-amine];

[0144] 9-[4-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)phenyl]-N,N,N',N'-tetraphenyl-9H-carbazole-3,6-diamine;

[0145] 9-phenyl-9H-carbazol.

[0146] Metal complexes may also serve as exciton blocking layers as long as they have the desired triplet energies and hole transport and electron blocking properties. An example of this is, fac-tris(1-phenylpyrazolato-N, C2)iridium(III) (Ir(ppz)₃), as described in US 20030175553.

Light-Emitting Layer (LEL)

[0147] Suitably, the light-emitting layer of the OLED device comprises one or more host materials and one or more guest materials for emitting light. At least one of the guest materials is suitably a fluorescent or phosphorescent material. The light-emitting guest material(s) is usually present in an amount less than the amount of host materials and is typically present in an amount of up to 20 wt % of the host, more typically from 0.1-10 wt % of the host. For convenience, the light-emitting guest material may be referred to as a light emitting dopant. A phosphorescent guest material may be referred to herein as a phosphorescent material, or phosphorescent dopant. The phosphorescent material is preferably a low molecular weight compound, but it may also be an oligomer or a polymer. It may be provided as a discrete material dispersed in the host material, or it may be bonded in some way to the host material, for example, covalently bonded into a polymeric host.

[0148] Fluorescent materials may be used in the same layer as the phosphorescent material, in adjacent layers, in adjacent pixels, or any combination. Care must be taken to select materials that will not adversely affect the performance of the phosphorescent materials of this invention. One skilled in the art will understand that concentrations and triplet energies of materials in the same layer as the phosphorescent material or in an adjacent layer must be appropriately set so as to prevent unwanted quenching of the phosphorescence.

Host Materials for Phosphorescent Materials

[0149] Suitable host materials have a triplet energy (the difference in energy between the lowest triplet excited state and the singlet ground state of the host) that is greater than or equal to the triplet energy of the phosphorescent emitter. This energy level state is necessary so that triplet excitons are transferred to the phosphorescent emitter molecules and any triplet excitons formed directly on the phosphorescent

emitter molecules remain until emission occurs. However, efficient emission from devices in which the host material has a lower triplet energy than the phosphorescent emitter is still possible in some cases as reported by C. Adachi, et al Appl. Phys. Lett., 79 2082-2084 (2001). Triplet energy is conveniently measured by any of several means, as discussed for instance in S. L. Murov, I. Carmichael, and G. L. Hug, *Handbook of Photochemistry*, 2nd ed. (Marcel Dekker, New York, 1993).

[0150] In the absence of experimental data the triplet energies may be estimated in the following manner. The triplet state energy for a molecule is defined as the difference between the ground state energy (E_{gs}) of the molecule and the energy of the lowest triplet state (E_{ts}) of the molecule, both given in eV. These energies can be calculated using the B3LYP method as implemented in the Gaussian98 (Gaussian, Inc., Pittsburgh, Pa.) computer program. The basis set for use with the B3LYP method is defined as follows: MIDI! for all atoms for which MIDI! is defined, 6-31G* for all atoms defined in 6-31G* but not in MIDI!, and either the LACV3P or the LANL2DZ basis set and pseudopotential for atoms not defined in MIDI! or 6-31G*, with LACV3P being the preferred method. For any remaining atoms, any published basis set and pseudopotential may be used. MIDI!, 6-31G* and LANL2DZ are used as implemented in the Gaussian98 computer code and LACV3P is used as implemented in the Jaguar 4.1 (Schrodinger, Inc., Portland Oreg.) computer code. The energy of each state is computed at the minimum-energy geometry for that state. The difference in energy between the two states is further modified by Equation 1 to give the triplet state energy (E_{t}):

$$E_{\text{t}} = 0.84 * (E_{\text{ts}} - E_{\text{gs}}) + 0.35 \quad (1)$$

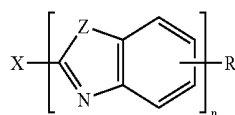
[0151] For polymeric or oligomeric materials, it is sufficient to compute the triplet energy over a monomer or oligomer of sufficient size so that additional units do not substantially change the computed triplet energy of the material.

[0152] Desirable host materials are capable of forming a continuous film. The light-emitting layer may contain more than one host material in order to improve the device's film morphology, electrical properties, light emission efficiency, and lifetime. Suitable host materials are described in WO00/70655; WO01/39234; WO01/93642; WO02/074015; WO02/15645, and US20020117662.

[0153] Types of triplet host materials may be categorized according to their charge transport properties. The two major types are those that are predominantly electron-transporting and those that are predominantly hole-transporting. It should be noted that some host materials which may be categorized as transporting dominantly one type of charge, may transport both types of charges, especially in certain device structures, for example CBP which is described in C. Adachi, R. Kwong, and S. R. Forrest, *Organic Electronics*, 2, 37-43 (2001). Another type of host are those having a wide energy gap between the HOMO and LUMO such that they do not readily transport charges of either type and instead rely on charge injection directly into the phosphorescent dopant molecules.

[0154] A desirable electron transporting host may be any suitable electron transporting compound, such as benzazole, phenanthroline, 1,3,4-oxadiazole, triazole, triazine, or tri-

arylborane, as long as it has a triplet energy that is higher than that of the phosphorescent emitter to be employed. A preferred class of benzazoles is described by Jianmin Shi et al. in U.S. Pat. No. 5,645,948 and U.S. Pat. No. 5,766,779. Such compounds are represented by structural formula (PHF-1):



(PHF-1)

[0155] In formula (PHF-1), n is selected from 2 to 8;

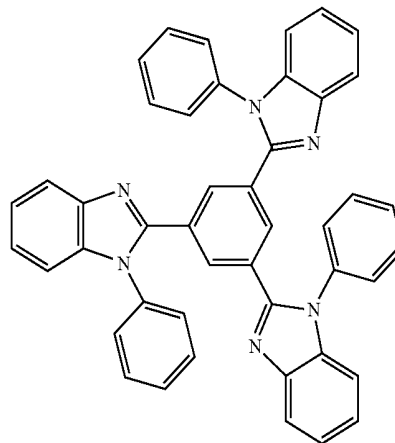
[0156] Z is independently O, NR or S;

[0157] R and R' are individually hydrogen; alkyl of from 1 to 24 carbon atoms, for example, propyl, t-butyl, heptyl, and the like; aryl or hetero-atom substituted aryl of from 5 to 20 carbon atoms, for example, phenyl and naphthyl, furyl, thienyl, pyridyl, quinolinyl and other heterocyclic systems; or halo such as chloro, fluoro; or atoms necessary to complete a fused aromatic ring; and

[0158] X is a linkage unit consisting of carbon, alkyl, aryl, substituted alkyl, or substituted aryl, which conjugately or unconjugately connects the multiple benzazoles together.

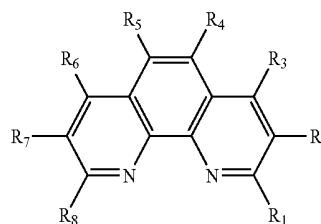
[0159] An example of a useful benzazole is 2,2',2''-(1,3,5-phenylene)tris[1-phenyl-1H-benzimidazole] (TPBI) represented by a formula (PHF-2) shown below:

(PHF-2)



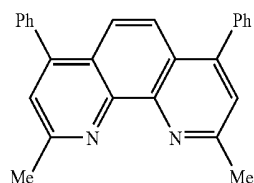
[0160] Another class of the electron transporting materials suitable for use as a host includes various substituted phenanthrolines as represented by formula (PHF-3):

(PHF-3)

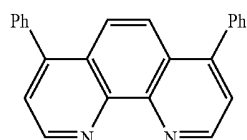


[0161] In formula (PHF-3), R_1 - R_8 are independently hydrogen, alkyl group, aryl or substituted aryl group, and at least one of R_1 - R_8 is aryl group or substituted aryl group.

[0162] Examples of suitable materials are 2,9-dimethyl-4,7-diphenyl-phenanthroline (BCP) (see formula (PH-1)) and 4,7-diphenyl-1,10-phenanthroline (Bphen) (see formula (PH-2)).

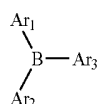


(PH-1)



(PH-2)

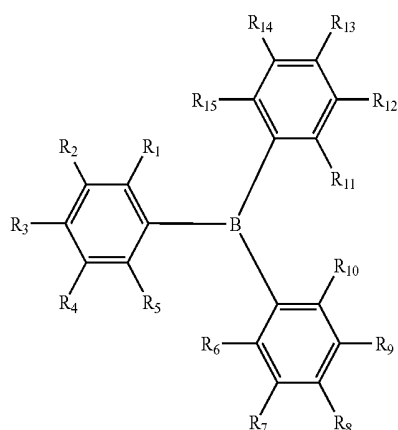
[0163] A triarylboranes that functions as an electron transporting host may be selected from compounds having the chemical formula (PHF-4):



(PHF-4)

wherein

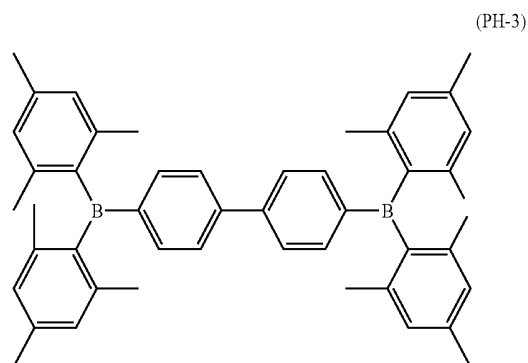
[0164] Ar_1 to Ar_3 are independently an aromatic hydrocarbocyclic group or an aromatic heterocyclic group which may have one or more substituent. It is preferable that compounds having the above structure are selected from formula (PHF-5):



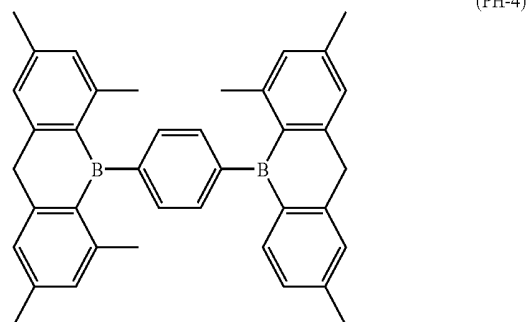
(PHF-5)

[0165] wherein R_1 - R_{15} are independently hydrogen, fluoro, cyano, trifluoromethyl, sulfonyl, alkyl, aryl or substituted aryl group.

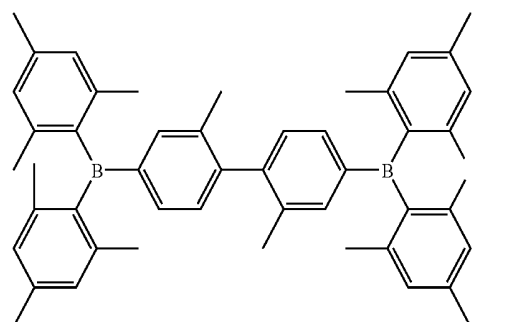
[0166] Specific representative embodiments of the triarylboranes include:



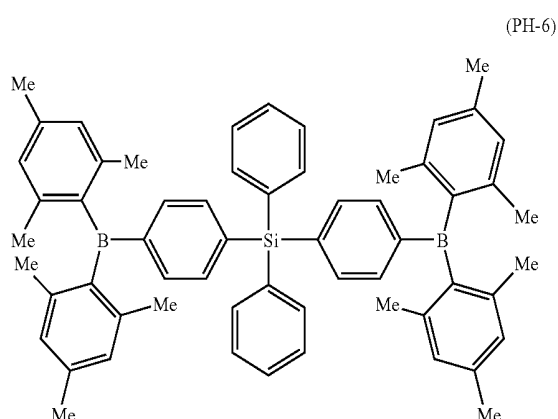
(PH-3)



(PH-4)

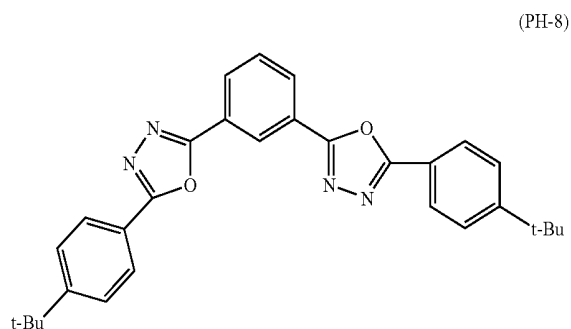


(PH-5)

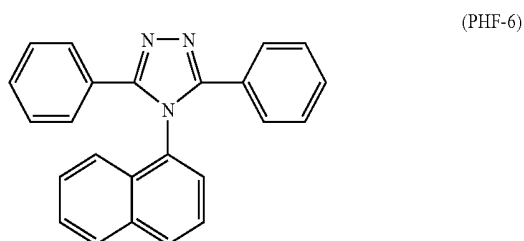


(PH-6)

[0167] An electron transporting host may be selected from substituted 1,3,4-oxadiazoles. Illustrative of the useful substituted oxadiazoles are the following:



[0168] An electron transporting host may be selected from substituted 1,2,4-triazoles. An example of a useful triazole is 3-phenyl-4-(1-naphthyl)-5-phenyl-1,2,4-triazole represented by formula (PHF-6):



[0169] The electron transporting host may be selected from substituted 1,3,5-triazines. Examples of suitable materials are:

[0170] 2,4,6-tris(diphenylamino)-1,3,5-triazine;

[0171] 2,4,6-tricarbazolo-1,3,5-triazine;

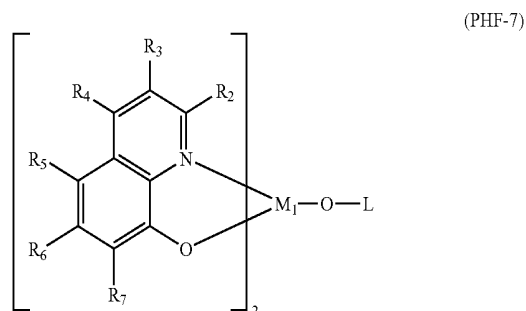
[0172] 2,4,6-tris(N-phenyl-2-naphthylamino)-1,3,5-triazine;

[0173] 2,4,6-tris(N-phenyl-1-naphthylamino)-1,3,5-triazine;

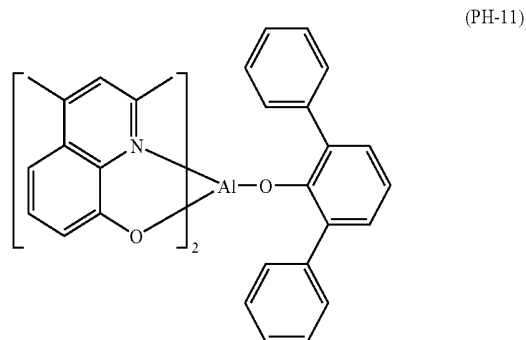
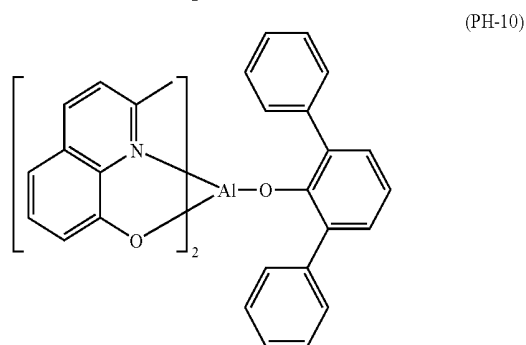
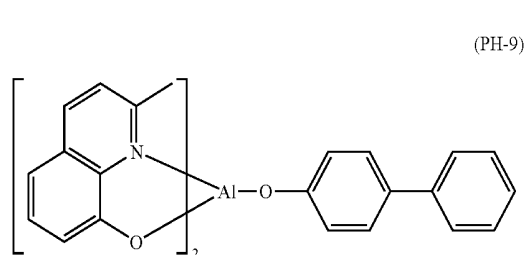
[0174] 4,4',6,6'-tetraphenyl-2,2'-bi-1,3,5-triazine;

[0175] 2,4,6-tris([1,1':3'',1''-terphenyl]-5'-yl)-1,3,5-triazine.

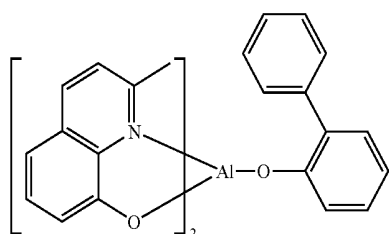
[0176] In one embodiment, a suitable host material is an aluminum or gallium complex. Particularly useful hosts materials are represented by Formula (PHF-7).



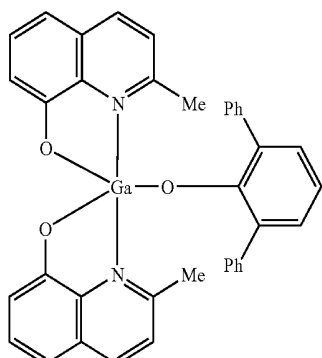
[0177] In Formula (PHF-7), M_1 represents Al or Ga. R_2 - R_7 represent hydrogen or an independently selected substituent. Desirably, R_2 represents an electron-donating group, such as a methyl group. Suitably, R_3 and R_4 each independently represent hydrogen or an electron donating substituent. Preferably, R_5 , R_6 , and R_7 each independently represent hydrogen or an electron-accepting group. Adjacent substituents, R_2 - R_7 , may combine to form a ring group. L is an aromatic moiety linked to the aluminum by oxygen, which may be substituted with substituent groups such that L has from 6 to 30 carbon atoms. Illustrative examples of Formula (PHF-7) materials are listed below.



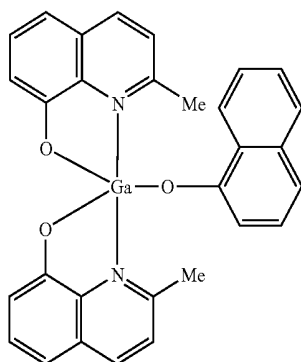
-continued



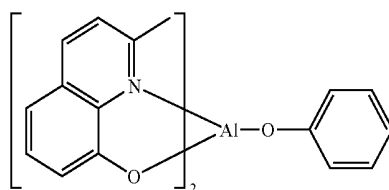
(PH-12)



(PH-13)



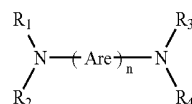
(PH-14)



(PH-15)

[0178] A desirable hole transporting host may be any suitable hole transporting compound, such as a triarylamine or a carbazole, as long it has a triplet energy higher than that of the phosphorescent emitter to be employed. A suitable class of hole transporting compounds for use as a host are aromatic tertiary amines, by which it is understood to be compounds containing at least one trivalent nitrogen atom that is bonded only to carbon atoms, at least one of which is a member of an aromatic ring. In one form the aromatic tertiary amine can be an arylamine, such as a monoarylamine, diarylamine, triarylamine, or a polymeric arylamine. Exemplary monomeric triarylamines are illustrated by Klupfel et al. in U.S. Pat. No. 3,180,730. Other suitable triarylamines substituted with one or more vinyl radicals and/or comprising at least one active hydrogen containing group are disclosed by Brantley et al. in U.S. Pat. No. 3,567,450 and U.S. Pat. No. 3,658,520.

[0179] A more preferred class of aromatic tertiary amines are those which include at least two aromatic tertiary amine moieties as described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,720,432 and U.S. Pat. No. 5,061,569. Such as the tetraaryldiamines. Desirable tetraaryldiamines include two diarylamino groups, such as indicated by formula (PHF-8):



(PHF-8)

[0180] wherein each Are is an independently selected arylene group, such as a phenylene or anthracene moiety,

[0181] n is selected from 1 to 4, and

[0182] R₁-R₄ are independently selected aryl groups.

[0183] In a typical embodiment, at least one of R₁-R₄ is a polycyclic fused ring structure, e.g., a naphthalene. However, when the emission of the dopant is blue or green in color it is less preferred to have an aryl amine host material to have a polycyclic fused ring substituent.

[0184] Representative examples of the useful compounds include the following:

[0185] 4,4'-Bis[N-(1-naphthyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl (NPB);

[0186] 4,4'-Bis[N-(1-naphthyl)-N-(2-naphthyl)amino]biphenyl (TNB);

[0187] 4,4'-Bis[N-(3-methylphenyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl (TPD);

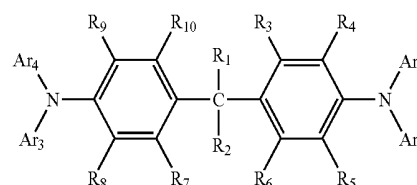
[0188] 4,4'-Bis-diphenylamino-terphenyl;

[0189] 2,6,2',6'-tetramethyl-N,N,N',N'-tetraphenyl-benzidine, 4,4',4''-tris[(3-methylphenyl)phenylamino]triphenylamine (MTDATA);

[0190] 4,4',4''-tris(N,N-diphenyl-amino) triphenylamine (TDATA);

[0191] N,N-bis[2,5-dimethyl-4-[(3-methylphenyl)phenylamino]phenyl]-2,5-dimethyl-N'-(3-methylphenyl)-N'-phenyl-1,4-benzenediamine.

[0192] In one desirable embodiment the hole transporting host comprises a material of formula (PHF-9):



(PHF-9)

[0193] In formula (PHF-9), R₁ and R₂ represent substituents, provided that R₁ and R₂ can join to form a ring. For example, R₁ and R₂ can be methyl groups or join to form a cyclohexyl ring;

[0194] Ar_1 - Ar_4 represent independently selected aromatic groups, for example phenyl groups or tolyl groups;

[0195] R_3 - R_{10} independently represent hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl group.

[0196] Examples of suitable materials include, but are not limited to:

[0197] 1,1-Bis(4-(N,N-di-p-tolylamino)phenyl)cyclohexane (TAPC);

[0198] 1,1-Bis(4-(N,N-di-p-tolylamino)phenyl)cyclopentane;

[0199] 4,4'-(9H-fluoren-9-ylidene)bis[N,N-bis(4-methylphenyl)-benzenamine];

[0200] 1,1-Bis(4-(N,N-di-p-tolylamino)phenyl)-4-phenylcyclohexane;

[0201] 1,1-Bis(4-(N,N-di-p-tolylamino)phenyl)-4-methylcyclohexane;

[0202] 1,1-Bis(4-(N,N-di-p-tolylamino)phenyl)-3-phenylpropane;

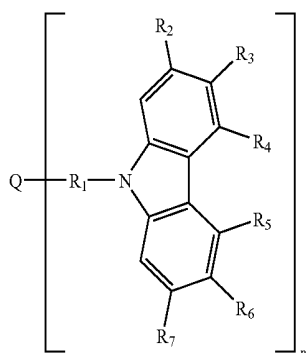
[0203] Bis[4-(N,N-diethylamino)-2-methylphenyl](4-methylphenyl)methane;

[0204] Bis[4-(N,N-diethylamino)-2-methylphenyl](4-methylphenyl)ethane;

[0205] 4-(4-Diethylaminophenyl)triphenylmethane;

[0206] 4,4'-Bis(4-diethylaminophenyl)diphenylmethane.

[0207] A useful class of compounds for use as the hole transporting host includes carbazole derivatives such as those represented by formula (PHF-10):



(PHF-10)

[0208] In formula (PHF-10), Q independently represents nitrogen, carbon, silicon, a substituted silicon group, an aryl group, or substituted aryl group, preferably a phenyl group;

[0209] R₁ is preferably an aryl or substituted aryl group, and more preferably a phenyl group, substituted phenyl, biphenyl, substituted biphenyl group;

[0210] R₂ through R₇ are independently hydrogen, alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl group, aryl amine, carbazole, or substituted carbazole;

[0211] and n is selected from 1 to 4.

[0212] Illustrative useful substituted carbazoles are the following:

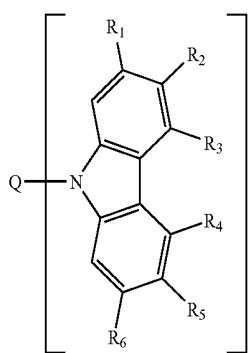
[0213] 4-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)-N,N-bis[4-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)phenyl]-benzenamine (TCTA);

[0214] 4-(3-phenyl-9H-carbazol-9-yl)-N,N-bis[4(3-phenyl-9H-carbazol-9-yl)phenyl]-benzenamine;

[0215] 9,9'-[5'-[4-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)phenyl][1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-4,4''-diyl]bis-9H-carbazole.

[0216] 3,5-bis(9-carbazolyl)tetraphenylsilane (SimCP).

[0217] In one suitable embodiment the hole transporting host comprises a material of formula (PHF-11):



(PHF-11)

[0218] In formula (PHF-11), n is selected from 1 to 4;

[0219] Q independently represents phenyl group, substituted phenyl group, biphenyl, substituted biphenyl group, aryl, or substituted aryl group;

[0220] R₁ through R₆ are independently hydrogen, alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl, aryl amine, carbazole, or substituted carbazole.

[0221] Examples of suitable materials are the following:

[0222] 9,9'-(2,2'-dimethyl[1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-diyl)bis-9H-carbazole (CDBP);

[0223] 9,9'-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-diylbis-9H-carbazole (CBP);

[0224] 9,9'-(1,3-phenylene)bis-9H-carbazole (mCP);

[0225] 9,9'-(1,4-phenylene)bis-9H-carbazole;

[0226] 9,9',9''-(1,3,5-benzenetriyl)tris-9H-carbazole;

[0227] 9,9'-(1,4-phenylene)bis[N,N,N',N'-tetraphenyl-9H-carbazole-3,6-diamine];

[0228] 9-[4-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)phenyl]-N,N-diphenyl-9H-carbazol-3-amine;

[0229] 9,9'-(1,4-phenylene)bis[N,N-diphenyl-9H-carbazol-3-amine];

[0230] 9-[4-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)phenyl]-N,N,N',N'-tetraphenyl-9H-carbazole-3,6-diamine.

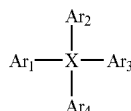
[0231] Host materials which are electron transporting or hole transporting with some electron transporting properties, such as carbazoles, are generally more desirable when used as a single host material. This is especially true for typical

phosphorescent dopants that are hole-trapping or capable of accepting injected holes. Less preferable are host materials which are primarily hole transporting and have little electron transporting properties, such as triarylamines. Injecting electrons into these latter hole transporting hosts may be difficult because of their relatively high LUMO energies.

[0232] Host materials may comprise a mixture of two or more host materials. Particularly useful is a mixture comprising at least one each of an electron-transporting and a hole-transporting co-host. The optimum concentration of the hole transporting co-host(s) may be determined by experimentation and may be within the range 10 to 60 weight % of the total of the hole- and electron transporting co-host materials in the light emitting layer, and is often found to be in the range 15 to 30 wt. %. It is further noted that electron-transporting molecules and hole-transporting molecules may be covalently joined together to form single host molecules having both electron-transporting and hole-transporting properties.

[0233] A wide energy gap host material may be any suitable compound having a large HOMO-LUMO gap such that the HOMO and LUMO of the phosphorescent emissive material are within the HOMO and LUMO for the host. In this case, the phosphorescent emissive material acts as the primary charge carrier for both electrons and holes, as well as the site for the trapping of excitons. Often the phosphorescent dopants for use with the wide energy gap hosts are selected to have electron-withdrawing substituents to facilitate electron injection. The "wide energy gap" host material functions as a non-charge carrying material in the system. Such a combination may lead to high operation voltage of the device, as the concentration of the charge-carrying dopant is typically below 10% in the emissive layer.

[0234] Thompson et al. disclosed in US 2004/0209115 and US 2004/0209116 a group of wide energy gap hosts having triplet energies suitable for blue phosphorescent OLEDs. Such compounds include those represented by structural formula (PHF-12):



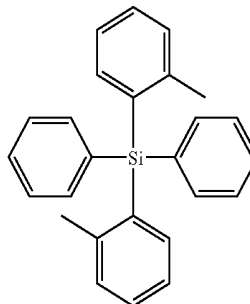
(PHF-12)

[0235] wherein:

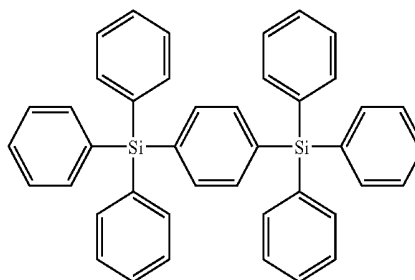
[0236] X is Si or Pb; Ar₁, Ar₂, Ar₃ and Ar₄ are each an aromatic group independently selected from phenyl and high triplet energy heterocyclic groups such as pyridine, pyrazole, thiophene, etc. It is believed that the HOMO-LUMO gaps in these materials is large due to the electronically isolated aromatic units, and the lack of any conjugating substituents.

[0237] Illustrative examples of this type of hosts include:

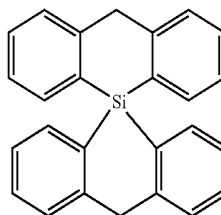
(PH-16)



(PH-17)



(PH-18)



Phosphorescent Materials

[0238] Phosphorescent materials may be used singly or in combination with other phosphorescent materials, either in the same or different layers. Some other phosphorescent materials are described in WO 00/57676, WO 00/70655, WO 01/41512, WO 02/15645, US 2003/0017361, WO 01/93642, WO 01/39234, U.S. Pat. No. 6,458,475, WO 02/071813, U.S. Pat. No. 6,573,651, US 2002/0197511, WO 02/074015, U.S. Pat. No. 6,451,455, US 2003/0072964, US 2003/0068528, U.S. Pat. No. 6,413,656, U.S. Pat. No. 6,515,298, U.S. Pat. No. 6,451,415, U.S. Pat. No. 6,097,147, US 2003/0124381, US 2003/0059646, US 2003/0054198, EP 1 239 526, EP 1 238 981, EP 1 244 155, US 2002/0100906, US 2003/0068526, US 2003/0068535, JP 2003073387, JP 2003073388, US 2003/0141809, US 2003/0040627, JP 2003059667, JP 2003073665, and US 2002/0121638.

[0239] In many known hosts and device architectures for phosphorescent OLEDs, the optimum concentration of the phosphorescent dopant for luminous efficiency is found to be about 1 to 20 vol % and often 6 to 8 vol % relative to the host material. However, in a preferred embodiment, wherein the host comprises at least one electron-transporting co-host and at least one hole-transporting co-host in the light-emitting layer, a phosphorescent material concentration from about 0.5% to about 6% often provides high luminous efficiencies.

[0240] The emission wavelengths of cyclometallated Ir(III) complexes of the type IrL_3 and $\text{IrL}_2\text{L}'$, such as the green-emitting fac-tris(2-phenylpyridinato-N, C^{2'})Iridium(III) ($\text{Ir}(\text{ppy})_3$) and bis(2-phenylpyridinato-N, C^{2'})Iridium(III)(acetylacetonate) may be shifted by substitution of electron donating or withdrawing groups at appropriate positions on the cyclometallating ligand L, or by choice of different heterocycles for the cyclometallating ligand L. The emission wavelengths may also be shifted by choice of the ancillary ligand L'. Examples of red emitters are the bis(2-(2'-benzothienyl)pyridinato-N, C^{3'})Iridium(III)(acetylacetonate) and tris(2-phenylisoquinolino-N,C)Iridium(III). A blue-emitting example is bis(2-(4,6-difluorophenyl)-pyridinato-N, C^{2'})Iridium(III)(picolinate).

[0241] Red electrophosphorescence has been reported, using bis(2-(2'-benzo[4,5-a]thienyl)pyridinato-N, C^{3'}) iridium (acetylacetonate) [$\text{Btp}_2\text{Ir}(\text{acac})$] as the phosphorescent material (Adachi, C., Lamansky, S., Baldo, M. A., Kwong, R. C., Thompson, M. E., and Forrest, S. R., *App. Phys. Lett.*, 78, 1622-1624 (2001)).

[0242] Other important phosphorescent materials include cyclometallated Pt(II) complexes such as cis-bis(2-phenylpyridinato-N, C^{2'})platinum(II), cis-bis(2-(2'-thienyl)pyridinato-N, C^{3'}) platinum(II), cis-bis(2-(2'-thienyl)quinolino-N, C^{5'}) platinum(II), or (2-(4,6-difluorophenyl)pyridinato-N, C^{2'}) platinum (II) acetylacetonate. Pt(II) porphyrin complexes such as 2,3,7,8,12,13,17,18-octaethyl-21H, 23H-porphine platinum(II) are also useful phosphorescent materials.

[0243] Still other examples of useful phosphorescent materials include coordination complexes of the trivalent lanthanides such as Tb^{3+} and Eu^{3+} (J. Kido et al, *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 65, 2124 (1994))

Blocking Layers

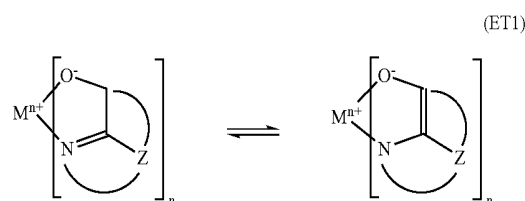
[0244] In addition to suitable hosts and transporting materials, an OLED device employing a phosphorescent material often requires at least one exciton or hole blocking layer to help confine the excitons or electron-hole recombination centers to the light emitting layer comprising the host and phosphorescent material. In one embodiment, such a blocking layer 110 would be placed between the electron transporting layer and the light emitting layer—see FIG. 1. In this case, the ionization potential of the blocking layer should be such that there is an energy barrier for hole migration from the light emitting layer into the electron-transporting layer, while the electron affinity should be such that electrons pass readily from the electron transporting layer into the light emitting layer. It is further desired, but not absolutely required, that the triplet energy of the blocking material be greater than that of the phosphorescent material. Suitable hole blocking materials are described in WO 00/70655 and WO 01/93642. Two examples of useful materials are bathocuproine (BCP) and bis(2-methyl-8-quinolinolato)(4-phenylphenolato)Aluminum(III) (BAIQ). Metal complexes other than BAIQ are also known to block holes and excitons as described in US 20030068528. US 20030175553 describes the use of fac-tris(1-phenylpyrazolato-N, C2)iridium(III) (Irppz) in an electron/exciton blocking layer.

Electron-Transporting Layer (ETL)

[0245] The electron transporting material deposited in said electron transporting layer between the cathode and the light

emitting layer may be the same or different from an electron transporting co-host material. The electron transporting layer may include more than one electron transporting compound, deposited as a blend or divided into separate layers.

[0246] Preferred thin film-forming materials for use in constructing the electron transporting layer of the organic EL devices of this invention are metal-chelated oxinoid compounds, including chelates of oxine itself (also commonly referred to as 8-quinolinol or 8-hydroxyquinoline). Such compounds help to inject and transport electrons, exhibiting high levels of performance, and are readily fabricated in the form of thin films. Exemplary of contemplated oxinoid compounds are those satisfying structural formula (ET1) below:



wherein

[0247] M represents a metal;

[0248] n is an integer of from 1 to 4; and

[0249] Z independently in each occurrence represents the atoms completing a nucleus having at least two fused aromatic rings.

[0250] From the foregoing it is apparent that the metal can be monovalent, divalent, trivalent, or tetravalent metal. The metal can, for example, be an alkali metal, such as lithium, sodium, or potassium; an alkaline earth metal, such as magnesium or calcium; an earth metal, such aluminum or gallium, or a transition metal such as zinc or zirconium. Generally any monovalent, divalent, trivalent, or tetravalent metal known to be a useful chelating metal can be employed.

[0251] Z completes a heterocyclic nucleus containing at least two fused aromatic rings, at least one of which is an azole or azine ring. Additional rings, including both aliphatic and aromatic rings, can be fused with the two required rings, if required. To avoid adding molecular bulk without improving on function the number of ring atoms is usually maintained at 18 or less.

Illustrative of useful chelated oxinoid compounds are the following:

[0252] CO-1: Aluminum trisoxine [alias, tris(8-quinolinolato)aluminum(III); Alq];

[0253] CO-2: Magnesium bisoxine [alias, bis(8-quinolinolato)magnesium(II)];

[0254] CO-3: Bis[benzo {f}-8-quinolinolato]zinc (II);

[0255] CO-4: Bis(2-methyl-8-quinolinolato)aluminum(III)-μ-oxo-bis(2-methyl-8-quinolinolato) aluminum(III);

[0256] CO-5: Indium trisoxine [alias, tris(8-quinolinolato)indium];

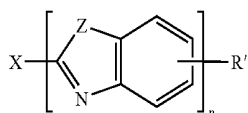
[0257] CO-6: Aluminum tris(5-methyloxine) [alias, tris(5-methyl-8-quinolinolato) aluminum(III)];

[0258] CO-7: Lithium oxine [alias, (8-quinolinolato)lithium(I)];

[0259] CO-8: Gallium oxine [alias, tris(8-quinolinolato)gallium(III)];

[0260] CO-9: Zirconium oxine [alias, tetra(8-quinolinolato)zirconium(IV)].

[0261] Other electron transporting materials suitable for use in the electron transporting layer include various butadiene derivatives as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,356,429 and various heterocyclic optical brighteners as described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,539,507. Benzazoles satisfying structural formula (ET2) are also useful electron transporting materials:



(ET2)

wherein

[0262] n is an integer of 3 to 8;

[0263] Z is O, NR or S; and

[0264] R and R' are individually hydrogen; alkyl of from 1 to 24 carbon atoms, for example, propyl, t-butyl, heptyl, and the like; aryl or hetero-atom substituted aryl of from 5 to 20 carbon atoms for example phenyl and naphthyl, furyl, thienyl, pyridyl, quinolinyl and other heterocyclic systems; or halo such as chloro, fluoro; or atoms necessary to complete a fused aromatic ring; and

[0265] X is a linkage unit consisting of carbon, alkyl, aryl, substituted alkyl, or substituted aryl, which conjugately or unconjugately connects the multiple benzazoles together. An example of a useful benzazole is 2,2',2''-(1,3,5-phenylene)tris[1-phenyl-1H-benzimidazole] (TPBI) disclosed in Shi et al. in U.S. Pat. No. 5,766,779.

[0266] Other electron transporting materials suitable for use in the electron transporting layer may be selected from triazines, triazoles, imidazoles, oxazoles, thiazoles and their derivatives, polybenzobisazoles, pyridine- and quinoline-based materials, cyano-containing polymers and perfluorinated materials.

[0267] The electron transporting layer or a portion of the electron transporting layer adjacent the cathode may further be doped with an alkali metal to reduce electron injection barriers and hence lower the drive voltage of the device. Suitable alkali metals for this purpose include lithium and cesium.

Cathode

[0268] When light emission is viewed solely through the anode 103, the cathode used in this invention can be comprised of nearly any conductive material. Desirable materials have good film-forming properties to ensure good contact with the underlying organic layer, promote electron injection at low voltage, and have good stability. Useful

cathode materials often contain a low work function metal (<4.0 eV) or metal alloy. One useful cathode material is comprised of a Mg:Ag alloy wherein the percentage of silver is in the range of 1 to 20%, as described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,885,221. Another suitable class of cathode materials includes bilayers comprising a thin electron-injection layer (EIL) in contact with an organic layer (e.g., an electron transporting layer (ETL)) which is capped with a thicker layer of a conductive metal. Here, the EIL preferably includes a low work function metal or metal salt, and if so, the thicker capping layer does not need to have a low work function. One such cathode is comprised of a thin layer of LiF followed by a thicker layer of Al as described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,677,572. An ETL material doped with an alkali metal, for example, Li-doped Alq, as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 6,013,384, is another example of a useful EIL. Other useful cathode material sets include, but are not limited to, those disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,059,861, 5,059,862, and 6,140,763.

[0269] When light emission is viewed through the cathode, the cathode must be transparent or nearly transparent. For such applications, metals must be thin or one must use transparent conductive oxides, or a combination of these materials. Optically transparent cathodes have been described in more detail in U.S. Pat. No. 4,885,211, U.S. Pat. No. 5,247,190, JP 3,234,963, U.S. Pat. No. 5,703,436, U.S. Pat. No. 5,608,287, U.S. Pat. No. 5,837,391, U.S. Pat. No. 5,677,572, U.S. Pat. No. 5,776,622, U.S. Pat. No. 5,776,623, U.S. Pat. No. 5,714,838, U.S. Pat. No. 5,969,474, U.S. Pat. No. 5,739,545, U.S. Pat. No. 5,981,306, U.S. Pat. No. 6,137,223, U.S. Pat. No. 6,140,763, U.S. Pat. No. 6,172,459, EP 1 076 368, U.S. Pat. No. 6,278,236, and U.S. Pat. No. 6,284,393. Cathode materials are typically deposited by any suitable methods such as evaporation, sputtering, or chemical vapor deposition. When needed, patterning can be achieved through many well known methods including, but not limited to, through-mask deposition, integral shadow masking as described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,276,380 and EP 0 732 868, laser ablation, and selective chemical vapor deposition.

Other Common Organic Layers and Device Architecture

[0270] In some instances, layers 109 and 111 can optionally be collapsed into a single layer that serves the function of supporting both light emission and electron transportation. It also known in the art that emitting dopants may be added to the hole-transporting layer, which may serve as a host. Multiple dopants may be added to one or more layers in order to create a white-emitting OLED, for example, by combining blue- and yellow-emitting materials, cyan- and red-emitting materials, or red-, green-, and blue-emitting materials. White-emitting devices are described, for example, in EP 1 187 235, EP 1 182 244, U.S. Pat. No. 5,683,823, U.S. Pat. No. 5,503,910, U.S. Pat. No. 5,405,709, and U.S. Pat. No. 5,283,182, US 20020186214, US 20020025419, US 20040009367, and U.S. Pat. No. 6,627,333.

[0271] Additional layers such as exciton, electron and hole-blocking layers as taught in the art may be employed in devices of this invention. Hole-blocking layers are commonly used to improve efficiency of phosphorescent emitter devices, for example, as in US 20020015859, WO 00/70655A2, WO 01/93642A1, US 20030068528 and US 20030175553 A1

[0272] This invention may be used in so-called stacked device architecture, for example, as taught in U.S. Pat. No. 5,703,436 and U.S. Pat. No. 6,337,492.

Deposition of Organic Layers

[0273] The organic materials mentioned above are suitably deposited through a vapor-phase method such as sublimation, but can be deposited from a fluid, for example, from a solvent with an optional binder to improve film formation. If the material is a polymer, solvent deposition is useful but other methods can be used, such as sputtering or thermal transfer from a donor sheet. The material to be deposited by sublimation can be vaporized from a sublimation "boat" often comprised of a tantalum material, e.g., as described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,237,529, or can be first coated onto a donor sheet and then sublimed in closer proximity to the substrate. Layers with a mixture of materials can utilize separate sublimation boats or the materials can be pre-mixed and coated from a single boat or donor sheet. Patterned deposition can be achieved using shadow masks, integral shadow masks (U.S. Pat. No. 5,294,870), spatially-defined thermal dye transfer from a donor sheet (U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,688,551, 5,851,709 and 6,066,357) and inkjet method (U.S. Pat. No. 6,066,357).

[0274] One preferred method for depositing the materials of the present invention is described in US 2004/0255857 and U.S. Ser. No. 10/945,941 where different source evaporators are used to evaporate each of the materials of the present invention. A second preferred method involves the use of flash evaporation where materials are metered along a material feed path in which the material feed path is temperature controlled. Such a preferred method is described in the following co-assigned patent applications: U.S. Ser. No. 10/784,585; U.S. Ser. No. 10/805,980; U.S. Ser. No. 10/945,940; U.S. Ser. No. 10/945,941; U.S. Ser. No. 11/050,924; and U.S. Ser. No. 11/050,934. Using this second method, each material may be evaporated using different source evaporators or the solid materials may be mixed prior to evaporation using the same source evaporator.

Encapsulation

[0275] Most OLED devices are sensitive to moisture or oxygen, or both, so they are commonly sealed in an inert atmosphere such as nitrogen or argon. In sealing an OLED device in an inert environment, a protective cover can be attached using an organic adhesive, a metal solder, or a low melting temperature glass. Commonly, a getter or desiccant is also provided within the sealed space. Useful getters and desiccants include, alkali and alkaline metals, alumina, bauxite, calcium sulfate, clays, silica gel, zeolites, alkaline metal oxides, alkaline earth metal oxides, sulfates, or metal halides and perchlorates. Methods for encapsulation and desiccation include, but are not limited to, those described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,226,890. In addition, barrier layers such as SiOx, Teflon, and alternating inorganic/polymeric layers are known in the art for encapsulation.

Optical Optimization

[0276] OLED devices of this invention can employ various well-known optical effects in order to enhance its properties if desired. This includes optimizing layer thicknesses to yield maximum light transmission, providing dielectric mirror structures, replacing reflective electrodes with light-absorbing electrodes, providing anti glare or

anti-reflection coatings over the display, providing a polarizing medium over the display, or providing colored, neutral density, or color conversion filters in functional relationship with the light emitting areas of the display. Filters, polarizers, and anti-glare or anti-reflection coatings can also be provided over a cover or as part of a cover.

[0277] The OLED device may have a microcavity structure. In one useful example, one of the metallic electrodes is essentially opaque and reflective; the other one is reflective and semitransparent. The reflective electrode is preferably selected from Au, Ag, Mg, Ca, or alloys thereof. Because of the presence of the two reflecting metal electrodes, the device has a microcavity structure. The strong optical interference in this structure results in a resonance condition. Emission near the resonance wavelength is enhanced and emission away from the resonance wavelength is depressed. The optical path length can be tuned by selecting the thickness of the organic layers or by placing a transparent optical spacer between the electrodes. For example, an OLED device of this invention can have ITO spacer layer placed between a reflective anode and the organic EL media, with a semitransparent cathode over the organic EL media.

EXAMPLES

Example 1

[0278] An EL device satisfying the requirements of the invention was constructed in the following manner:

[0279] 1. A glass substrate coated with an 85 nm layer of indium-tin oxide (ITO) as the anode was sequentially ultrasonicated in a commercial detergent, rinsed in deionized water, degreased in toluene vapor and exposed to oxygen plasma for about 1 min.

[0280] 2. Over the ITO was deposited a 1 nm fluoro-carbon (CFx) hole-injecting layer (HIL) by plasma-assisted deposition of CHF₃.

[0281] 3. A hole-transporting layer (HTL) of N,N'-di-1-naphthyl-N,N'-diphenyl-4,4'-diaminobiphenyl (NPB) having a thickness of 75 nm was then evaporated from a tantalum boat.

[0282] 4. A 35 nm light-emitting layer (LEL) of Ir-2 and fac-tris(2-phenyl-pyridinato-N⁺C⁻)-Iridium(III) (Ir(ppy)₃) (6 wt %) were then deposited onto the hole-transporting layer. These materials were also evaporated from tantalum boats.

[0283] 5. A hole-blocking layer of Ir-2 having a thickness of 10 nm was then evaporated from a tantalum boat.

[0284] 6. A 40 nm electron-transporting layer (ETL) of tris(8-quinolinolato)aluminum (III) (AlQ₃) was then deposited onto the hole-blocking layer. This material was also evaporated from a tantalum boat.

[0285] 7. On top of the AlQ₃ layer was deposited a 220 nm cathode formed of a 10:1 volume ratio of Mg and Ag.

[0286] The above sequence completed the deposition of the EL device. The device was then hermetically packaged in a dry glove box for protection against ambient environment.

[0287] Example 2 was fabricated in an identical manner to Example 1 except bis(2-methyl-quinolinolato)(2,4,6-triphenylphenolato)aluminum(III) (BALq) was used in the hole blocking layer in place of Inv-2.

[0288] Example 3 was fabricated in an identical manner to Example 1 except CBP was used in emissive layer in place of Inv-2, and BCP was used in the hole blocking layer in place of Inv-2.

[0289] Example 4 was fabricated in an identical manner to Example 1 except mixture of 70% CBP and 30% Alq was used in emissive layer in place of Inv-2 and BCP was used in the hole blocking layer in place of Inv-2.

[0290] The sample cells thus formed were measured for efficiency and voltage at 20 mA/cm², and the results are shown in Table I.

TABLE I

Example	Voltage (V)	cd/m ²
1	13	4298
2	13.4	4170
3	12.8	3390
4	12.8	74

[0291] Comparing example 1 and 2 illustrates the lower voltage and higher luminance efficiency benefit of using Inv-2 as the hole blocking layer instead of BALq. Comparing examples 3 and 4 shows that the use of Alq in an emissive layer greatly reduces the device efficiency. This problem is not present in Examples 1 and 2, and highlights the benefits of using Inv-2 in the emissive layer and Inv-2 in the hole blocking layer instead of using Alq in the emissive layer and BCP in the hole blocking layer.

Example 5

[0292] An EL device satisfying the requirements of the invention was constructed in the following manner:

[0293] 1. A glass substrate coated with an 85 nm layer of indium-tin oxide (ITO) as the anode was sequentially ultrasonicated in a commercial detergent, rinsed in deionized water, degreased in toluene vapor and exposed to oxygen plasma for about 1 min.

[0294] 2. Over the ITO was deposited a 1 nm fluoro-carbon (CFx) hole-injecting layer (HIL) by plasma-assisted deposition of CHF₃.

[0295] 3. A hole-transporting layer (HTL) of N,N'-di-1-naphthyl-N,N'-diphenyl-4,4'-diaminobiphenyl (NPB) having a thickness of 75 nm was then evaporated from a tantalum boat.

[0296] 4. A 35 nm light-emitting layer (LEL) of Inv-13 and Ir(ppy)₃ (6 wt %) were then deposited onto the hole-transporting layer. These materials were also evaporated from tantalum boats.

[0297] 5. A hole-blocking layer of Inv-2 having a thickness of 10 nm was then evaporated from a tantalum boat.

[0298] 6. A 40 nm electron-transporting layer (ETL) of tris(8-quinolinolato)aluminum (III) (AlQ₃) was then

deposited onto the hole-blocking layer. This material was also evaporated from a tantalum boat.

[0299] 7. On top of the AlQ₃ layer was deposited a 220 nm cathode formed of a 10:1 volume ratio of Mg and Ag.

[0300] The above sequence completed the deposition of the EL device. The device was then hermetically packaged in a dry glove box for protection against ambient environment.

[0301] Example 6 was fabricated in an identical manner to Example 5 except Ir(ppy)₃ was used in the LEL at 12 wt % instead of 6 wt %.

[0302] Example 7 was fabricated in an identical manner to Example 5 except bis(2-methyl-quinolinolato)(2,4,6-triphenylphenolato)aluminum(III) (BALq) was used in the hole blocking layer in place of Inv-2. The sample cells thus formed were measured for efficiency and voltage at 20 mA/cm², the results are shown in Table II.

TABLE II

Example	Voltage (V)	cd/m ²
5	8.73	4487
6	8.83	4590
7	9.43	1726

[0303] Comparing examples 5 and 6 with example 7 illustrates the benefit of using Inv-2 as the hole blocking layer instead of BALq. The concentration of the dopant may be varied from 6 to 12 wt % in Example 5 vs. 6, and the efficiency and voltage improvement does not change significantly.

[0304] The invention has been described in detail with particular reference to certain preferred embodiments thereof, but it will be understood that variations and modifications can be effected within the spirit and scope of the invention. The entire contents of the patents and other publications referred to in this specification are incorporated herein by reference.

PARTS LIST

[0305] 101 Substrate

[0306] 103 Anode

[0307] 105 Hole-Injecting layer (HIL)

[0308] 107 Hole-Transporting layer (HTL)

[0309] 108 Exciton Blocking Layer (EBL)

[0310] 109 Light-Emitting layer (LEL)

[0311] 110 Hole Blocking Layer (HBL)

[0312] 111 Electron-Transporting layer (ETL)

[0313] 113 Cathode

[0314] 150 Current/Voltage source

[0315] 160 Electrical conductors

1. An OLED device comprising a cathode, an anode, and having therebetween a light-emitting layer containing a phosphorescent emitter and a host comprising a first alumi-

num or gallium complex containing at least one 2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)pyridine ligand and at least one phenoxy ligand,

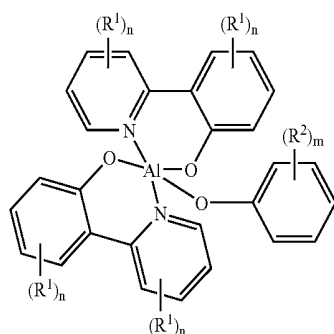
wherein there is further present adjacent to the light-emitting layer on the cathode side a layer containing a second aluminum or gallium complex containing at least one 2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)pyridine ligand and at least one phenoxy ligand.

2. An OLED device of claim 1, wherein the first complex is an aluminum complex.

3. An OLED device of claim 1, wherein the first and second complexes are the same compound.

4. An OLED device of claim 1, wherein the light-emitting layer contains an iridium-containing phosphorescent emitter.

5. An OLED device of claim 1, wherein the first complex is represented by Formula I:



Formula I

wherein;

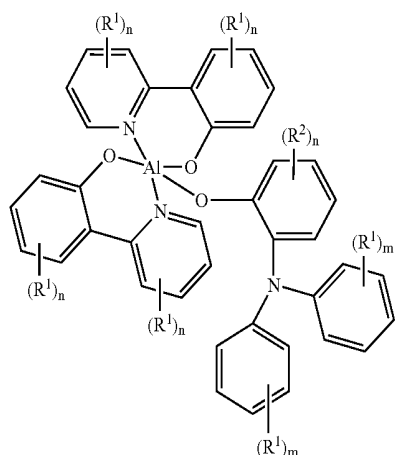
R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, aryl amine, alkyl amine, and cyano groups, provided that groups may join together to form fused rings;

n is independently 0 to 4; and

m is 0 to 5.

6. An OLED device of claim 5, wherein at least one R^2 is a phenyl or aryl amine group.

7. An OLED device of claim 1, wherein the first complex is represented by Formula II:



Formula II

wherein;

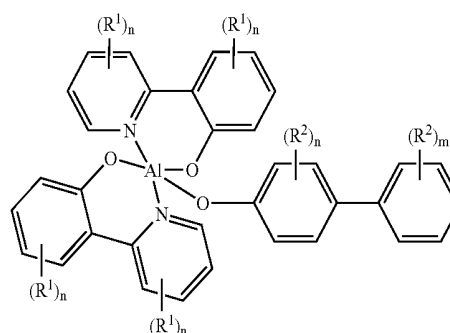
R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, aryl amine, alkyl amine, and cyano groups, provided that groups may join together to form fused rings;

n is independently 0 to 4; and

m is independently 0 to 5.

8. An OLED device of claim 1, wherein the first complex is represented by Formula III:

Formula III



wherein;

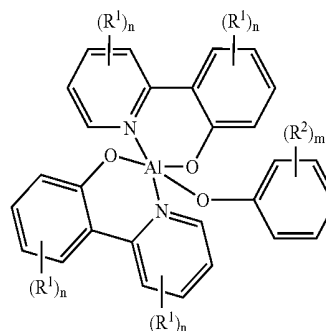
R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, aryl amine, alkyl amine, and cyano groups, provided that groups may join together to form fused rings;

n is independently 0 to 4; and

m is 0 to 5.

9. An OLED device of claim 1, wherein the second complex is represented by Formula I:

Formula I



wherein;

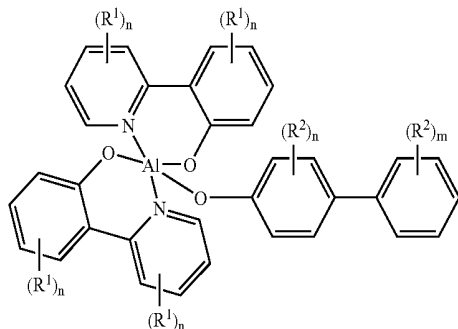
R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, aryl amine, alkyl amine, and cyano groups, provided that groups may join together to form fused rings;

n is independently 0 to 4; and

m is 0 to 5.

10. An OLED device of claim 1, wherein the second complex is represented by Formula III:

Formula III



wherein;

R¹ and R² are independently selected from alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, aryl amine, alkyl amine, and cyano groups, provided that groups may join together to form fused rings;

n is independently 0 to 4; and

m is 0 to 5.

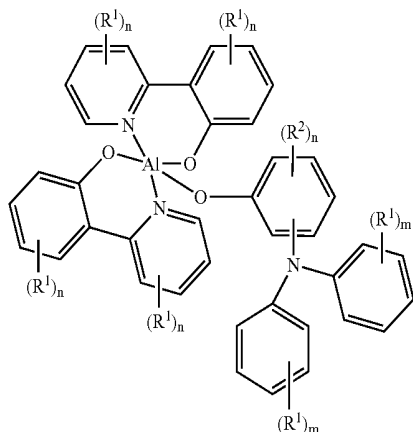
11. An OLED device comprising a cathode, an anode, and having therebetween a light-emitting layer containing a phosphorescent emitter and a host comprising a first aluminum or gallium complex containing at least one 2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)pyridine ligand and at least one phenoxy ligand substituted with an amine.

12. An OLED device of claim 11, wherein the light-emitting layer contains an iridium-containing phosphorescent emitter.

13. An OLED device of claim 11, wherein the amine is selected from one comprising a pyridine, pyrrole, or indole group.

14. An OLED device of claim 11, wherein the first complex is represented by Formula IV:

Formula IV



wherein;

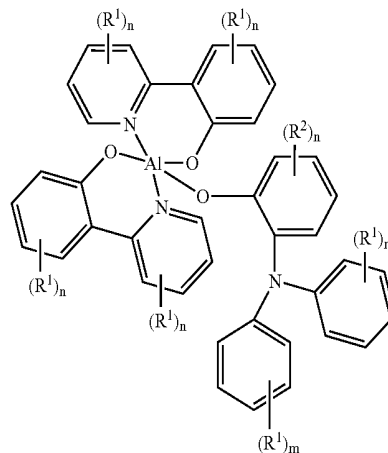
R¹ and R² are independently selected from alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, aryl amine, alkyl amine, and cyano groups, provided that groups may join together to form fused rings;

n is independently 0 to 4; and

m is independently 0 to 5.

15. An OLED device of claim 14, wherein the first complex is represented by Formula II:

Formula II



wherein;

R¹ and R² are independently selected from alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, aryl amine, alkyl amine, and cyano groups, provided that groups may join together to form fused rings;

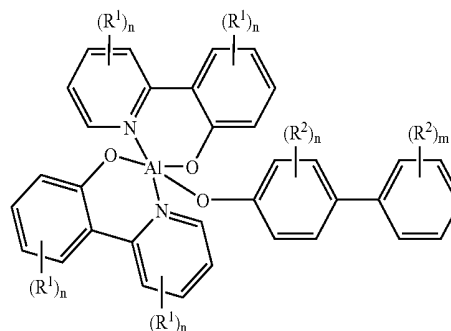
n is independently 0 to 4; and

m is independently 0 to 5.

16. An OLED device of claim 14, wherein there is further present adjacent to the light-emitting layer on the cathode side a layer containing a second aluminum or gallium complex containing at least one 2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)pyridine ligand and at least one phenoxy ligand.

17. An OLED device of claim 16, wherein the second complex is represented by Formula III:

Formula III



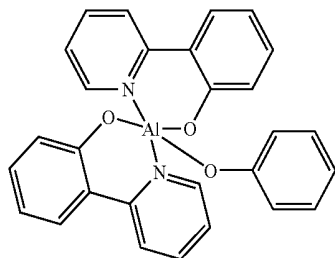
wherein;

R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, aryl amine, alkyl amine, and cyano groups, provided that groups may join together to form fused rings;

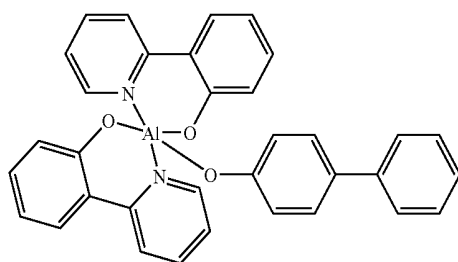
n is independently 0 to 4; and

m is 0 to 5.

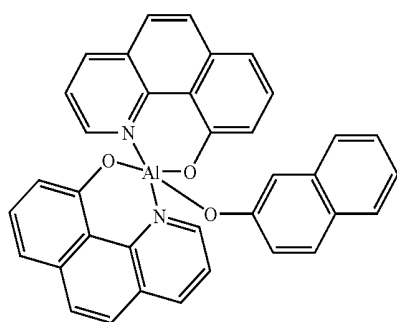
18. An OLED device of claim 11 wherein the first complex comprises at least one of the following:



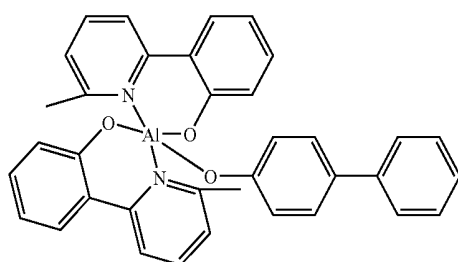
Inv-1



Inv-2

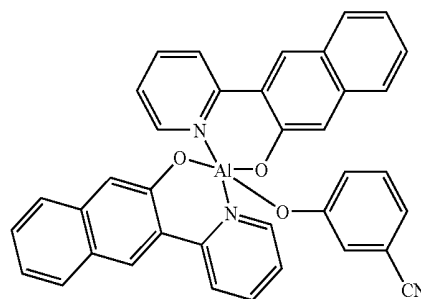


Inv-3

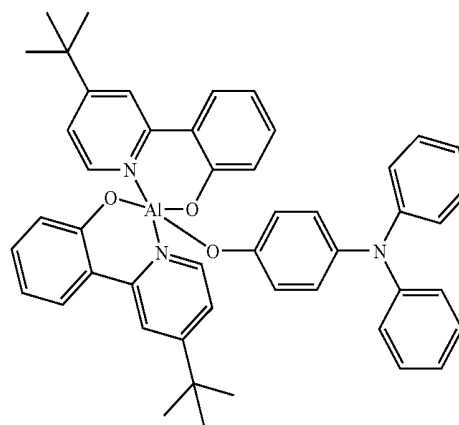


Inv-4

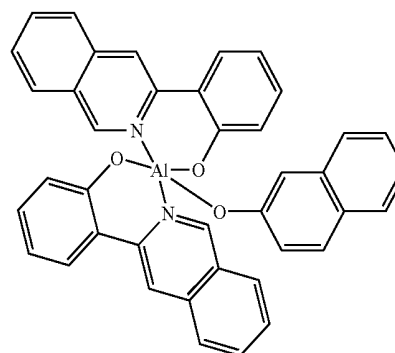
-continued



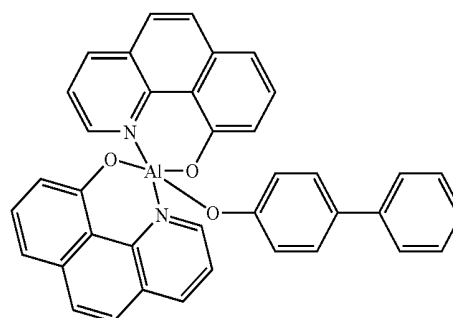
Inv-5



Inv-6

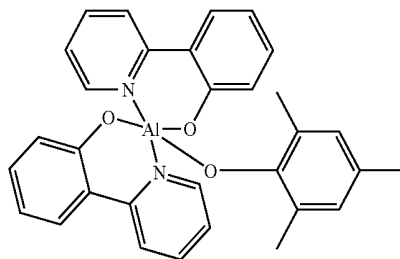


Inv-7



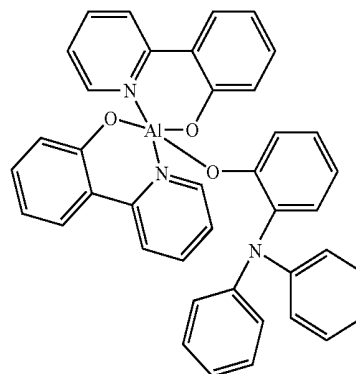
Inv-8

-continued



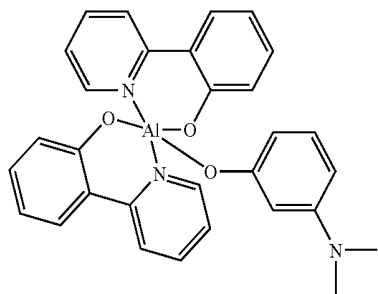
Inv-9

-continued

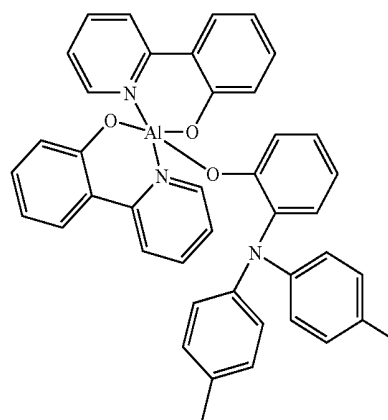


Inv-13

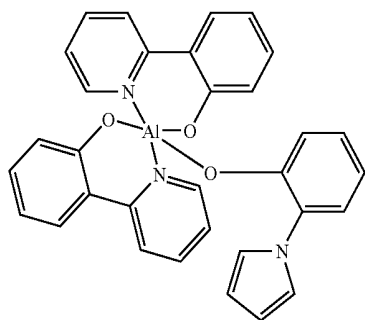
Inv-10



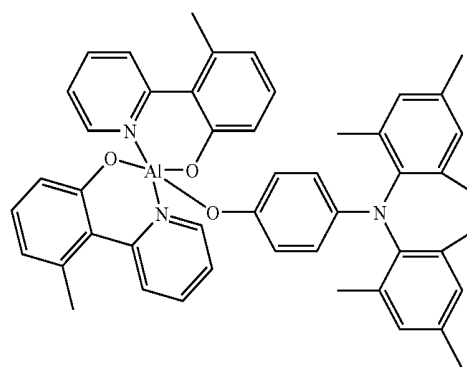
Inv-14



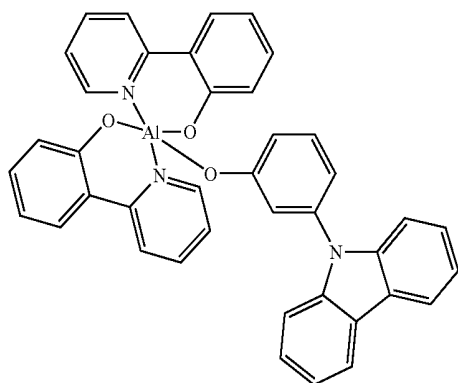
Inv-11



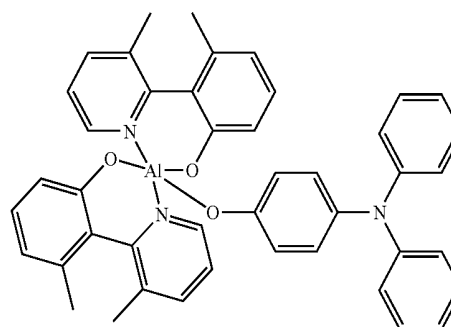
Inv-15



Inv-12

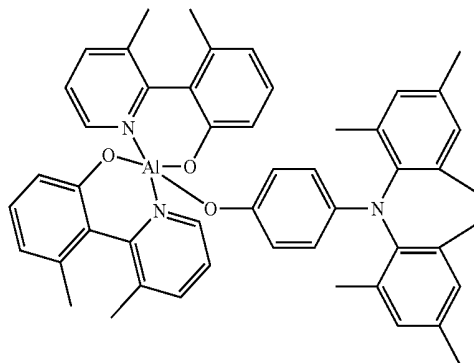


Inv-16



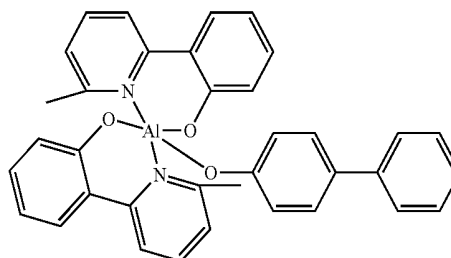
-continued

Inv-17

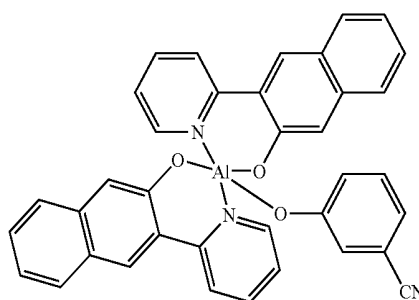


-continued

Inv-4

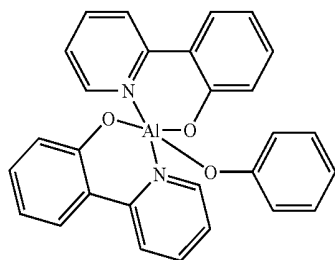


Inv-5

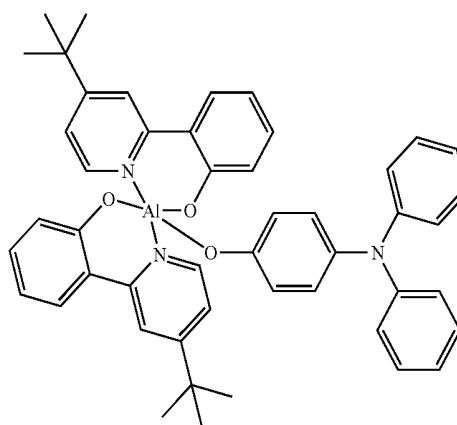


19. An OLED device of claim 1 wherein the first complex comprises at least one of the following:

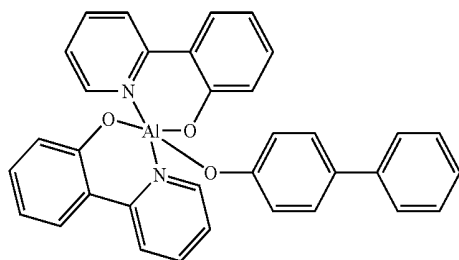
Inv-1



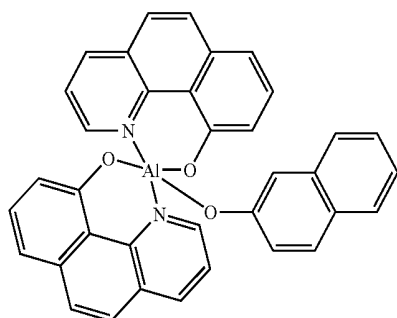
Inv-6



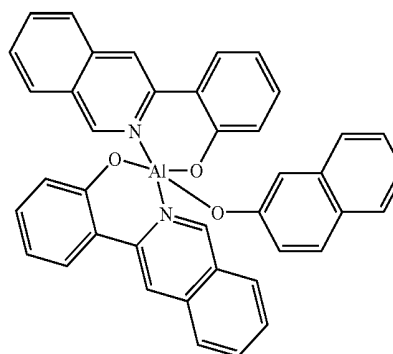
Inv-2



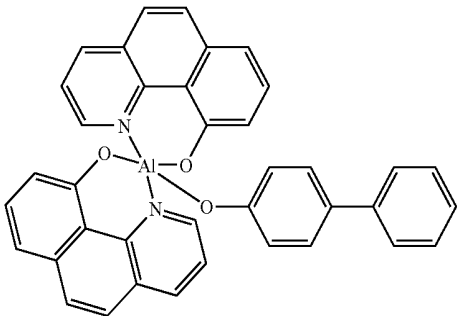
Inv-3



Inv-7

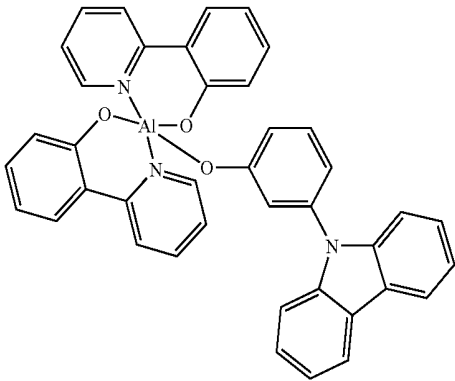


-continued

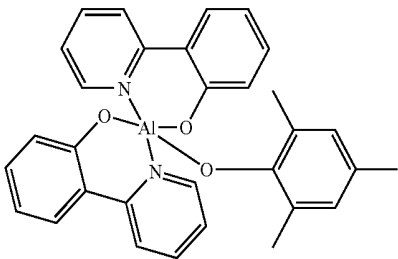


Inv-8

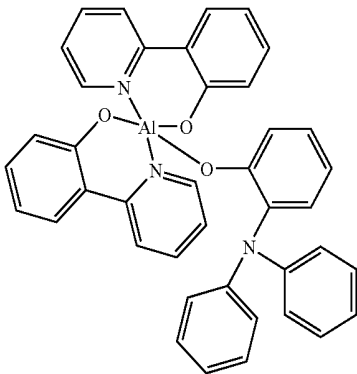
-continued



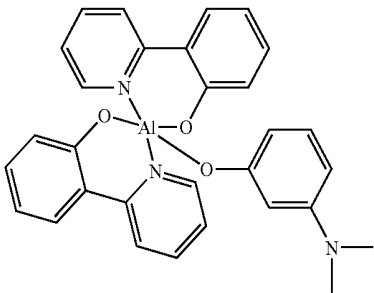
Inv-12



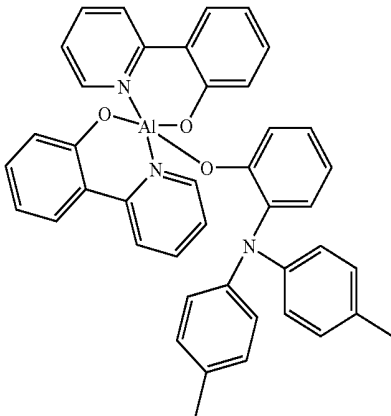
Inv-9



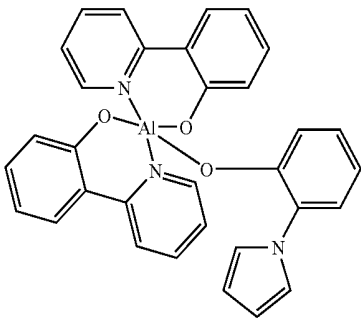
Inv-13



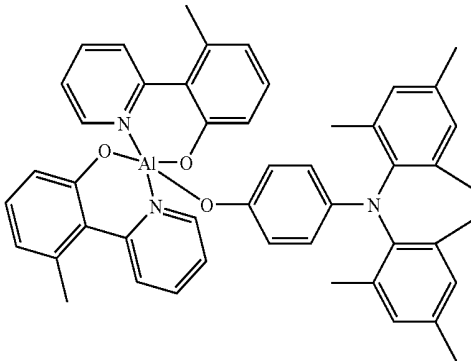
Inv-10



Inv-14



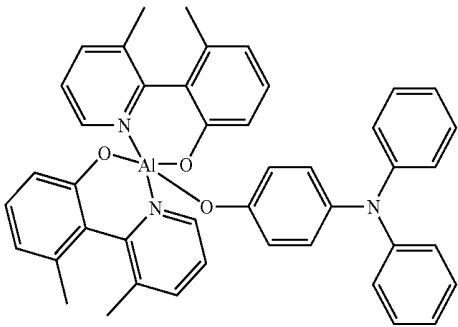
Inv-11



Inv-15

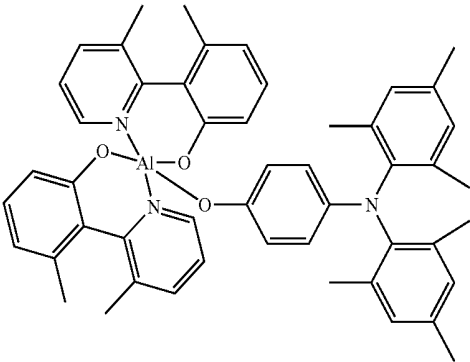
-continued

Inv-16



-continued

Inv-17

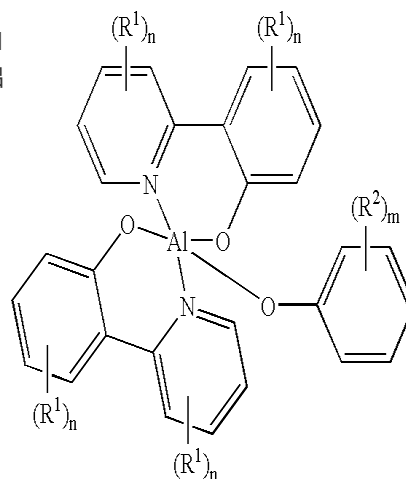


* * * * *

专利名称(译)	电致发光主体材料		
公开(公告)号	US20070134514A1	公开(公告)日	2007-06-14
申请号	US11/302884	申请日	2005-12-14
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	伊斯曼柯达公司		
申请(专利权)人(译)	伊士曼柯达公司		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	全球OLED科技有限责任公司		
[标]发明人	KONDAKOV DENIS Y ROYSTER TOMMIE L JR BROWN CHRISTOPHER T		
发明人	KONDAKOV, DENIS Y. ROYSTER, TOMMIE L. JR. BROWN, CHRISTOPHER T.		
IPC分类号	H01L51/54		
CPC分类号	H01L51/0079 H01L51/5016 H01L51/5036 H01L51/5096 Y10S428/917		
其他公开文献	US7709105		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

OLED器件包括阴极，阳极，并且在其间具有包含磷光发光体的发光层和包含含有至少一个2- (2-羟基苯基) 吡啶配体和至少一个苯氧基的第一铝或镓配合物的主体。配位体，其中苯氧基配体被胺取代或在阴极侧的发光层附近还存在含有第二铝或镓配合物的层，该第二铝或镓配合物含有至少一个2- (2-羟基苯基) 吡啶配体和至少一种苯氧基配体。



Formula I