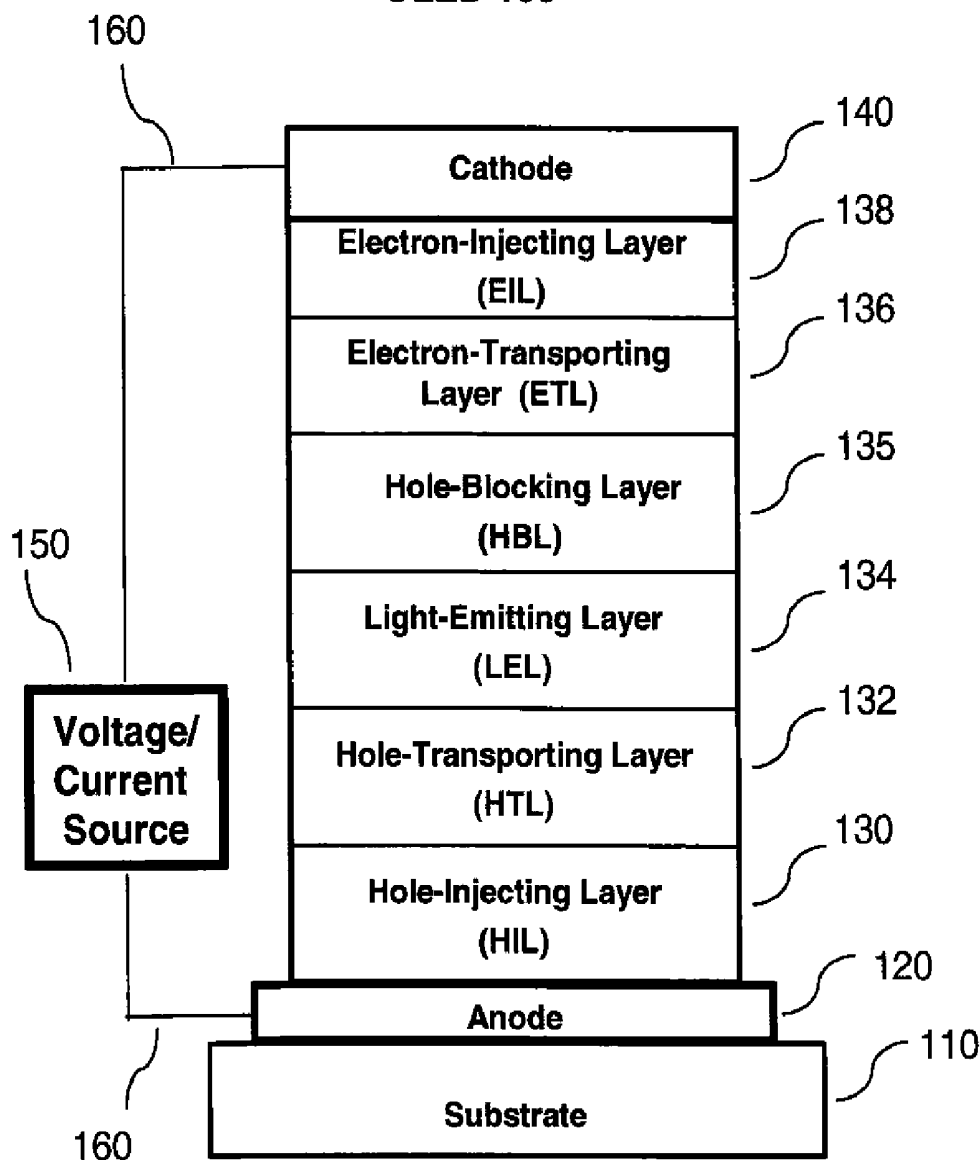




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Huo et al.(10) **Pub. No.: US 2009/0153030 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Jun. 18, 2009**(54) **OLED DEVICE WITH SUBSTITUTED
ACRIDONE COMPOUNDS****Publication Classification**(76) **Inventors:** **Shouquan Huo**, Greenville, NC
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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **313/504****Correspondence Address:****Andrew J. Anderson**
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Eastman Kodak Company, 343 State Street
Rochester, NY 14650-2201 (US)(57) **ABSTRACT**

The invention provides an OLED device comprising a cathode, an anode, and having therebetween a layer containing an acridone compound including a diarylamine or carbazole substituent where the nitrogen of the acridone and the nitrogen of the diarylamine or carbazole are connected by an aromatic hydrocarbon linking group. OLED devices of the invention exhibit improved efficiency and drive voltage.

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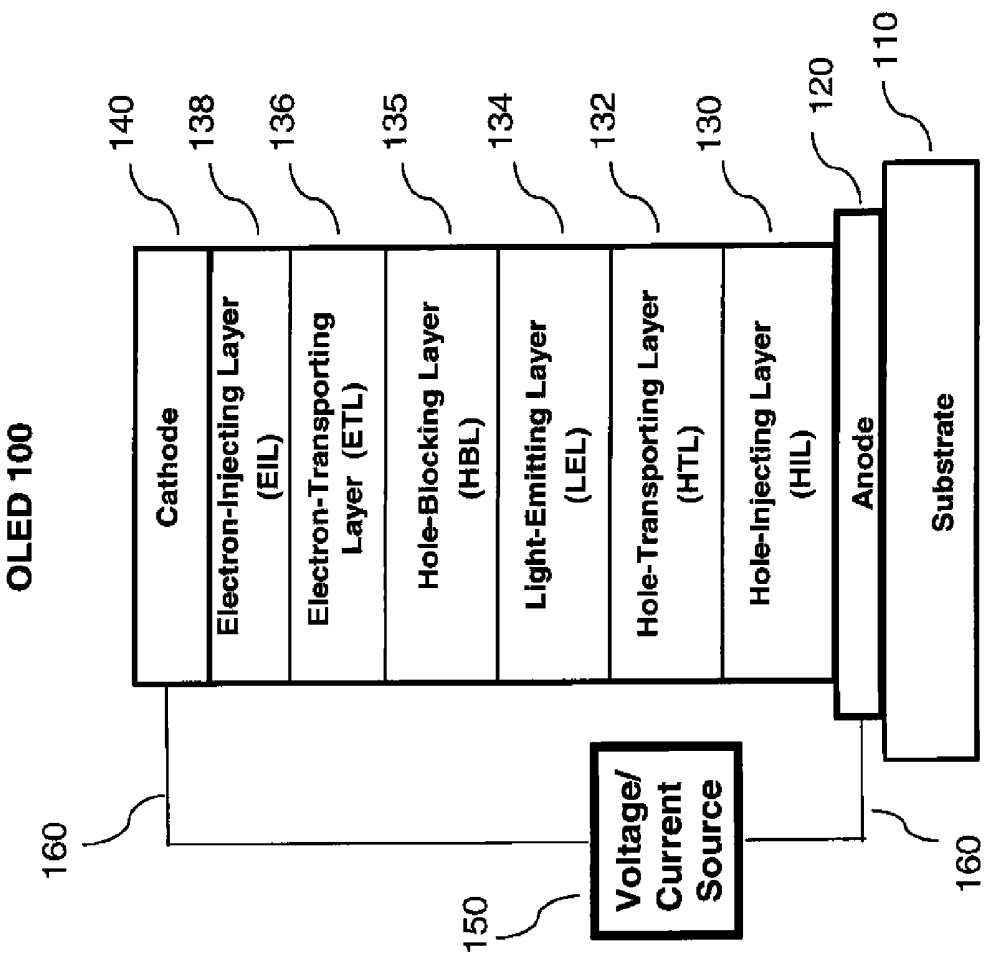


FIG 1

OLED DEVICE WITH SUBSTITUTED ACRIDONE COMPOUNDS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] This invention relates to an organic light-emitting diode (OLED) electroluminescent (EL) device that includes acridone compounds substituted with diarylamine or carbazole groups.

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, 30, 322, (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 greater than 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. Reducing the thickness lowered the resistance of the organic layers and has enabled devices that operate at 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, and therefore is referred to as the hole-transporting layer, and the other organic layer is specifically chosen to transport electrons and is 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 C. Tang et al. (*J. Applied Physics*, Vol. 65, 3610 (1989)). The light-emitting layer commonly consists of a host material doped with a guest material, otherwise known as a dopant. 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-transporting/injecting layer (ETL). These structures have resulted in improved device efficiency.

[0005] EL devices in recent years have expanded to include not only single color emitting devices, such as red, green and blue, but also white-devices, devices that emit white light. Efficient white light producing OLED devices are highly desirable in the industry and are considered as a low cost alternative for several applications such as paper-thin light sources, backlights in LCD displays, automotive dome lights, and office lighting. White light producing OLED devices

should be bright, efficient, and generally have Commission International d'Eclairage (CIE) chromaticity coordinates of about (0.33, 0.33). In any event, in accordance with this disclosure, white light is that light which is perceived by a user as having a white color.

[0006] Since the early inventions, further improvements in device materials have resulted in improved performance in attributes such as color, stability, luminance efficiency and manufacturability, e.g., as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 5,061,569, U.S. Pat. No. 5,409,783, U.S. Pat. No. 5,554,450, U.S. Pat. No. 5,593,788, U.S. Pat. No. 5,683,823, U.S. Pat. No. 5,908,581, U.S. Pat. No. 5,928,802, U.S. Pat. No. 6,020,078, and U.S. Pat. No. 6,208,077, amongst others.

[0007] Notwithstanding all of these developments, there are continuing needs for organic EL device components, such as hosts for light-emitting layers, light-emitting materials, materials for hole transporting layers and/or hole injecting materials, that will provide even lower device drive voltages and hence lower power consumption, while maintaining high luminance efficiencies.

[0008] The use of acridone materials in OLED devices are known. JP 8-67873 and JP2001-173772 describe the use of N-substituted acridones in light-emitting layers.

[0009] JP2000-056408, JP2005-089544, JP2001-244076 and U.S. Pat. No. 5,811,834 all disclose the use of bis-acridones in light-emitting layers.

[0010] U.S. Pat. No. 6,894,307 describes the use of acridones as intersystem crossing agents in light emitting layers.

[0011] CN1660844 discloses quinacridones linked to a carbazole group with saturated alkyl chains. JP2005093098 and JP2007191439 disclose quinacridones linked to carbazole groups but not through the nitrogen of the quinacridone.

[0012] However, these devices do not have all desired EL characteristics in terms of high efficiency and low drive voltages.

[0013] Notwithstanding all these developments, there remains a need to increase efficiency and lower drive voltage of OLED devices, as well as to provide embodiments with other improved features.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0014] The invention provides an OLED device comprising a cathode, an anode, and having therebetween a layer containing an acridone compound including a diarylamine or carbazole substituent where the nitrogen of the acridone and the nitrogen of the diarylamine or carbazole are connected by an aromatic hydrocarbon linking group. OLED devices of the invention exhibit improved efficiency and drive voltage.

[0015] The invention also provides an improved process and display employing the device.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0016] FIG. 1 shows a schematic cross-sectional view of one embodiment of the OLED device of the present invention. It will be understood that FIG. 1 is not to scale since the individual layers are too thin and the thickness differences of various layers are too great to permit depiction to scale.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0017] The invention is generally as described above. An OLED device of the invention is a multilayer electroluminescent device comprising a cathode, an anode, light-emitting layer(s) (LEL), electron-transporting layer(s) (ETL) and

electron-injecting layer(s) (EIL) and optionally additional layers such as hole-injecting layer(s) (HIL), hole-transporting layer(s) (HTL), exciton-blocking layer(s) (XBL), spacer layer(s), connecting layer(s) and hole-blocking layer(s) (HBL).

[0018] The acridone material of the invention has excellent hole-transporting properties. It can be used in any of the typical OLED applications requiring hole-transporting materials. For example, it may be used in hole-injecting layers, hole transporting layers, light-emitting layers and exciton-blocking layers. The most preferred use is as a non-emitting host material in combination with a light-emitting dopant material in a light-emitting layer.

[0019] A host material is preferably chosen to efficiently produce excited dopant molecules. In addition, the host and dopant combination should be chosen such that not only is the energy transfer from the host to the dopant efficient, and also that the probability of reverse energy transfer from the dopant to the host is low. It is usually desirable for substantially all of the luminescence to have the spectrum of the dopant, rather than the host. By 'substantially all', it is meant that more than about 90% of the emitted photons come from the dopant(s). The degree to which the host and the dopant contribute to the emission can be determined by comparing the emission spectrum of the device with the emission spectra of the individual components.

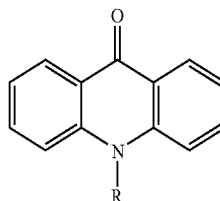
[0020] To achieve the proper energy-transfer properties, the host and the dopant are typically selected such that the energy of the excited state of the dopant is lower than that of the host, that the host have some emission in the absence of the dopant, and that the emission of the host overlaps with the absorption of the dopant. The efficiency of emission by the host however, may be inferior to that by the dopant. In this usage, the acridone host material should not emit substantial amounts of light when a potential is applied to the OLED. By substantial, it is meant that the host material emits no more than about 10%, and preferably no more than 2%, of the total light from that layer. The concentration of the dopant may be adjusted to optimize the energy transfer and the efficiency with which the dopant luminesces. In general, the optimum dopant concentration is small compared to that of the host. Too low a dopant concentration generally results in undesired emission from the host, and frequently low efficiency. Too high a dopant concentration typically results in reduced efficiency and undesired spectral shifts, phenomena described as concentration quenching or self-quenching. Suitably, host concentrations in the light-emitting layer should be 50% or greater; more suitably, 75% or greater; or most suitably, 88% or greater with the dopant concentration to be correspondingly, 50% or less; 25% or less, most typically in the range of 0.5 to 15% with the most desirable range being from 1% to 12%. There may be one or more other host materials additionally present in the LEL. Any material known to be a suitable host for a light-emitting layer can be used as a co-host. It may have hole-transporting properties, electron-transporting properties or possess the ability to do both. Whenever the acridone of the invention is used as a host together with another co-host material, it is preferred that the acridone material comprises at least 2% of the total amount of materials in the LEL, or more preferably, at least 10%.

[0021] Further descriptions of the requirements for host and dopant materials can be found in Chen et al, Macromolecular Symposia (1997), 125, 1-48 and U.S. Pat. No. 7,221, 088.

[0022] The light-emitting materials used with the acridone host may be fluorescent or phosphorescent. While the light-emitting compound is present in the LEL at 50% or less; 25% or less, most typically in the range of 0.5 to 15% with the most desirable range being from 1% to 12%. There may be more than one light-emitting material that emits the same or different colors of light in the LEL. The acridones of the invention are particularly well suited for use with phosphorescent dopants.

[0023] In another embodiment, the acridone compound can be a light-emitting dopant and be used as the only material in the LEL or in combination with one or more non-light emitting host compounds. One example of a suitable acridone for this usage would be a derivative of a quinacridone such as example A-12.

[0024] The acridones of the invention are N-substituted derivatives of 9(10H)-acridanone:

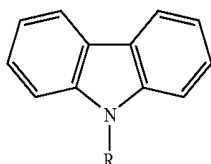


where the R substituent on the nitrogen comprises of an aromatic hydrocarbon linking group bearing a diarylamine or carbazole group. The phenyl rings of the acridone may be substituted including annulated or fused rings. An example of a substituted acridone would be an quinacridone. However, it is preferred that the phenyl rings of the acridone molecule are unsubstituted.

[0025] The aromatic hydrocarbon linking group is preferably composed of a unbroken chain of 6 to 36 carbon atoms that connect the nitrogen of the acridone to the nitrogen of the diarylamine or carbazole group. There are 3 general types of useful linking groups. One type of linking group is an aromatic hydrocarbon composed solely of one fused aromatic ring system connected to the nitrogens by single bonds. Examples of this type would be a phenyl ring, a naphthalene or an anthracene. Another type of linking group is composed of a series of aromatic rings each connected directly by single bonds. An example of this would be a para-biphenyl linking group. A third type of linking group would contain ethylene or acetylene groups which may also contain aromatic rings, either as a substituent or as part of the chain. Thus, it should be understood that the term 'aromatic hydrocarbon linking group' also includes olefinic ($-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$) or acetylenic ($-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$) groups as well as rings when referring to the unbroken chain of the linking group of the invention. In every case, all of the carbons in the unbroken chain of the linking group should be sp or sp^2 hybridized. Although the preferred linking group is a chain of aromatic, olefinic or acetylenic carbon atoms containing only hydrogen as substituents, it may have further substituents including heteroatoms pendant on the carbon chain. The most preferred linking groups are aromatic rings including phenyl, biphenyl (o, m, p-linked), fluorenyl, naphthyl, anthracenyl, fluoranthenyl and phenanthrenyl.

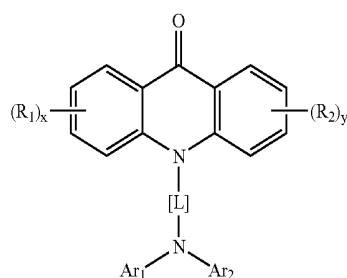
[0026] In one type of compound of the invention, the linking group is attached to the nitrogen of a diarylamine group. The aryl groups on the nitrogen are each composed of an aromatic group of 6 to 30 carbon atoms and may be the same or different. The aryl groups may be further substituted. Preferred examples of the aryl group are phenyl and naphthyl. However, the aryl groups in the diarylamine group cannot be connected together by a ketone group to form an acridone moiety.

[0027] In another type of compound of the invention, the linking group is attached to the nitrogen of a carbazole group. A carbazole group is an analog of a diphenylamine where the phenyl rings are directly linked together and has the following general structure:



where the linking group R as described above is attached to the nitrogen of the carbazole group. The carbazole group may be further substituted and may have fused or annulated rings.

[0028] Preferred acridone compound are according to Formula (I):



Formula (I)

wherein:

[0029] R_1 and R_2 are substituents;

[0030] x and y are independently 0 to 4;

[0031] L is a linking group consisting of an unbroken chain of 6 to 36 aromatic, olefinic or acetylenic carbon atoms; and

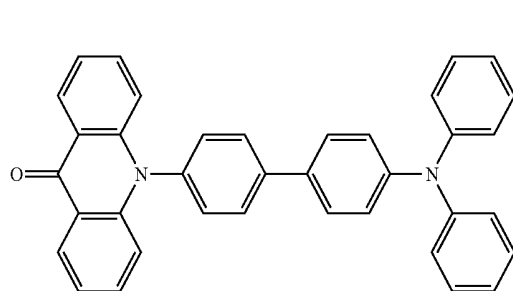
[0032] Ar_1 and Ar_2 are independently aromatic groups of 6 to 30 carbon atoms or are connected together to form a carbazole group.

[0033] The optional substituents R_1 and R_2 on the acridone nucleus can be any substituent. Examples of suitable substituents include alkyl groups, aryl groups, heterocyclic groups and may represent fused or annulated rings. R_1 and R_2 can be the same or different. One specific example is where R_1 and R_2 together form a fused acridone ring to form a quinacridone. Preferred compounds are where both x and y are 0.

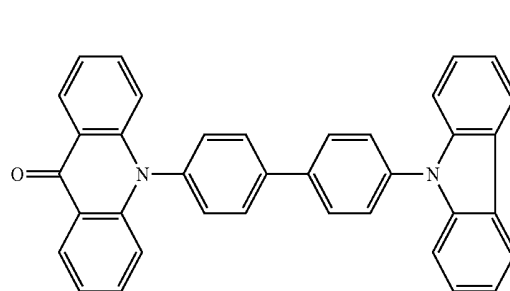
[0034] In the linking group, the chain may be composed of 6 to 36 aromatic, olefinic or acetylenic carbon atoms attached together in any combination. There may not be any heteroatoms between these carbon atoms in the chain. Preferred L groups are composed only of aromatic carbon atoms including phenyl, p-biphenyl or naphthyl.

[0035] Preferred Ar_1 and Ar_2 are where both are substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, one is phenyl and the other naphthyl, or together both form a substituted or unsubstituted carbazole ring. Most preferred is where Ar_1 and Ar_2 are both phenyl or together form an unsubstituted carbazole ring.

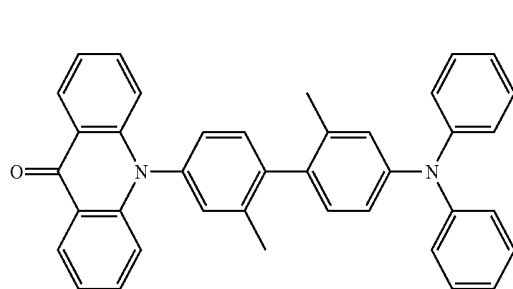
[0036] Specific examples of acridone materials of the invention are as follows:



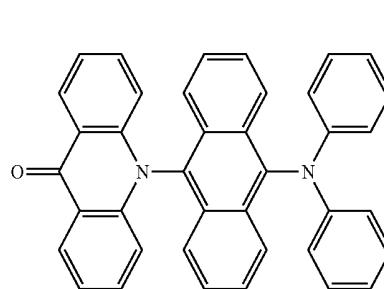
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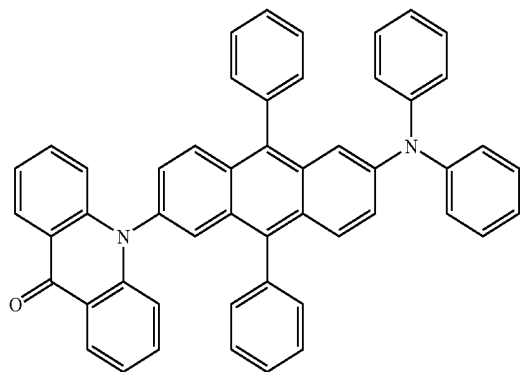
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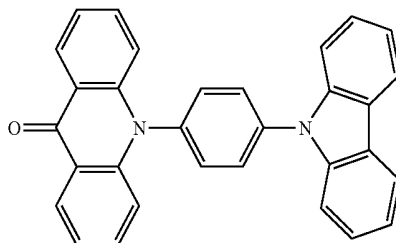
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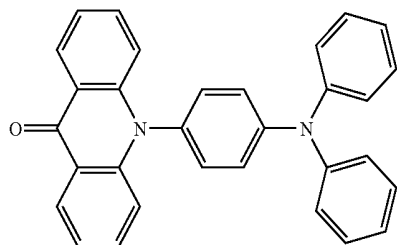
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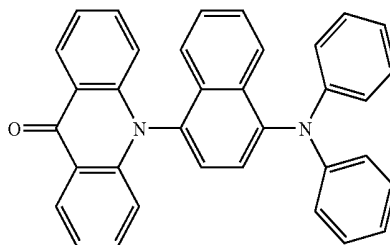
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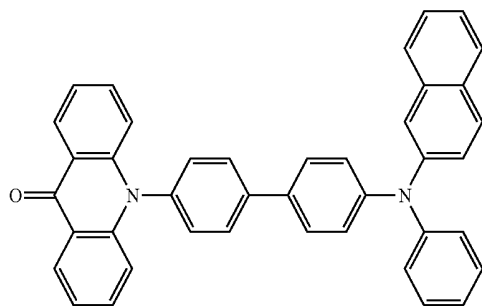
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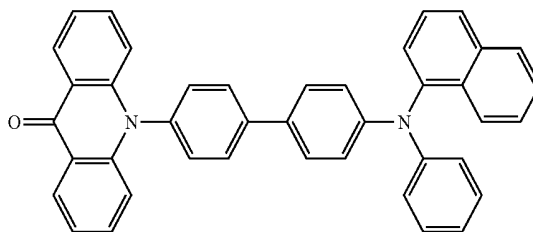
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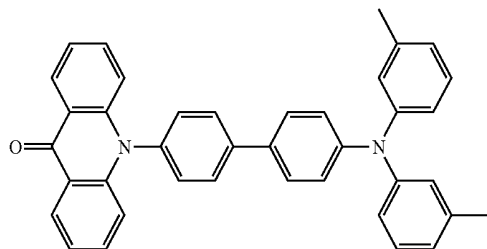
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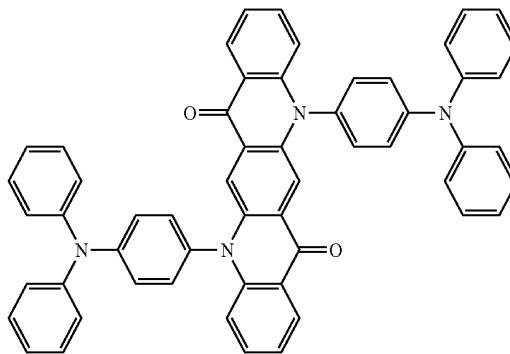
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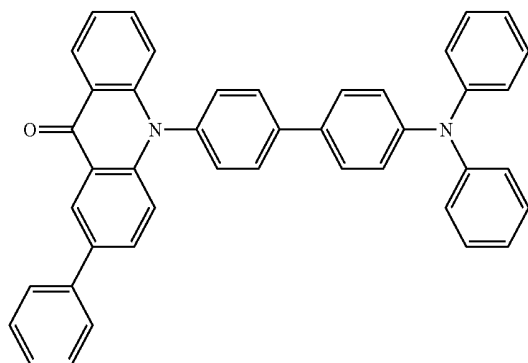
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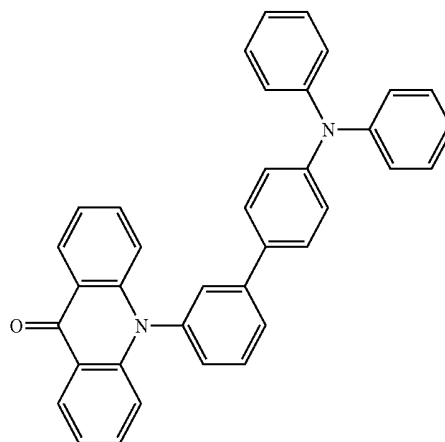
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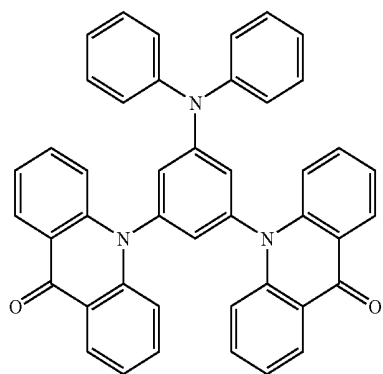
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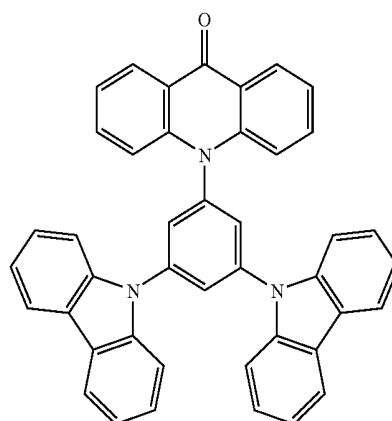
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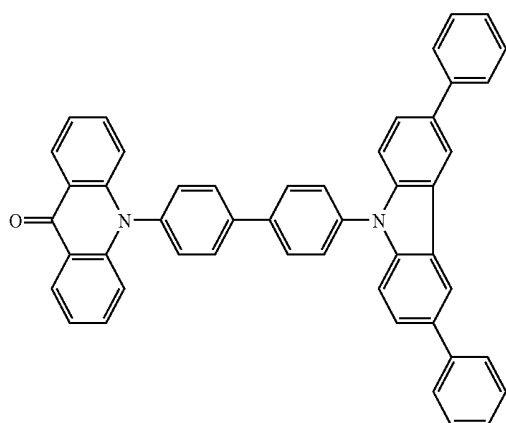
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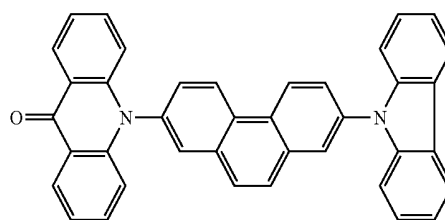
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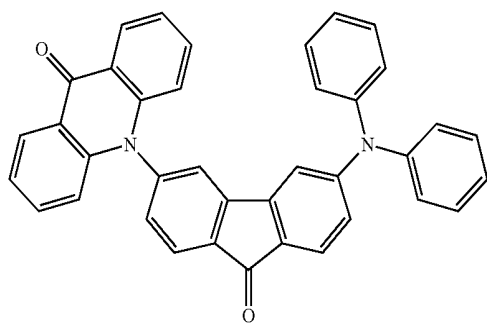
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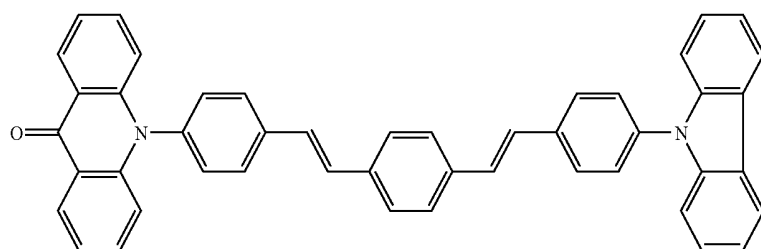
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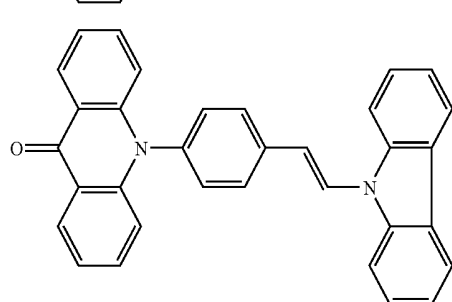
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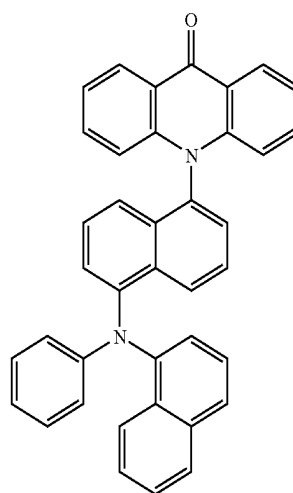


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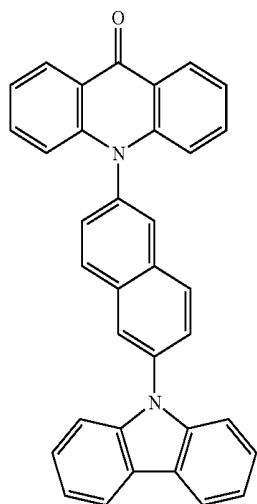


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[0037] A light-emitting layer containing the acridone derivative can emit in any color or combination of colors of light. When referring to the color of light emitter, it should be understood that lesser amounts of different color of light may be emitted as well. For example, blue light-emission would refer to a layer where blue light predominates but may emit smaller amounts of green or red as well. The OLED device containing the invention may be a single color or may emit white light.

[0038] FIG. 1 shows one embodiment of the invention in which light-emitting layers, electron-transporting and electron-injecting layers are present. The acridone compounds of the invention can be located in the light-emitting layer (LEL, **134**), the hole-injection layer (HIL, **130**) or the hole-trans-

porting layer (HTL, **132**) among others. An optional hole-blocking layer (HBL, **135**) is shown between the light-emitting layer and the electron-transporting layer. The figure also shows an optional hole-injecting layer (HIL, **130**). In another embodiment, there is no hole-blocking layer (HBL, **135**) located between the ETL and the LEL. In yet other embodiments, there may be more than one hole-injecting, electron-injecting and electron-transporting layers.

[0039] In one suitable embodiment the EL device includes a means for emitting white light, which may include complimentary emitters or a white emitter with filtering means. The device may also include combinations of fluorescent emitting materials and phosphorescent emitting materials (sometimes referred to as hybrid OLED devices). To produce a white

emitting device, ideally the hybrid fluorescent/phosphorescent device would comprise a blue fluorescent emitter and proper proportions of a green and red phosphorescent emitter, or other color combinations suitable to make white emission. However, hybrid devices having non-white emission may also be useful by themselves. Hybrid fluorescent/phosphorescent elements having non-white emission may also be combined with additional phosphorescent elements in series in a stacked OLED. For example, white emission may be produced by one or more hybrid blue fluorescent/red phosphorescent elements stacked in series with a green phosphorescent element using p/n junction connectors as disclosed in Tang et al U.S. Pat. No. 6,936,961B2. 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.

[0040] In one desirable embodiment the EL device is part of a display device. In another suitable embodiment the EL device is part of an area lighting device.

[0041] The EL device of the invention is useful in any device where stable light emission is desired such as a lamp or a component in a static or motion imaging device, such as a television, cell phone, DVD player, or computer monitor.

[0042] As used herein and throughout this application, the term carbocyclic and heterocyclic rings or groups are generally as defined by the *Grant & Hackh's Chemical Dictionary*, Fifth Edition, McGraw-Hill Book Company. A carbocyclic ring is any aromatic or non-aromatic ring system containing only carbon atoms and a heterocyclic ring is any aromatic or non-aromatic ring system containing both carbon and non-carbon atoms such as nitrogen (N), oxygen (O), sulfur (S), phosphorous (P), silicon (Si), gallium (Ga), boron (B), beryllium (Be), indium (In), aluminum (Al), and other elements found in the periodic table useful in forming ring systems. For the purpose of this invention, also included in the definition of a heterocyclic ring are those rings that include coordinate bonds. The definition of a coordinate or dative bond can be found in *Grant & Hackh's Chemical Dictionary*, pages 91 and 153. 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 or ions such as aluminum, boron or alkali metal ions such as Li⁺, Na⁺, K⁺ and Cs⁺. One such example is found in tris(8-quinolinolato)aluminum(III), also referred to as Alq, wherein the nitrogen on the quinoline moiety donates its lone pair of electrons to the aluminum atom thus forming the heterocycle and hence providing Alq with a total of 3 fused rings. The definition of a ligand, including a multidentate ligand, can be found in *Grant & Hackh's Chemical Dictionary*, pages 337 and 176, respectively.

[0043] 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-dodecyloxyethoxy; 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 carbonylamino, 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-butylcarbonamido; sulfonamido, such as methyl sulfonamido, 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, NN-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-amyphenoxy)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 dimethylphosphate 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 hereto atom selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, phosphorous, or boron. Such as 2-furyl, 2-thienyl, 2-benzimidazolyloxy or 2-benzothiazolyloxy; quaternary ammonium, such as triethylammonium; quaternary phosphonium, such as triphenylphosphonium; and silyloxy, such as trimethylsilyloxy.

[0044] 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.

[0045] The following is the description of the layer structure, material selection, and fabrication process for OLED devices.

General OLED Device Architecture

[0046] The present invention can be employed in many OLED configurations using small molecule materials, oligomeric materials, polymeric materials, or combinations thereof. These include from very simple structures having a single anode and cathode to more complex devices, such as passive matrix displays having 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). There are numerous configurations of the organic layers wherein the present invention is successfully practiced. For this invention, essential requirements are a cathode, an anode, a LEL, an ETL and a HIL.

[0047] One embodiment according to the present invention and especially useful for a small molecule device is shown in FIG. 1. OLED **100** contains a substrate **110**, an anode **120**, a hole-injecting layer **130**, a hole-transporting layer **132**, a light-emitting layer **134**, a hole-blocking layer **135**, an electron-transporting layer **136**, an electron-injecting layer **138** and a cathode **140**. In some other embodiments, there are optional spacer layers on either side of the LEL. These spacer layers do not typically contain light emissive materials. All of these layer types will be 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. Also, the total combined thickness of the organic layers is preferably less than 500 nm.

[0048] The anode and cathode of the OLED are connected to a voltage/current source **150**, through electrical conductors **160**. Applying a potential between the anode and cathode such that the anode is at a more positive potential than the cathode operates the OLED. Holes are injected into the organic EL element from the anode. Enhanced device stability can sometimes be achieved when the OLED is operated in an AC mode where, for some time period in cycle, the poten-

tial bias is reversed and no current flows. An example of an AC driven OLED is described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,552,678.

Anode

[0049] When the desired EL emission is viewed through the anode, anode **120** 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 **120**. For applications where EL emission is viewed only through the cathode **140**, the transmissive characteristics of the anode **120** are immaterial and 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 short circuits or enhance reflectivity.

Hole Injection Layer

[0050] Although it is not always necessary, it is often useful to provide an HIL in the OLEDs. HIL **130** in the OLEDs can serve to facilitate hole injection from the anode into the HTL, thereby reducing the drive voltage of the OLEDs. Suitable materials for use in HIL **130** include, but are not limited to, porphyrinic compounds as described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,720,432 and some aromatic amines, for example, 4,4',4"-tris[(3-ethylphenyl)phenylamino]triphenylamine (m-TDATA). Alternative hole-injecting materials reportedly useful in OLEDs are described in EP 0 891 121 A1 and EP 1 029 909 A1. Aromatic tertiary amines discussed below can also be useful as hole-injecting materials. Other useful hole-injecting materials such as dipyrzino[2,3-f:2',3'-h]quinoxalinehexacarbonitrile are described in U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0113547 A1 and U.S. Pat. No. 6,720,573. In addition, a p-type doped organic layer is also useful for the HIL as described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,423,429. The term "p-type doped organic layer" means that this layer has semiconducting properties after doping, and the electrical current through this layer is substantially carried by the holes. The conductivity is provided by the formation of a charge-transfer complex as a result of hole transfer from the dopant to the host material.

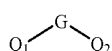
[0051] The thickness of the HIL **130** is in the range of from 0.1 nm to 200 nm, preferably, in the range of from 0.5 nm to 150 nm.

Hole Transport Layer

[0052] The HTL **132** contains at least one hole-transporting material 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 is an arylamine, such as a monoarylamines, diarylamines, triarylamines, or a polymeric arylamine. Exemplary monomeric triarylamines are illustrated by Klupfel et al. U.S. Pat. No. 3,180,730. Other suitable triarylamines substituted with one or more vinyl radicals or at least one active hydrogen-containing group are disclosed by Brantley, et al. in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,567,450 and 3,658,520.

[0053] 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. Nos. 4,720,432 and 5,061,569. Such compounds include those represented by structural Formula (A)



(A)

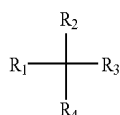
wherein:

[0054] Q_1 and Q_2 are independently selected aromatic tertiary amine moieties; and

[0055] G is a linking group such as an arylene, cycloalkylene, or alkylene group of a carbon to carbon bond.

[0056] 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.

[0057] A useful class of triarylamines satisfying structural Formula A and containing two triarylamine moieties is represented by structural Formula (B)

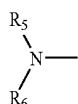


(B)

wherein:

[0058] 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

[0059] 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 (C)



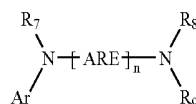
(C)

wherein:

[0060] 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.

[0061] Another class of aromatic tertiary amines are the tetraaryldiamines. Desirable tetraaryldiamines include two diarylamino groups, such as indicated by Formula (D), linked

through an arylene group. Useful tetraaryldiamines include those represented by Formula (D)



(D)

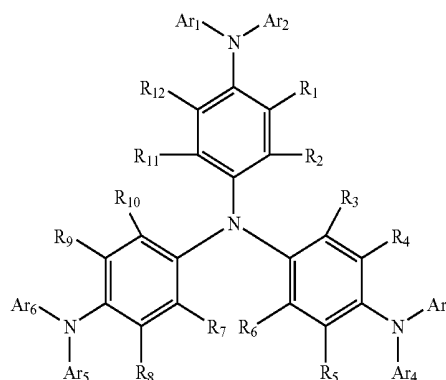
wherein:

[0062] each ARE is an independently selected arylene group, such as a phenylene or anthracene moiety;

[0063] n is an integer of from 1 to 4; and

[0064] Ar, R_7 , R_8 , and R_9 are independently selected aryl groups. In a typical embodiment, at least one of Ar, R_7 , R_8 , and R_9 is a polycyclic fused ring structure, e.g., a naphthalene.

[0065] Another class of the hole-transporting material comprises a material of formula (E);



(E)

[0066] In formula (E), Ar_1 — Ar_6 independently represent aromatic groups, for example, phenyl groups or tolyl groups;

[0067] R_1 — R_{12} independently represent hydrogen or independently selected substituent, for example an alkyl group containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, an aryl group, a substituted aryl group.

[0068] The various alkyl, alkylene, aryl, and arylene moieties of the foregoing structural Formulae (A), (B), (C), (D), and (E) can each in turn be substituted. Typical substituents include alkyl groups, alkoxy groups, aryl groups, aryloxy groups, and halogen 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, e.g. cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, and cycloheptyl ring structures. The aryl and arylene moieties are typically phenyl and phenylene moieties.

[0069] The HTL is formed of a single or a mixture of aromatic tertiary amine compounds. Specifically, one can employ a triarylamine, such as a triarylamine satisfying the Formula (B), in combination with a tetraaryldiamine, such as indicated by Formula (D). When a triarylamine is employed in combination with a tetraaryldiamine, the latter is positioned as a layer interposed between the triarylamine and the electron injecting and transporting layer. Aromatic tertiary amines are useful as hole-injecting materials also. Illustrative of useful aromatic tertiary amines are the following:

[0070] 1,1-bis(4-di-p-tolylaminophenyl)cyclohexane;

[0071] 1,1-bis(4-di-p-tolylaminophenyl)-4-phenylcyclohexane;

[0072] 1,5-bis[N-(1-naphthyl)-N-phenylamino]naphthalene;

[0073] 2,6-bis(di-p-tolylamino)naphthalene;

[0074] 2,6-bis[di-(1-naphthyl)amino]naphthalene;

[0075] 2,6-bis[N-(1-naphthyl)-N-(2-naphthyl)amino]naphthalene;

[0076] 2,6-bis[N,N-di(2-naphthyl)amine]fluorene;

[0077] 4-(di-p-tolylamino)-4'-[4(di-p-tolylamino)-styryl]stilbene;

[0078] 4,4'-bis(diphenylamino)quadruphenyl;

[0079] 4,4''-bis[N-(1-anthryl)-N-phenylamino]-p-terphenyl;

[0080] 4,4'-bis[N-(1-coroneryl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl;

[0081] 4,4'-bis[N-(1-naphthyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl (NPB);

[0082] 4,4'-bis[N-(1-naphthyl)-N-(2-naphthyl)amino]biphenyl (TNB);

[0083] 4,4''-bis[N-(1-naphthyl)-N-phenylamino]p-terphenyl;

[0084] 4,4'-bis[N-(2-naphthalenyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl;

[0085] 4,4'-bis[N-(2-naphthyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl;

[0086] 4,4'-bis[N-(2-perylenyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl;

[0087] 4,4'-bis[N-(2-phenanthryl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl;

[0088] 4,4'-bis[N-(2-pyrenyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl;

[0089] 4,4'-bis[N-(3-acenaphthenyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl;

[0090] 4,4'-bis[N-(3-methylphenyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl (TPD);

[0091] 4,4'-bis[N-(8-fluorantheryl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl;

[0092] 4,4'-bis[N-(9-anthryl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl;

[0093] 4,4'-bis[N-phenyl-N-[4-(1-naphthyl)-phenyl]amino]biphenyl;

[0094] 4,4'-bis[N-phenyl-N-(2-pyrenyl)amino]biphenyl;

[0095] 4,4',4''-tris[(3-methylphenyl)phenylamino]triphenylamine (m-TDATA);

[0096] Bis(4-dimethylamino-2-methylphenyl)-phenylmethane;

[0097] N-phenylcarbazole;

[0098] N,N'-bis[4-([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-ylphenylamino)phenyl]-N,N'-di-1-naphthalenyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-diamine;

[0099] N,N'-bis[4-(di-1-naphthalenylamino)phenyl]-N,N'-di-1-naphthalenyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-diamine;

[0100] N,N'-bis[4-(3-methylphenyl)phenylamino]phenyl]-N,N'-diphenyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-diamine;

[0101] N,N'-bis[4-(diphenylamino)phenyl]-N,N'-diphenyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-diamine;

[0102] N,N'-di-1-naphthalenyl-N,N'-bis[4-(1-naphthalenylphenylamino)phenyl]-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-diamine;

[0103] N,N'-di-1-naphthalenyl-N,N'-bis[4-(2-naphthalenylphenylamino)phenyl]-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-diamine;

[0104] N,N,N'-tri(p-tolyl)amine;

[0105] N,N,N',N'-tetra-p-tolyl-4,4'-diaminobiphenyl;

[0106] N,N,N',N'-tetraphenyl-4,4'-diaminobiphenyl;

[0107] N,N,N',N'-tetra-1-naphthyl-4,4'-diaminobiphenyl;

[0108] N,N,N',N'-tetra-2-naphthyl-4,4'-diaminobiphenyl; and

[0109] N,N,N',N'-tetra(2-naphthyl)-4,4''-diamino-p-terphenyl.

[0110] Another class of useful hole-transporting materials includes polycyclic aromatic compounds as described in EP 1

009 041. Tertiary aromatic amines with more than two amine groups can be used including oligomeric materials. In addition, polymeric hole-transporting materials are used such as poly(N-vinylcarbazole) (PVK), polythiophenes, polypyrrole, polyaniline, and copolymers such as poly(3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene)/poly(4-styrenesulfonate) also called PEDOT/PSS.

[0111] The thickness of the HTL 132 is in the range of from 5 nm to 200 nm, preferably, in the range of from 10 nm to 150 nm.

Exciton Blocking Layer (EBL)

[0112] An optional exciton- or electron-blocking layer may be present between the HTL and the LEL (not shown in FIG. 1). Some suitable examples of such blocking layers are described in U.S. App 20060134460 A1.

Light Emitting Layer

[0113] As more fully described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,769,292 and 5,935,721, the light-emitting layer(s) (LEL) 134 of the organic EL element shown in FIG. 1 comprises a luminescent, fluorescent or phosphorescent material where electroluminescence is produced as a result of electron-hole pair recombination in this region. The light-emitting layer can be comprised of a single material, but more commonly consists of non-electroluminescent compounds (generally referred to as the host) doped with an electroluminescent or light-emitting guest compound (generally referred to as the dopant) or compounds where light emission comes primarily from the electroluminescent compound and can be of any color. In one aspect of this invention, the host is an acridone derivative. The non-electroluminescent compounds can be coated as 0.01 to less than 50% by volume into the non-electroluminescent component material, but typically coated as 0.01 to 25% and more typically coated as 0.05 to 15% into the non-electroluminescent component. In this invention, the most desirable range for the light-emitting compound is 1 to 12%. The thickness of the LEL can be any suitable thickness. It can be in the range of from 0.1 nm to 100 nm.

[0114] A LEL can be a single light-emitting layer or a light-emitting zone composed of a series of individual light-emitting sublayers. These sublayers can emit the same or different colors of light.

[0115] An important relationship for choosing a dye as a electroluminescent component is a comparison of the band gap potential which is defined as the energy difference between the highest occupied molecular orbital and the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital of the molecule. For efficient energy transfer from the non-electroluminescent compound to the electroluminescent compound molecule, a necessary condition is that the band gap of the electroluminescent compound is smaller than that of the non-electroluminescent compound or compounds. Thus, the selection of an appropriate host material is based on its electronic characteristics relative to the electronic characteristics of the electroluminescent compound, which itself is chosen for the nature and efficiency of the light emitted. As described below, fluorescent and phosphorescent dopants typically have different electronic characteristics so that the most appropriate hosts for each may be different. However in some cases, the same host material can be useful for either type of dopant.

[0116] Non-electroluminescent compounds and emitting molecules known to be of use include, but are not limited to,

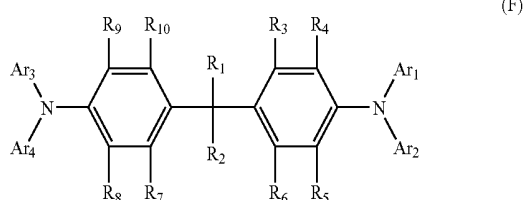
those disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,768,292, U.S. Pat. No. 5,141,671, U.S. Pat. No. 5,150,006, U.S. Pat. No. 5,151,629, U.S. Pat. No. 5,405,709, U.S. Pat. No. 5,484,922, U.S. Pat. No. 5,593,788, U.S. Pat. No. 5,645,948, U.S. Pat. No. 5,683,823, U.S. Pat. No. 5,755,999, U.S. Pat. No. 5,928,802, U.S. Pat. No. 5,935,720, U.S. Pat. No. 5,935,721, and U.S. Pat. No. 6,020,078.

a) Phosphorescent Light Emitting Layers

[0117] Suitable hosts for phosphorescent LELs should be selected so that transfer of a triplet exciton can occur efficiently from the host to the phosphorescent dopant(s) but cannot occur efficiently from the phosphorescent dopant(s) to the host. Therefore, it is highly desirable that the triplet energy of the host be higher than the triplet energies of phosphorescent dopant. Generally speaking, a large triplet energy implies a large optical band gap. However, the band gap of the host should not be chosen so large as to cause an unacceptable barrier to injection of holes into the fluorescent LEL and an unacceptable increase in the drive voltage of the OLED. The host in a phosphorescent LEL may include any of the aforementioned hole-transporting material used for the HTL 132, as long as it has a triplet energy higher than that of the phosphorescent dopant in the layer. The host used in a phosphorescent LEL can be the same as or different from the hole-transporting material used in the HTL 132. In some cases, the host in the phosphorescent LEL may also suitably include an electron-transporting material (it will be discussed thereafter), as long as it has a triplet energy higher than that of the phosphorescent dopant.

[0118] In addition to the aforementioned hole-transporting materials in the HTL 132, there are several other classes of hole-transporting materials suitable for use as the host in a phosphorescent LEL.

[0119] One desirable host comprises a hole-transporting material of formula (F):



[0120] In formula (F), R_1 and R_2 represent substituents, provided that R_1 and R_2 can join to form a ring. For example, R_1 and R_2 can be methyl groups or join to form a cyclohexyl ring;

[0121] Ar_1 — Ar_4 represent independently selected aromatic groups, for example phenyl groups or tolyl groups;

[0122] R_3 — R_{10} independently represent hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl group.

[0123] Examples of suitable materials include, but are not limited to:

[0124] 1,1-Bis(4-(N,N-di-p-tolylamino)phenyl)cyclohexane (TAPC);

[0125] 1,1-Bis(4-(N,N-di-p-tolylamino)phenyl)cyclopentane;

[0126] 4,4'-(9H-fluoren-9-ylidene)bis[N,N-bis(4-methylphenyl)-benzenamine];

[0127] 1,1-Bis(4-(N,N-di-p-tolylamino)phenyl)-4-phenylcyclohexane;

[0128] 1,1-Bis(4-(N,N-di-p-tolylamino)phenyl)-4-methylcyclohexane;

[0129] 1,1-Bis(4-(N,N-di-p-tolylamino)phenyl)-3-phenylpropane;

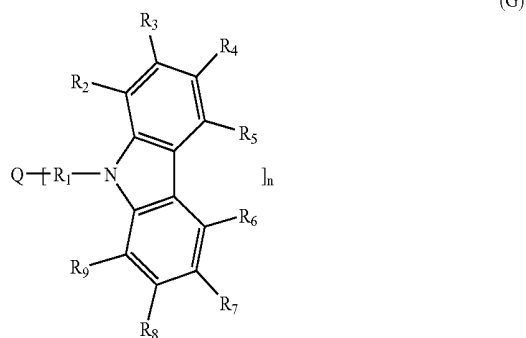
[0130] Bis[4-(N,N-diethylamino)-2-methylphenyl](4-methylphenyl)methane;

[0131] Bis[4-(N,N-diethylamino)-2-methylphenyl](4-methylphenyl)ethane;

[0132] 4-(4-Diethylaminophenyl)triphenylmethane;

[0133] 4,4'-Bis(4-diethylaminophenyl)diphenylmethane.

[0134] A useful class of triaryl amines suitable for use as the host includes carbazole derivatives such as those represented by formula (G);



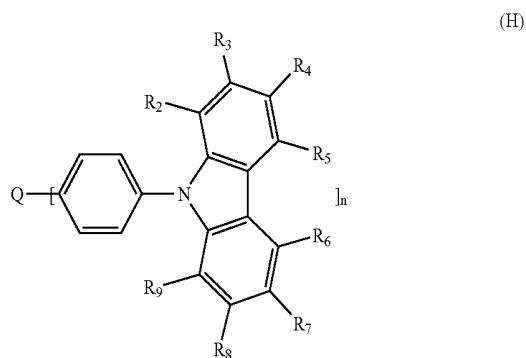
[0135] In formula (G), Q independently represents nitrogen, carbon, an aryl group, or substituted aryl group, preferably a phenyl group;

[0136] R_1 is preferably an aryl or substituted aryl group, and more preferably a phenyl group, substituted phenyl, biphenyl, substituted biphenyl group;

[0137] R_2 through R_7 are independently hydrogen, alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl group, aryl amine, carbazole, or substituted carbazole;

[0138] and n is selected from 1 to 4.

[0139] Another useful class of carbazoles satisfying structural formula (G) is represented by formula (H):



wherein:

[0140] n is an integer from 1 to 4;

[0141] Q is nitrogen, carbon, an aryl, or substituted aryl;

[0142] R_2 through R_7 are independently hydrogen, an alkyl group, phenyl or substituted phenyl, an aryl amine, a carbazole and substituted carbazole.

[0143] Illustrative of useful substituted carbazoles are the following:

[0144] 4-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)-N,N-bis[4-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)phenyl]-benzenamine (TCTA);

[0145] 4-(3-phenyl-9H-carbazol-9-yl)-N,N-bis[4(3-phenyl-9H-carbazol-9-yl)phenyl]-benzenamine;

[0146] 9,9'-(5'-(4-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)phenyl)[1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-4,4'-diyl)bis-9H-carbazole.

[0147] 9,9'-(2,2'-dimethyl[1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-diyl)bis-9H-carbazole (CDBP);

[0148] 9,9'-(1,1'-biphenyl)-4,4'-diylbis-9H-carbazole (CBP);

[0149] 9,9'-(1,3-phenylene)bis-9H-carbazole (mCP);

[0150] 9,9'-(1,4-phenylene)bis-9H-carbazole;

[0151] 9,9',9''-(1,3,5-benzenetriyl)tris-9H-carbazole;

[0152] 9,9'-(1,4-phenylene)bis[N,N,N',N'-tetraphenyl-9H-carbazole-3,6-diamine];

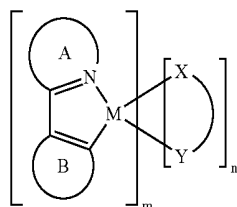
[0153] 9-[4-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)phenyl]-N,N-diphenyl-9H-carbazol-3-amine;

[0154] 9,9'-(1,4-phenylene)bis[N,N-diphenyl-9H-carbazol-3-amine];

[0155] 9-[4-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)phenyl]-N,N,N',N'-tetraphenyl-9H-carbazole-3,6-diamine.

[0156] The above classes of hosts suitable for phosphorescent LELs may also be used as hosts in fluorescent LELs as well.

[0157] Suitable phosphorescent dopants for use in a phosphorescent LEL can be selected from the phosphorescent materials described by formula (J) below:



wherein:

[0158] A is a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic ring containing at least one nitrogen atom;

[0159] B is a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic or heteroaromatic ring, or ring containing a vinyl carbon bonded to M;

[0160] X—Y is an anionic bidentate ligand;

[0161] m is an integer from 1 to 3 and

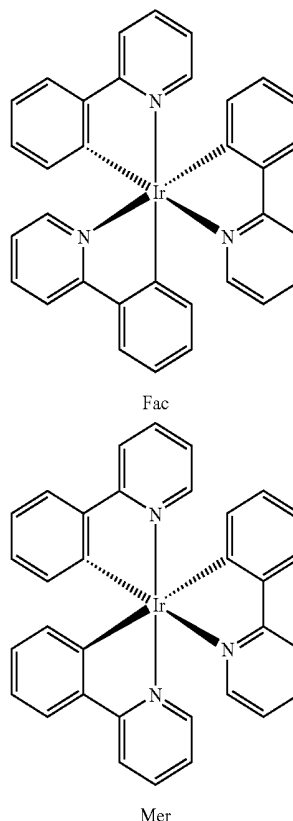
[0162] n is an integer from 0 to 2 such that $m+n=3$ for $M=\text{Rh}$ or Ir ; or

[0163] m is an integer from 1 to 2 and n is an integer from 0 to 1 such that $m+n=2$ for $M=\text{Pt}$ or Pd .

[0164] Compounds according to formula (J) may be referred to as C,N—(or C N—) cyclometallated complexes to indicate that the central metal atom is contained in a cyclic unit formed by bonding the metal atom to carbon and nitrogen atoms of one or more ligands. Examples of heterocyclic ring A in formula (J) include substituted or unsubstituted pyridine, quinoline, isoquinoline, pyrimidine, indole, indazole, thiazole, and oxazole rings. Examples of ring B in formula (J) include substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, naphthyl, thie-

nyl, benzothienyl, furanyl rings. Ring B in formula (J) may also be a N-containing ring such as pyridine, with the proviso that the N-containing ring bonds to M through a C atom as shown in formula (J) and not the N atom.

[0165] An example of a tris-C,N-cyclometallated complex according to formula (J) with $m=3$ and $n=0$ is tris(2-phenylpyridinato-N,C^{2'})-Iridium (III), shown below in stereodiamgrams as facial (fac-) or meridional (mer-) isomers.



[0166] Generally, facial isomers are preferred since they are often found to have higher phosphorescent quantum yields than the meridional isomers.

[0167] Additional examples of tris-C,N-cyclometallated phosphorescent materials according to formula (J) are tris(2-(4'-methylphenyl)pyridinato-N,C^{2'})-Iridium(III), tris(3-phenylisoquinolinato-N,C^{2'})-Iridium(III), tris(2-phenylquinolinato-N,C^{2'})-Iridium(III), tris(1-phenylisoquinolinato-N,C^{2'})-Iridium(III), tris(1-(4'-methylphenyl)isoquinolinato-N,C^{2'})-Iridium(III), tris(2-(4',6'-difluorophenyl)-pyridinato-N,C^{2'})-Iridium(III), tris(2-((5'-phenyl)-phenyl)pyridinato-N,C^{2'})-Iridium(III), tris(2-(2'-benzothienyl)pyridinato-N,C^{3'})-Iridium(III), tris(2-phenyl-3,3'-dimethyl)indolato-N,C^{2'})-Ir(III), tris(1-phenyl-1H-indazolato-N,C^{2'})-Ir(III).

[0168] Of these, tris(1-phenylisoquinoline) iridium (III) (also referred to as Ir(piq)₃) and tris(2-phenylpyridine) iridium (also referred to as Ir(ppy)₃) are particularly suitable for this invention.

[0169] Tris-C,N-cyclometallated phosphorescent materials also include compounds according to formula (J) wherein the monoanionic bidentate ligand X—Y is another C,N-cyclometallating ligand. Examples include bis(1-phenylisoquinolinato-N,C^{2'})(2-phenylpyridinato-N,C^{2'})-Iridium(III) and bis(2-phenylpyridinato-N,C^{2'})(1-phenylisoquinolinato-

N,C^{2'})Iridium(III). Synthesis of such tris-C,N-cyclometallated complexes containing two different C,N-cyclometallating ligands may be conveniently synthesized by the following steps. First, a bis-C,N-cyclometallated diiridium dihalide complex (or analogous dirhodium complex) is made according to the method of Nonoyama (*Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.*, 47, 767 (1974)). Secondly, a zinc complex of the second, dissimilar C,N-cyclometallating ligand is prepared by reaction of a zinc halide with a lithium complex or Grignard reagent of the cyclometallating ligand. Third, the thus formed zinc complex of the second C,N-cyclometallating ligand is reacted with the previously obtained bis-C,N-cyclometallated diiridium dihalide complex to form a tris-C,N-cyclometallated complex containing the two different C,N-cyclometallating ligands. Desirably, the thus obtained tris-C,N-cyclometallated complex containing the two different C,N-cyclometallating ligands may be converted to an isomer wherein the C atoms bonded to the metal (e.g. Ir) are all mutually cis by heating in a suitable solvent such as dimethyl sulfoxide.

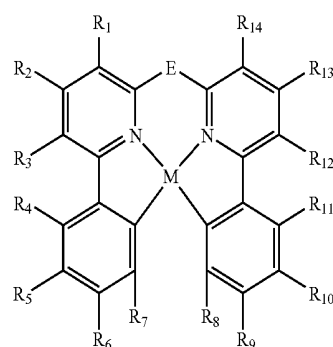
[0170] Suitable phosphorescent materials according to formula (J) may in addition to the C,N-cyclometallating ligand (s) also contain monoanionic bidentate ligand(s) X—Y that are not C,N-cyclometallating. Common examples are beta-diketonates such as acetylacetonate, and Schiff bases such as picolinate. Examples of such mixed ligand complexes according to formula (J) include bis(2-phenylpyridinato-N, C^{2'})Iridium(III)(acetylacetonate), bis(2-(2'-benzothienyl)pyridinato-N, C^{3'})Iridium(III)(acetylacetonate), and bis(2-(4', 6'-difluorophenyl)pyridinato-N, C^{2'})Iridium(III)(picolinate).

[0171] Other important phosphorescent materials according to formula (J) include C,N-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)quinolinato-N, C^{5'}) platinum(II), or (2-(4', 6'-difluorophenyl)pyridinato-N, C^{2'}) platinum(II)(acetylacetonate).

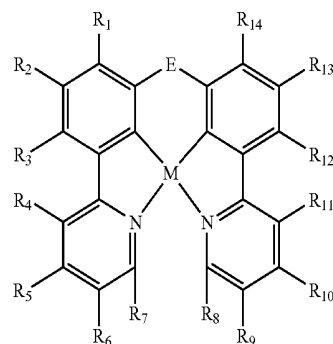
[0172] The emission wavelengths (color) of C,N-cyclometallated phosphorescent materials according to formula (J) are governed principally by the lowest energy optical transition of the complex and hence by the choice of the C,N-cyclometallating ligand. For example, 2-phenyl-pyridinato-N C^{2'} complexes are typically green emissive while 1-phenyl-isoquinolinolato-N, C^{2'} complexes are typically red emissive. In the case of complexes having more than one C,N-cyclometallating ligand, the emission will be that of the ligand having the property of longest wavelength emission. Emission wavelengths may be further shifted by the effects of substituent groups on the C,N-cyclometallating ligands. For example, substitution of electron donating groups at appropriate positions on the N-containing ring A or electron accepting groups on the C-containing ring B tend to blue-shift the emission relative to the unsubstituted C,N-cyclometallated ligand complex. Selecting a monodentate anionic ligand X, Y in formula (J) having more electron accepting properties also tends to blue-shift the emission of a C,N-cyclometallated ligand complex. Examples of complexes having both monoanionic bidentate ligands possessing electron accepting properties and electron accepting substituent groups on the C-containing ring B include bis(2-(4', 6'-difluorophenyl)pyridinato-N, C^{2'})iridium(III)(picolinate) and bis(2-(4', 6'-difluorophenyl)pyridinato-N, C^{2'})iridium(III)(tetrakis(1-pyrazolyl)borate).

[0173] The central metal atom in phosphorescent materials according to formula (J) may be Rh or Ir (m+n=3) and Pd or Pt (m+n=2). Preferred metal atoms are Ir and Pt since they tend to give higher phosphorescent quantum efficiencies according to the stronger spin-orbit coupling interactions generally obtained with elements in the third transition series.

[0174] In addition to bidentate C,N-cyclometallating complexes represented by formula (J), many suitable phosphorescent materials contain multidentate C,N-cyclometallating ligands. Phosphorescent materials having tridentate ligands suitable for use in the present invention are disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 6,824,895 B1 and references therein, incorporated in their entirety herein by reference. Phosphorescent materials having tetradentate ligands suitable for use in the present invention are described by the following formulae:



(K)



(L)

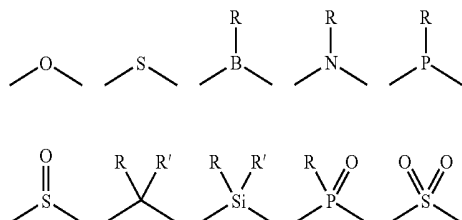
wherein:

[0175] M is Pt or Pd;

[0176] R¹-R⁷ represent hydrogen or independently selected substituents, provided that R¹ and R², R² and R³, R³ and R⁴, R⁴ and R⁵, R⁵ and R⁶, as well as R⁶ and R⁷ may join to form a ring group;

[0177] R⁸-R¹⁴ represent hydrogen or independently selected substituents, provided that R⁵ and R⁹, R⁹ and R¹⁰, R¹⁰ and R¹¹, R¹¹ and R¹², R¹² and R¹³, as well as R¹³ and R¹⁴, may join to form a ring group;

[0178] E represents a bridging group selected from the following:

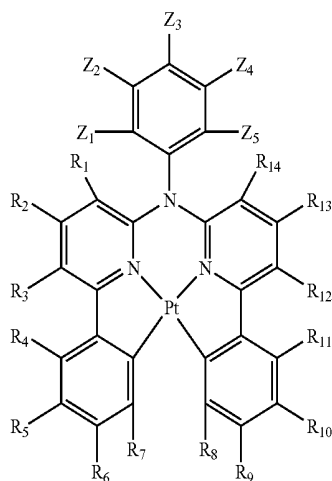


wherein:

[0179] R and R' represent hydrogen or independently selected substituents;

[0180] provided R and R' may combine to form a ring group.

[0181] One desirable tetradentate C,N-cyclometallated phosphorescent material suitable for use in as the phosphorescent dopant is represented by the following formula:



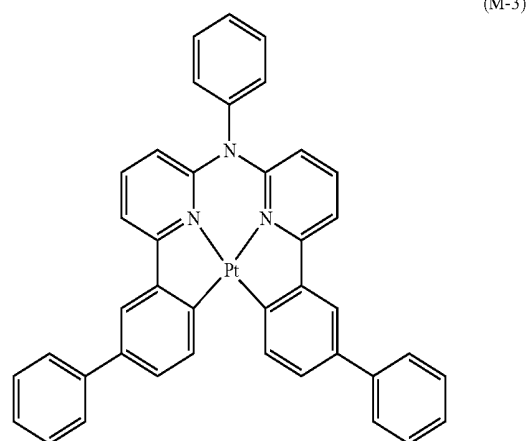
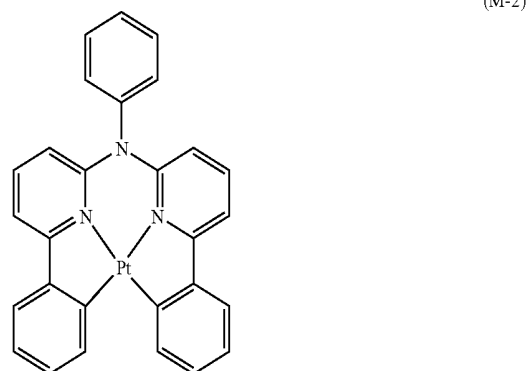
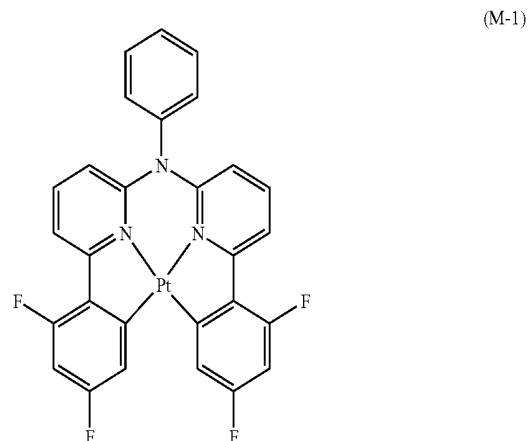
wherein:

[0182] R¹-R⁷ represent hydrogen or independently selected substituents, provided that R¹ and R², R² and R³, R¹ and R⁴, R⁴ and R⁵, R¹ and R⁶, as well as R⁶ and R⁷ may combine to form a ring group;

[0183] R⁸-R¹⁴ represent hydrogen or independently selected substituents, provided that R⁸ and R⁹, R¹⁰ and R¹¹, R¹⁰ and R¹², R¹¹ and R¹³, as well as R¹³ and R¹⁴ may combine to form a ring group;

[0184] Z¹-Z⁵ represent hydrogen or independently selected substituents, provided that Z¹ and Z², Z² and Z³, Z³ and Z⁴, as well as Z⁴ and Z⁵ may combine to form a ring group.

[0185] Specific examples of phosphorescent materials having tetradentate C,N-cyclometallating ligands suitable for use in the present invention include compounds (M-1), (M-2) and (M-3) represented below.



[0186] Phosphorescent materials having tetradentate C,N-cyclometallating ligands may be synthesized by reacting the tetradentate C,N-cyclometallating ligand with a salt of the desired metal, such as K₂PtCl₄, in a proper organic solvent such as glacial acetic acid to form the phosphorescent material having tetradentate C,N-cyclometallating ligands. A tetraalkylammonium salt such as tetrabutylammonium chloride can be used as a phase transfer catalyst to accelerate the reaction.

[0187] Other phosphorescent materials that do not involve C,N-cyclometallating ligands are known. Phosphorescent

complexes of Pt(II), Ir(I), and Rh(I) with maleonitriledithiolate have been reported (Johnson et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 105,1795 (1983)). Re(I) tricarbonyl diimine complexes are also known to be highly phosphorescent (Wrighton and Morse, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 96, 998 (1974); Stufkens, *Comments Inorg. Chem.*, 13, 359 (1992); Yam, *Chem. Commun.*, 789 (2001)). OS(II) complexes containing a combination of ligands including cyano ligands and bipyridyl or phenanthroline ligands have also been demonstrated in a polymer OLED (Ma et al., *Synthetic Metals*, 94, 245 (1998)).

[0188] Porphyrin complexes such as 2,3,7,8,12,13,17,18-octaethyl-21H, 23H-porphine platinum(II) are also useful phosphorescent dopant.

[0189] Still other examples of useful phosphorescent materials include coordination complexes of the trivalent lanthanides such as Tb³⁺ and Eu³⁺ (Kido et al., *Chem. Lett.*, 657 (1990); *J. Alloys and Compounds*, 192, 30 (1993); *Jpn. J. Appl. Phys.*, 35, L394 (1996) and *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 65, 2124 (1994)).

[0190] The phosphorescent dopant in a phosphorescent LEL is typically present in an amount of 50% or less; 25% or less, most typically in the range of 0.5% to 15% with the most desirable range being from 1% to 12%. In some embodiments, the phosphorescent dopant(s) may be attached to one or more host materials. The host materials may further be polymers. The thickness of a phosphorescent LEL is greater than 0.5 nm, preferably, in the range of from 1.0 nm to 40 nm.

b) Fluorescent Light Emitting Layers

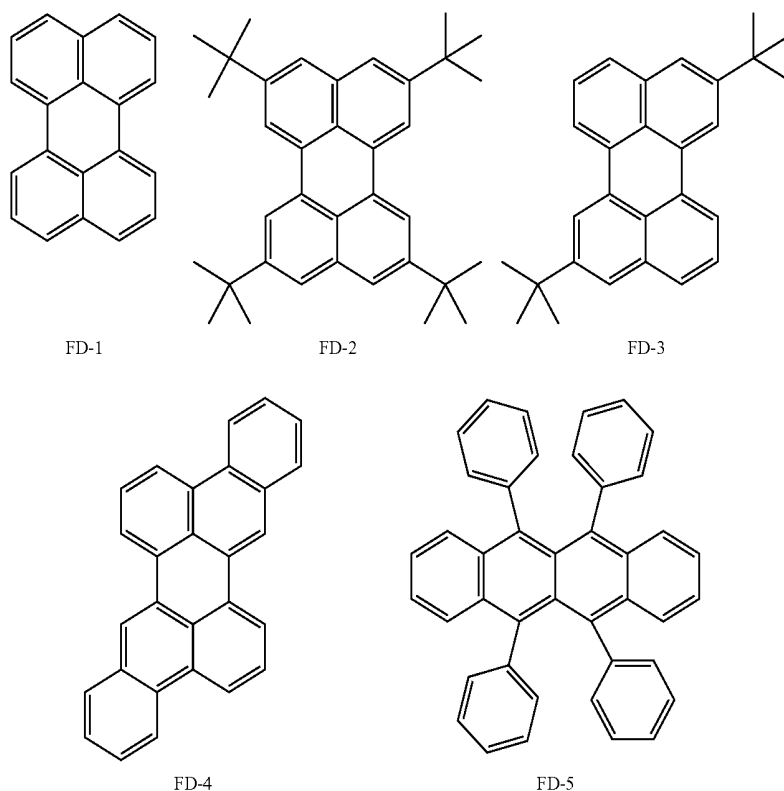
[0191] Although the term "fluorescent" is commonly used to describe any light-emitting material, in this case it refers to

a material that emits light from a singlet excited state. In mixed or hybrid systems, fluorescent materials may be used in adjacent layers, in adjacent pixels, or any combination with the phosphorescent material. Care must be taken not to select materials that will adversely affect the performance of the phosphorescent materials of this invention. One skilled in the art will understand that concentrations and triplet energies of fluorescent materials in an adjacent layer must be appropriately set so as to prevent unwanted quenching of the phosphorescence.

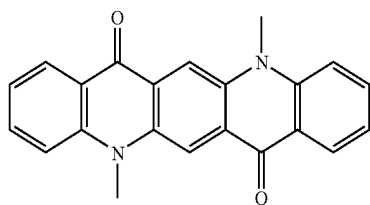
[0192] Typically, a fluorescent LEL includes at least one host and at least one fluorescent dopant. The host may be a hole-transporting material or any of the suitable hosts for phosphorescent dopants as defined above or may be an electron-transporting material as defined below.

[0193] The dopant is typically chosen from highly fluorescent dyes, e.g., transition metal complexes as described in WO 98/55561 A1, WO 00/18851 A1, WO 00157676 A1, and WO 00/70655.

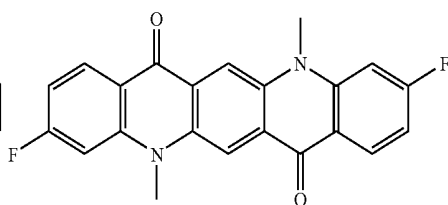
[0194] Some fluorescent emitting materials include, but are not limited to, derivatives of anthracene, tetracene, xanthene, perylene, rubrene, coumarin, rhodamine, and quinacridone, dicyanomethylenepyrans compounds, thiopyran compounds, polymethine compounds, pyrylium and thiapyrylium compounds, fluorene derivatives, perfluoranthene derivatives, indenoperylene derivatives, bis(aziryl)amine boron compounds, bis(aziryl)methane compounds (as described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,121,029) and carbostyryl compounds. Illustrative examples of useful materials include, but are not limited to, the following:



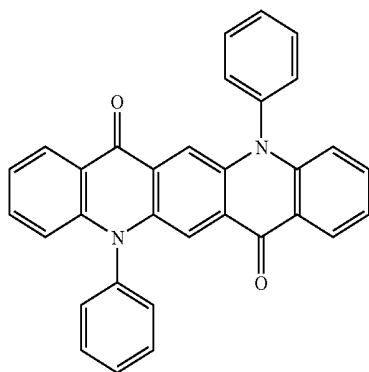
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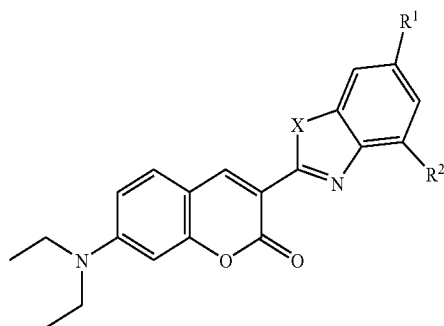
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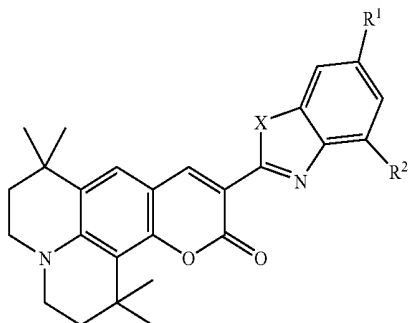


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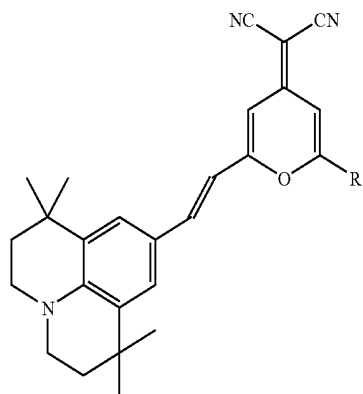


	X	R1	R2
FD-9	O	H	H
FD-10	O	H	Methyl
FD-11	O	Methyl	H
FD-12	O	Methyl	Methyl
FD-13	O	H	t-butyl
FD-14	O	t-butyl	H
FD-15	O	t-butyl	t-butyl
FD-16	S	H	H
FD-17	S	H	Methyl
FD-18	S	Methyl	H
FD-19	S	Methyl	Methyl
FD-20	S	H	t-butyl
FD-21	S	t-butyl	H
FD-22	S	t-butyl	t-butyl

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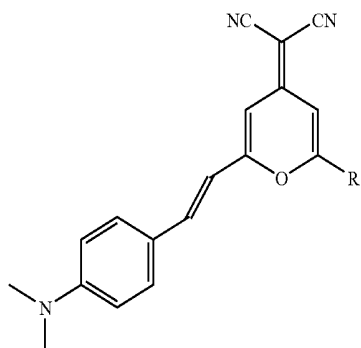
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FD-24	O	H	Methyl
FD-25	O	Methyl	H
FD-26	O	Methyl	Methyl
FD-27	O	H	t-butyl
FD-28	O	t-butyl	H
FD-29	O	t-butyl	t-butyl
FD-30	S	H	H
FD-31	S	H	Methyl
FD-32	S	Methyl	H
FD-33	S	Methyl	Methyl
FD-34	S	H	t-butyl
FD-35	S	t-butyl	H
FD-36	S	t-butyl	t-butyl



R

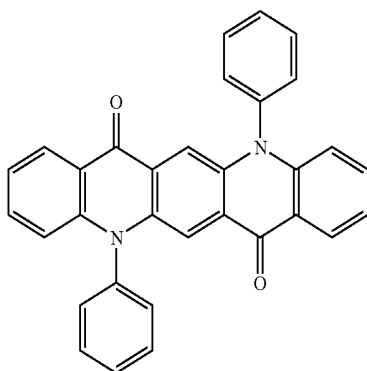
FD-37	phenyl
FD-38	methyl
FD-39	t-butyl
FD-40	mesityl

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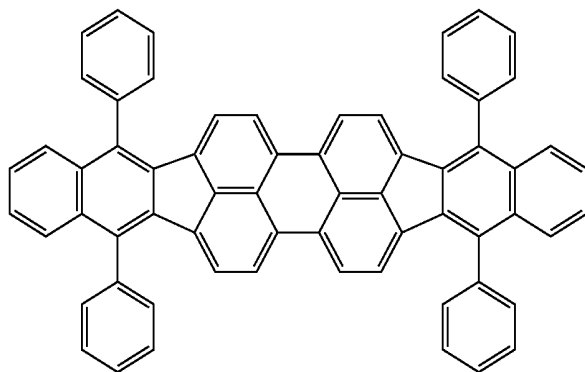


R

FD-41	phenyl
FD-42	methyl
FD-43	t-butyl
FD-44	mesityl

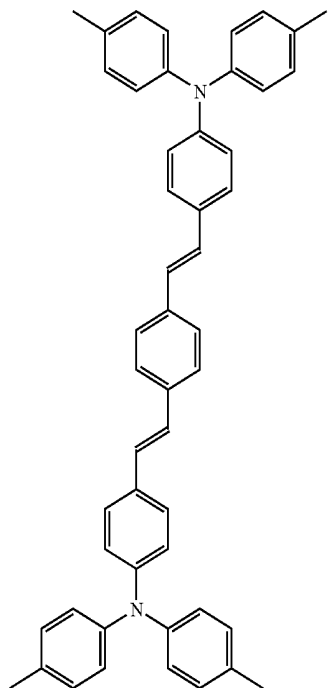


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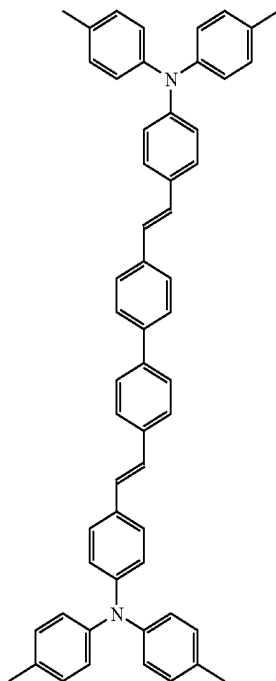


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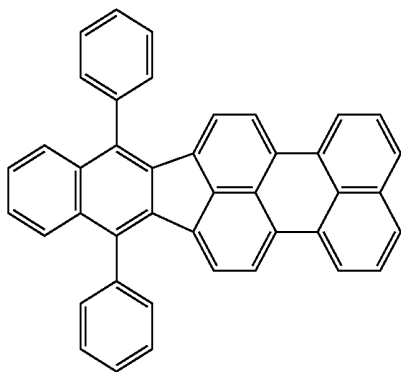
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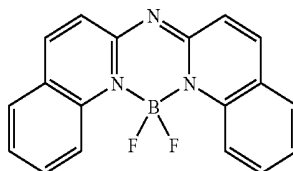
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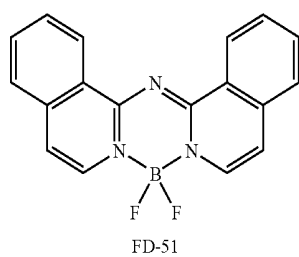
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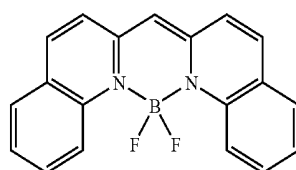
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FD-50

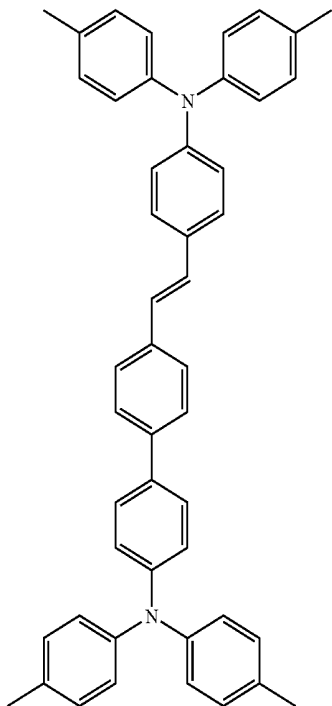


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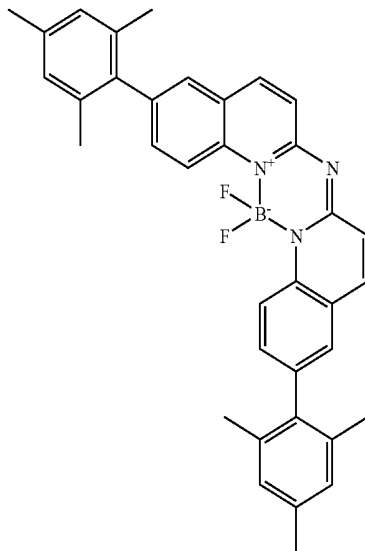


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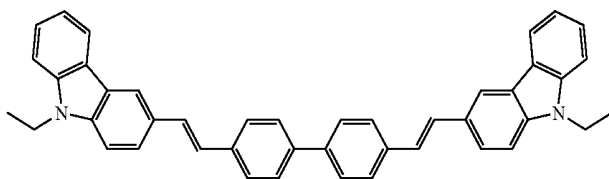
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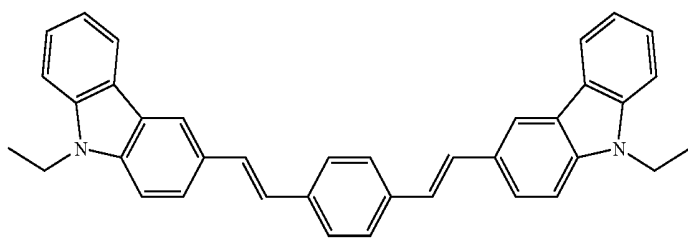
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FD-54

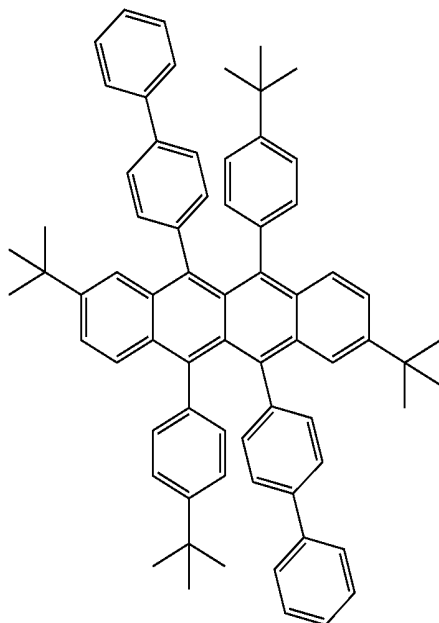


FD-55



FD-56

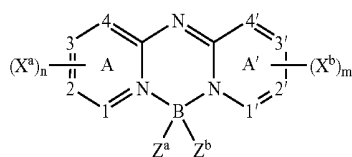
-continued



FD-57

[0195] Preferred fluorescent blue dopants may be found in Chen, Shi, and Tang, "Recent Developments in Molecular Organic Electroluminescent Materials," *Macromol. Symp.* 125, 1 (1997) and the references cited therein; Hung and Chen, "Recent Progress of Molecular Organic Electroluminescent Materials and Devices," *Mat. Sci. and Eng.* R39, 143 (2002) and the references cited therein.

[0196] A particularly preferred class of blue-emitting fluorescent dopants is represented by Formula (N), known as a bis(aziny)amine borane complex, and is described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,661,023.



Formula (N)

wherein:

[0197] A and A' represent independent azine ring systems corresponding to 6-membered aromatic ring systems containing at least one nitrogen;

[0198] each X^a and X^b is an independently selected substituent, two of which may join to form a fused ring to A or A';

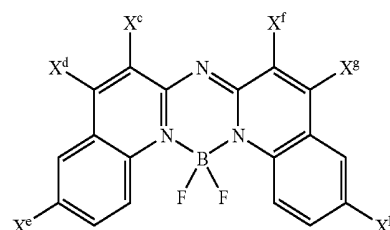
[0199] m and n are independently 0 to 4;

[0200] Z^a and Z^b are independently selected substituents; and

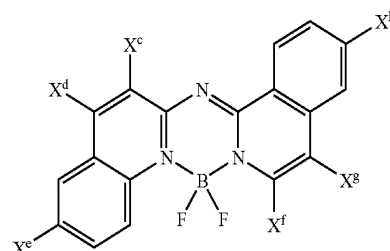
[0201] 1, 2, 3, 4, 1', 2', 3', and 4' are independently selected as either carbon or nitrogen atoms.

[0202] Desirably, the azine rings are either quinolinyl or isoquinolinyl rings such that 1, 2, 3, 4, 1', 2', 3', and 4' are all carbon; m and n are equal to or greater than 2; and X^a and X^b represent at least two carbon substituents which join to form an aromatic ring. Desirably, Z^a and Z^b are fluorine atoms.

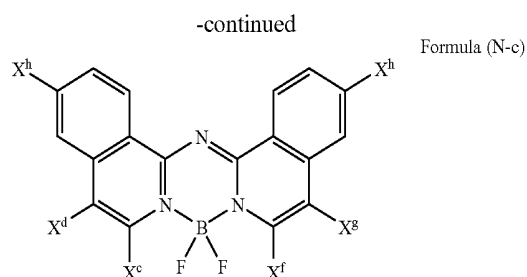
[0203] Preferred embodiments further include devices where the two fused ring systems are quinoline or isoquinoline systems; the aryl or heterocyclic substituent is a phenyl group; there are present at least two X^a groups and two X^b groups which join to form a 6-6 fused ring, the fused ring systems are fused at the 1-2, 3-4, 1'-2', or 3'-4' positions, respectively; one or both of the fused rings is substituted by a phenyl group; and where the dopant is depicted in Formulae (N-a), (N-b), or (N-c).



Formula (N-a)



Formula (N-b)



wherein:

[0204] each X^c , X^d , X^e , X^f , X^g , and X^h is hydrogen or an independently selected substituent, one of which must be an aryl or heterocyclic group.

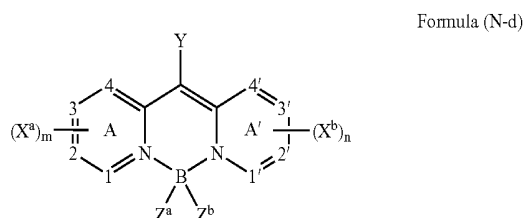
[0205] Desirably, the azine rings are either quinolinyl or isoquinolinyl rings such that 1, 2, 3, 4, 1', 2', 3', and 4' are all carbon; m and n are equal to or greater than 2; and X^a and X^b represent at least two carbon substituents which join to form an aromatic ring, and one is an aryl or substituted aryl group. Desirably, Z^a and Z^b are fluorine atoms.

[0206] Of these, compound FD-54 is particularly useful.

[0207] Coumarins represent a useful class of green-emitting dopants as described by Tang et al. in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,769,292 and 6,020,078. Green dopants or light-emitting materials can be coated as 0.01 to 50% by weight into the host material, but typically coated as 0.01 to 30% and more typically coated as 0.01 to 15% by weight into the host material. Examples of useful green-emitting coumarins include C545T and C545TB. Quinacridones represent another useful class of green-emitting dopants. Useful quinacridones are described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,593,788, publication JP 09-13026A, and commonly assigned U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/184,356 filed Jun. 27, 2002 by Lelia Cosimbescu, entitled "Device Containing Green Organic Light-Emitting Diode", the disclosure of which is incorporated herein.

[0208] Examples of particularly useful green-emitting quinacridones are FD-7 and FD-8.

[0209] Formula (N-d) below represents another class of green-emitting dopants useful in the invention.



wherein:

[0210] A and A' represent independent azine ring systems corresponding to 6-membered aromatic ring systems containing at least one nitrogen;

[0211] each X^a and X^b is an independently selected substituent, two of which may join to form a fused ring to A or A';

[0212] m and n are independently 0 to 4;

[0213] Y is H or a substituent;

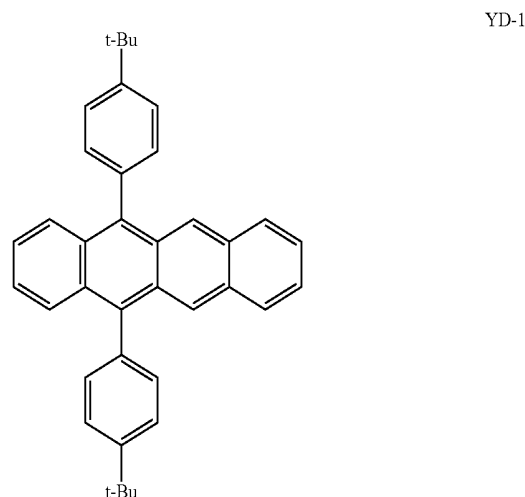
[0214] Z^a and Z^b are independently selected substituents; and

[0215] 1, 2, 3, 4, 1', 2', 3', and 4' are independently selected as either carbon or nitrogen atoms.

[0216] In the device, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1', 2', 3', and 4' are conveniently all carbon atoms. The device may desirably contain at least one or both of ring A or A' that contains substituents joined to form a fused ring. In one useful embodiment, there is present at least one X^a or X^b group selected from the group consisting of halide and alkyl, aryl, alkoxy, and aryloxy groups. In another embodiment, there is present a Z^a and Z^b group independently selected from the group consisting of fluorine and alkyl, aryl, alkoxy and aryloxy groups. A desirable embodiment is where Z^a and Z^b are F. Y is suitably hydrogen or a substituent such as an alkyl, aryl, or heterocyclic group.

[0217] The emission wavelength of these compounds may be adjusted to some extent by appropriate substitution around the central bis(azine)methene boron group to meet a color aim, namely green. Some examples of useful material are FD-50, FD-51 and FD-52.

[0218] Naphthalenes and derivatives thereof also represent a useful class of emitting dopants, which can also be used as stabilizers. These dopant materials can be coated as 0.01 to 50% by weight into the host material, but typically coated as 0.01 to 30% and more typically coated as 0.01 to 15% by weight into the host material. Naphthalene derivative YD-1 (t-BuDPN) below, is an example of a dopant material used as a stabilizer.

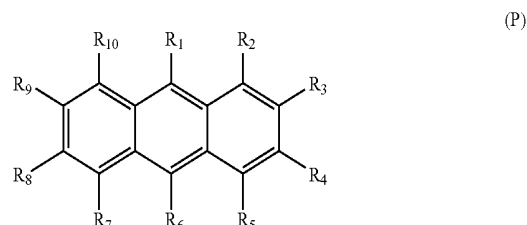
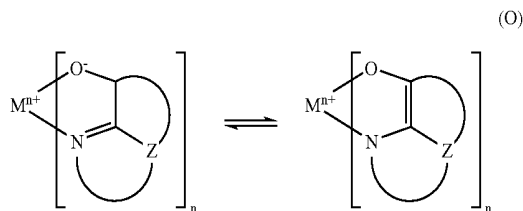


[0219] Some examples of this class of materials are also suitable as host materials as well as dopants. For example, see U.S. Pat. No. 6,773,832 or U.S. Pat. No. 6,720,092. A specific example of this would be rubrene (FD-S).

[0220] Another class of useful dopants are perylene derivatives; for example see U.S. Pat. No. 6,689,493. A specific example is FD-46.

[0221] Metal complexes of 8-hydroxyquinoline and similar derivatives (Formula O) constitute one class of useful non-electroluminescent host compounds capable of supporting electroluminescence, and are particularly suitable for light emission of wavelengths longer than 500 nm, e.g., green, yellow, orange, and red.

[0238] Anthracene derivatives according to formula (P) are also very useful host materials in the LEL:



wherein:

[0222] M represents a metal;

[0223] n is an integer of from 1 to 4; and

[0224] Z independently in each occurrence represents the atoms completing a nucleus having at least two fused aromatic rings.

[0225] 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 as 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.

[0226] 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.

[0227] Illustrative of useful chelated oxinoid compounds are the following:

[0228] O-1: Aluminum trisoxine [alias, tris(8-quinolinolato)aluminum(III)]

[0229] O-2: Magnesium bisoxine [alias, bis(8-quinolinolato)magnesium(II)]

[0230] O-3: Bis[benzo{f}-8-quinolinolato]zinc (II)

[0231] O-4: Bis(2-methyl-8-quinolinolato)aluminum(III)-μ-oxo-bis(2-methyl-8-quinolinolato) aluminum(III)

[0232] O-5: Indium trisoxine [alias, tris(8-quinolinolato)indium]

[0233] O-6: Aluminum tris(5-methyloxine) [alias, tris(5-methyl-8-quinolinolato) aluminum(III)]

[0234] O-7: Lithium oxine [alias, (8-quinolinolato)lithium (I)]

[0235] O-8: Gallium oxine [alias, tris(8-quinolinolato)gallium(III)]

[0236] O-9: Zirconium oxine [alias, tetra(8-quinolinolato) zirconium(IV)]

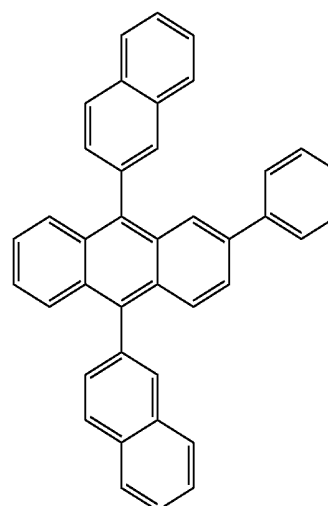
[0237] O-10: Bis(2-methyl-8-quinolinolato)-4-phenylphenolatoaluminum (III)

wherein:

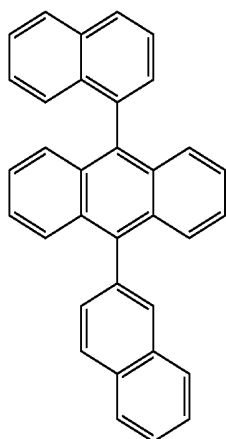
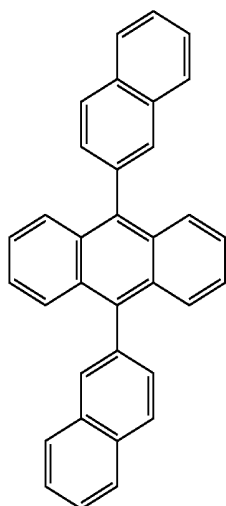
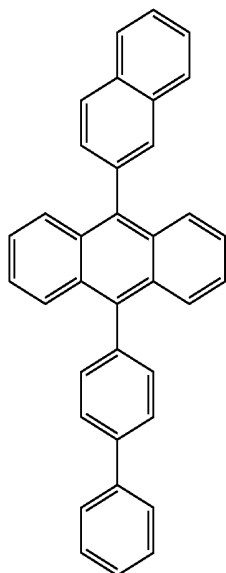
[0239] R₁-R₁₀ are independently chosen from hydrogen, alkyl groups from 1-24 carbon atoms or aromatic groups from 1-24 carbon atoms. Particularly preferred are compounds where R₁ and R₆ are phenyl, biphenyl or naphthyl, R₃ is phenyl, substituted phenyl or naphthyl and R₂, R₄, R₅, R₇-R₁₀ are all hydrogen. Such anthracene hosts are known to have excellent electron transporting properties.

[0240] Particularly desirable are derivatives of 9,10-di-(2-naphthyl)anthracene. Illustrative examples include 9,10-di-(2-naphthyl)anthracene (ADN) and 2-t-butyl-9,10-di-(2-naphthyl)anthracene (TBADN). Other anthracene derivatives can be useful as a non-electroluminescent compound in the LEL, such as diphenylanthracene and its derivatives, as described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,927,247. Styrylarylene derivatives as described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,121,029 and JP 08333569 are also useful non-electroluminescent materials. For example, 9,10-bis[4-(2,2-diphenylethenyl)phenyl]anthracene, 4,4'-Bis(2,2-diphenylethenyl)-1,1'-biphenyl (DPVBi) and phenylanthracene derivatives as described in EP 681,019 are useful non-electroluminescent materials.

[0241] Some illustrative examples of suitable anthracenes are:



-continued



[0242] Another useful class of host materials, particularly for a red-emitting layer, is naphthalenes including rubrene derivatives.

Spacer Layer

(P-2) [0243] Spacer layers, when present, are located in direct contact to a LEL. They may be located on either the anode or cathode side, or even both sides of the LEL. They typically do not contain any light-emissive dopants. One or more materials may be used and could be either a hole-transporting material as defined above or an electron-transporting material as defined below. If located next to a phosphorescent LEL, the material in the spacer layer should have a triplet energy about equal to or greater than that of the host material in the phosphorescent LEL. Most desirably, the material in the spacer layer will be the same as used as the host in the adjacent LEL. Thus, any of the host materials described as also suitable for use in a spacer layer. The spacer layer should be thin; at least 0.1 nm, but preferably in the range of from 1.0 nm to 20 nm.

Hole-Blocking Layer (HBL)

(P-3) [0244] When a LEL containing a phosphorescent emitter is present, it is desirable to locate a hole-blocking layer 135 between the electron-transporting layer 136 and the light-emitting layer 134 to help confine the excitons and recombination events to the LEL. In this case, there should be an energy barrier for hole migration from co-hosts into the hole-blocking layer, while electrons should pass readily from the hole-blocking layer into the light-emitting layer comprising co-host materials and a phosphorescent emitter. It is further desirable that the triplet energy of the hole-blocking material be greater than that of the phosphorescent material. Suitable hole-blocking materials are described in WO 00/70655A2, WO 01/41512 and WO 01/93642 A1. Two examples of useful hole-blocking 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. When a hole-blocking layer is used, its thickness can be between 2 and 100 nm and suitably between 5 and 10 nm.

Electron Transporting Layer

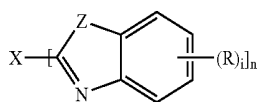
[0245] The purpose of an electron-transporting layer is to allow efficient movement of electrons from the cathode to the LEL. As such, it does not emit substantial amounts of light.

(P-4) [0246] Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) are often very useful in the ETL. Examples of desirable polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in this invention are anthracenes, fluoranthenes and naphthalenes including rubrene derivatives.

[0247] The anthracene electron transporting derivatives are represented by Formula (P) as described above in connection with host materials for a LEL. The anthracene in the ETL can be the same or different from that used in the LEL.

[0248] In addition to any of the electron-transporting materials previously described, any other materials known to be suitable for use in the ETL may be used. Included are, but are not limited to, chelated oxinoid compounds, anthracene derivatives, pyridine-based materials, imidazoles, oxazoles, thiazoles and their derivatives, polybenzobisazoles, cyano-containing polymers and perfluorinated materials. Other electron-transporting materials 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.

[0249] A preferred class of benzazoles is described by Shi et al. in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,645,948 and 5,766,779. Such compounds are represented by structural formula (Q):



(Q)

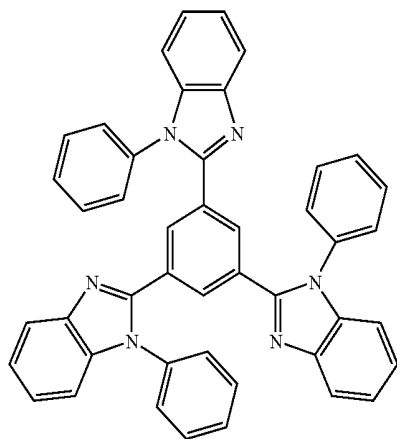
[0250] In formula (Q), n is selected from 2 to 8 and i is selected from 1-5;

[0251] Z is independently O, NR or S;

[0252] R is 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

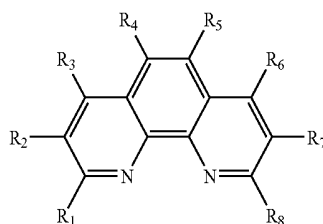
[0253] X is a linkage unit consisting of carbon, alkyl, aryl, substituted alkyl, or substituted aryl, which conjugately or unconjugately connects the multiple benzazoles together.

[0254] An example of a useful benzazole is 2,2',2''-(1,3,5-phenylene)tris[1-phenyl-1H-benzimidazole] (TPBI) represented by a formula (Q-1) shown below:



(Q-1)

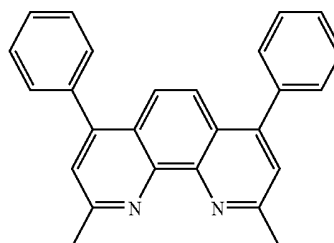
[0255] Another suitable class of the electron-transporting materials includes various substituted phenanthrolines as represented by formula (R):



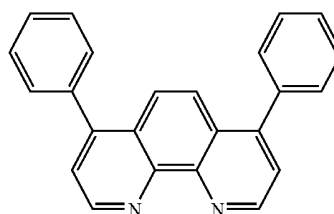
(R)

[0256] In formula (R), R₁-R₉ are independently hydrogen, alkyl group, aryl or substituted aryl group, and at least one of R₁-R₅ is aryl group or substituted aryl group.

[0257] Examples of suitable materials are 2,9-dimethyl-4,7-diphenyl-phenanthroline (BCP) (see formula (R-1)) and 4,7-diphenyl-1,10-phenanthroline (Bphen) (see formula (R-2)).

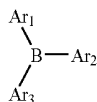


(R-1)



(R-2)

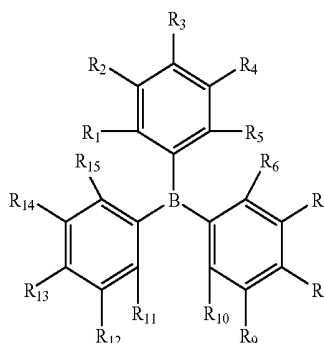
[0258] Suitable triarylboranes that function as an electron-transporting material may be selected from compounds having the chemical formula (S):



(S)

wherein:

[0259] Ar₁ to Ar₃ are independently an aromatic hydrocarbon group or an aromatic heterocyclic group which may have a substituent. It is preferable that compounds having the above structure are selected from formula (S-1):

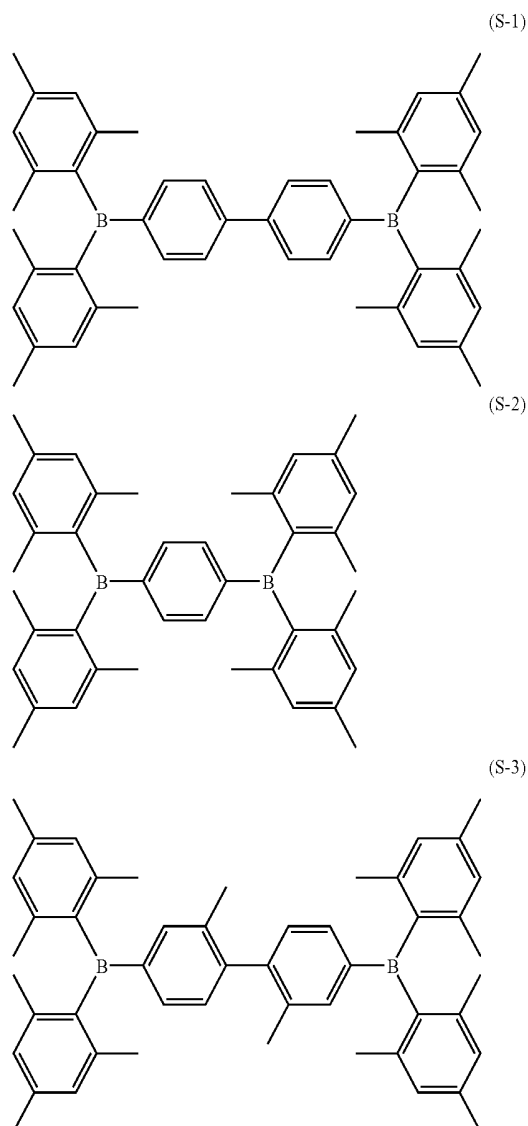


(S-1)

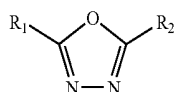
wherein:

[0260] R₁-R₁₅ are independently hydrogen, fluoro, cyano, trifluoromethyl, sulfonyl, alkyl, aryl or substituted aryl group.

[0261] Specific representative embodiments of the triarylboranes include:



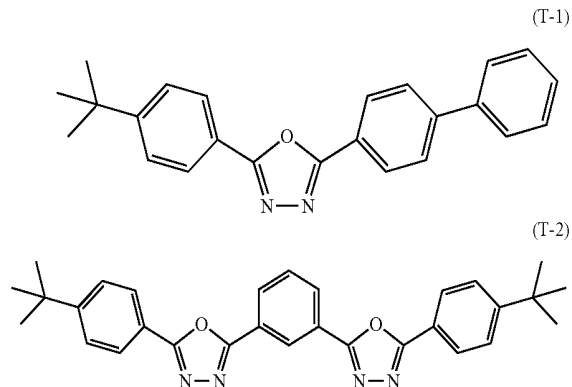
[0262] The electron-transporting material may also be selected from substituted 1,3,4-oxadiazoles of formula (T):



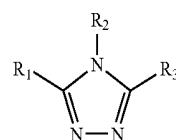
wherein:

[0263] R_1 and R_2 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.

[0264] Illustrative of the useful substituted oxadiazoles are the following:

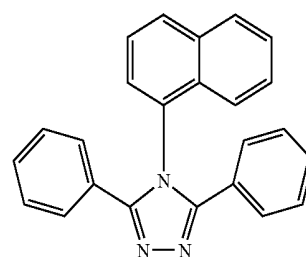


[0265] The electron-transporting material may also be selected from substituted 1,2,4-triazoles according to formula (U):



wherein:

[0266] R_1 , R_2 and R_3 are independently hydrogen, alkyl group, aryl or substituted aryl group, and at least one of R_1 - R_3 is aryl group or substituted aryl group. An example of a useful triazole is 3-phenyl-4-(1-naphthyl)-5-phenyl-1,2,4-triazole represented by formula (U-1):



[0267] The electron-transporting material may also be selected from substituted 1,3,5-triazines. Examples of suitable materials are:

[0268] 2,4,6-tris(diphenylamino)-1,3,5-triazine;

[0269] 2,4,6-tricarbazo-1,3,5-triazine;

[0270] 2,4,6-tris(N-phenyl-2-naphthylamino)-1,3,5-triazine;

[0271] 2,4,6-tris(N-phenyl-1-naphthylamino)-1,3,5-triazine;

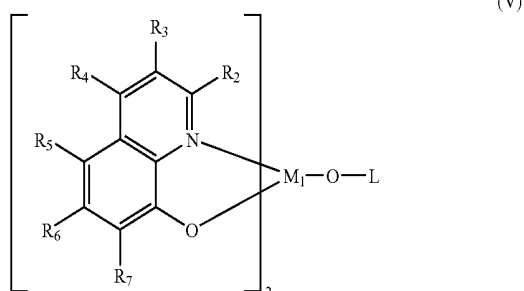
[0272] 4,4',6,6'-tetraphenyl-2,2'-bi-1,3,5-triazine;

[0273] 2,4,6-tris([1,1':3',1''-terphenyl]-5'-yl)-1,3,5-triazine.

[0274] In addition, any of the metal chelated oxinoid compounds including chelates of oxine itself (also commonly

referred to as 8-quinolinol or 8-hydroxyquinoline) of Formula (O) useful as host materials in a LEL are also suitable for use in the ETL.

[0275] Some metal chelated oxinoid compounds having high triplet energy can be particularly useful as an electron-transporting materials. Particularly useful aluminum or gallium complex materials with high triplet energy levels are represented by Formula (V).



[0276] In Formula (V), Mt represents Al or Ga. R₂-R₇ represent hydrogen or an independently selected substituent. Desirably, R₂ represents an electron-donating group. Suitably, R₃ and R₄ each independently represent hydrogen or an electron donating substituent. A preferred electron-donating group is alkyl such as methyl. Preferably, R₅, R₆, and R₇ each independently represent hydrogen or an electron-accepting group. Adjacent substituents, R₂-R₇, 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.

[0277] Illustrative of useful chelated oxinoid compounds for use in the ETL is Aluminum(III) bis(2-methyl-8-hydroxyquinoline)-4-phenylphenolate [alias, Balq]. These materials are also suitable for use as hosts for phosphorescent light-emitting materials.

[0278] The thickness of the ETL is in the range of from 5 nm to 200 nm, preferably, in the range of from 10 nm to 150 nm.

Electron Injection Layer

[0279] The EIL 138 is typically located adjacent to the cathode and helps to facilitate movement of electrons from the cathode into the other organic layers. The EIL may be composed only of one material or multiple materials and may be subdivided into sublayers. There may be intermediate layers between any of these 3 interfaces; for example, a thin layer of LiF between the cathode and the EIL.

[0280] The EIL may be an n-type doped layer containing at least one electron-transporting material as a host and at least one n-type dopant. The dopant is capable of reducing the host by charge transfer. The term "n-type doped layer" means that this layer has semiconducting properties after doping, and the electrical current through this layer is substantially carried by the electrons.

[0281] The host in the EIL may be an electron-transporting material capable of supporting electron injection and electron transport. The electron-transporting material can be selected from the electron-transporting materials for use in the ETL region as defined above. Phenanthrolines are particularly suitable for this use.

[0282] The n-type dopant in the n-type doped EIL may be selected from alkali metals, alkali metal compounds, alkaline earth metals, or alkaline earth metal compounds, or combinations thereof. The term "metal compounds" includes organometallic complexes, metal-organic salts, and inorganic salts, oxides and halides. Among the class of metal-containing n-type dopants, Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, La, Ce, Sm, Eu, Th, Dy, or Yb, and their compounds, are particularly useful. The materials used as the n-type dopants in the n-type doped EIL also include organic reducing agents with strong electron-donating properties. By "strong electron-donating properties" it is meant that the organic dopant should be able to donate at least some electronic charge to the host to form a charge-transfer complex with the host. Nonlimiting examples of organic molecules include bis(ethylenedithio)-tetrathiafulvalene (BEDT-TTF), tetrathiafulvalene (TTF), and their derivatives. In the case of polymeric hosts, the dopant is any of the above or also a material molecularly dispersed or copolymerized with the host as a minor component. Preferably, the n-type dopant in the n-type doped EIL includes Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, La, Ce, Nd, Sm, Eu, Th, Dy, or Yb, or combinations thereof. Lithium is preferred. The n-type doped concentration is preferably in the range of 0.01-20% by volume of this layer.

[0283] Another material suitable for an EIL is an organic alkali metal compound. These organic alkali metal compounds are also suitable for use in the ETL as well as the BIL.

[0284] The EIL may be composed only of a single organic alkali metal compound or may be a mixture of 2 or more organic alkali metal compounds. In addition to the alkali metal compounds, the EIL may also contain one or more polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. The % volume ratio of organic alkali metal compound to additional material can be anywhere from 1% to 99%, more suitably 10% to 90% and most desirably, 30 to 70%. The thickness of the EIL can be 0.1 nm to 20 nm in thickness, but preferably 0.4 nm to 10 nm, and more preferable from 1 nm to 8 nm.

[0285] The alkali metal used in the compounds of the invention belongs to Group 1 of the periodic table. Of these, lithium is highly preferred.

[0286] Organic lithium compounds (electron injection material or EIM) useful in the invention are according to Formula (IV):



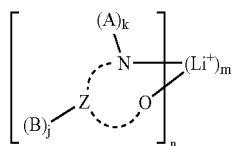
wherein:

[0287] Q is an anionic organic ligand; and

[0288] m and n are independently selected integers selected to provide a neutral charge on the complex.

[0289] The anionic organic ligand Q is most suitably monoanionic and contains at least one ionizable site consisting of oxygen, nitrogen or carbon. In the case of enolates or other tautomeric systems containing oxygen, it will be considered and drawn with the lithium bonded to the oxygen although the lithium may in fact be bonded elsewhere to form a chelate. It is also desirable that the ligand contains at least one nitrogen atom that can form a coordinate or dative bond with the lithium. The integers m and n can be greater than 1 reflecting a known propensity for some organic lithium compounds to form cluster complexes.

[0290] In another embodiment, Formula (V) represents the EIM.



Formula (V)

wherein:

[0291] Z and the dashed arc represent two to four atoms and the bonds necessary to complete a 5- to 7-membered ring with the lithium cation;

[0292] each A represents hydrogen or a substituent and each B represents hydrogen or an independently selected substituent on the Z atoms, provided that two or more substituents may combine to form a fused ring or a fused ring system; and

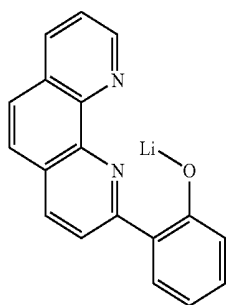
[0293] j is 0-3 and k is 1 or 2; and

[0294] m and n are independently selected integers selected to provide a neutral charge on the complex.

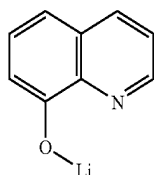
[0295] It is most desirable that the A and B substituents of Formula (V) together form an additional ring system. This additional ring system may further contain additional heteroatoms to form a multidentate ligand with coordinate or dative bonding to the lithium. Desirable heteroatoms are nitrogen or oxygen.

[0296] In Formula (V), it is preferred that the oxygen shown is part of a hydroxyl, carboxy or keto group. Examples of suitable nitrogen ligands are 8-hydroxyquinoline, 2-hydroxymethylpyridine, pipecolic acid or 2-pyridinecarboxylic acid.

[0297] Specific examples of useful electron injecting materials are as follows:



EIM1



EIM2

[0298] When the EIL is composed only of the organic lithium compound of the invention, the thickness of the EIL is typically less than 20 nm, but preferably 0.4 nm to 10 nm, and more preferable from 1 nm to 8 nm. When an n-type doped EIL is employed, the thickness is typically less than 200 nm, and preferably in the range of less than 150 nm.

Cathode

[0299] When light emission is viewed solely through the anode, the cathode 140 includes nearly any conductive mate-

rial. Desirable materials have effective film-forming properties to ensure effective contact with the underlying organic layer, promote electron injection at low voltage, and have effective stability. Useful cathode materials often contain a low work function metal (<4.0 eV) or metal alloy. One preferred cathode material includes a Mg:Ag alloy as described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,885,221. Another suitable class of cathode materials includes bilayers including a thin inorganic EIL in contact with an organic layer (e.g., organic EIL or ETL), which is capped with a thicker layer of a conductive metal. Here, the inorganic 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 includes a thin layer of LiF followed by a thicker layer of Al as described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,677,572. 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.

[0300] When light emission is viewed through the cathode, cathode 140 should be transparent or nearly transparent. For such applications, metals should be thin or one should use transparent conductive oxides, or include these materials. Optically transparent cathodes have been described in more detail in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,885,211, 5,247,190, 5,703,436, 5,608,287, 5,837,391, 5,677,572, 5,776,622, 5,776,623, 5,714,838, 5,969,474, 5,739,545, 5,981,306, 6,137,223, 6,140,763, 6,172,459, 6,278,236, 6,284,393, and EP 1 076 368. Cathode materials are typically deposited by thermal evaporation, electron beam evaporation, ion sputtering, or chemical vapor deposition. When needed, patterning is achieved through many well known methods including, but not limited to, through-mask deposition, integral shadow masking, for example as described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,276,380 and EP 0 732 868, laser ablation, and selective chemical vapor deposition.

Substrate

[0301] OLED 100 is typically provided over a supporting substrate 110 where either the anode 120 or cathode 140 can be in contact with the substrate. The electrode in contact with the substrate is conveniently referred to as the bottom electrode. Conventionally, the bottom electrode is the anode 120, 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. 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 pixelated areas, be comprised of largely transparent materials such as glass or polymers. For applications where the EL emission is viewed through the top electrode, the transmissive characteristic of the bottom support is immaterial, and therefore the substrate can be light transmissive, light absorbing or light reflective. Substrates for use in this case include, but are not limited to, glass, plastic, semiconductor materials such as silicon, ceramics, and circuit board materials. Again, the substrate can be a complex structure comprising multiple layers of materials such as found in active matrix TFT designs. It is necessary to provide in these device configurations a light-transparent top electrode.

Deposition of Organic Layers

[0302] The organic materials mentioned above are suitably deposited through sublimation, but can be deposited from a

solvent with an optional binder to improve film formation. If the material is a polymer, solvent deposition is usually preferred. The material to be deposited by sublimation can be vaporized from a sublimator "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 sublimator 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. No. 5,851,709 and U.S. Pat. No. 6,066,357) and inkjet method (U.S. Pat. No. 6,066,357).

[0303] Organic materials useful in making OLEDs, for example organic hole-transporting materials, organic light-emitting materials doped with an organic electroluminescent components have relatively complex molecular structures with relatively weak molecular bonding forces, so that care must be taken to avoid decomposition of the organic material (s) during physical vapor deposition. The aforementioned organic materials are synthesized to a relatively high degree of purity, and are provided in the form of powders, flakes, or granules. Such powders or flakes have been used heretofore for placement into a physical vapor deposition source wherein heat is applied for forming a vapor by sublimation or vaporization of the organic material, the vapor condensing on a substrate to provide an organic layer thereon.

[0304] Several problems have been observed in using organic powders, flakes, or granules in physical vapor deposition: These powders, flakes, or granules are difficult to handle. These organic materials generally have a relatively low physical density and undesirably low thermal conductivity, particularly when placed in a physical vapor deposition source which is disposed in a chamber evacuated to a reduced pressure as low as 10^{-6} Torr. Consequently, powder particles, flakes, or granules are heated only by radiative heating from a heated source, and by conductive heating of particles or flakes directly in contact with heated surfaces of the source. Powder particles, flakes, or granules which are not in contact with heated surfaces of the source are not effectively heated by conductive heating due to a relatively low particle-to-particle contact area; This can lead to nonuniform heating of such organic materials in physical vapor deposition sources. Therefore, result in potentially nonuniform vapor-deposited organic layers formed on a substrate.

[0305] These organic powders can be consolidated into a solid pellet. These solid pellets consolidating into a solid pellet from a mixture of a sublimable organic material powder are easier to handle. Consolidation of organic powder into a solid pellet can be accomplished with relatively simple tools. A solid pellet formed from mixture comprising one or more non-luminescent organic non-electroluminescent component materials or luminescent electroluminescent component materials or mixture of non-electroluminescent component and electroluminescent component materials can be placed into a physical vapor deposition source for making organic layer. Such consolidated pellets can be used in a physical vapor deposition apparatus.

[0306] In one aspect, the present invention provides a method of making an organic layer from compacted pellets of organic materials on a substrate, which will form part of an OLED.

[0307] One preferred method for depositing the materials of the present invention is described in US 200410255857 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

[0308] Most OLED devices are sensitive to moisture and/or oxygen so they are commonly sealed in an inert atmosphere such as nitrogen or argon, along with a desiccant such as 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.

OLED Device Design Criteria

[0309] For full color display, the pixelation of LELs can be needed. This pixelated deposition of LELs is 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.

[0310] 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, providing reflective layers or microcavity 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 over the display. Filters, polarizers, and anti-glare or anti-reflection coatings may be specifically provided over the cover or as part of the cover.

[0311] Embodiments of the invention may provide EL devices that have good luminance efficiency and good operational stability. Embodiments of the invention may also give reduced voltage rises over the lifetime of the devices and can be produced with high reproducibility and consistently to provide good light efficiency. They may have lower power consumption requirements and, when used with a battery, provide longer battery lifetimes.

EXPERIMENTAL EXAMPLES

Examples 1 and 2

Preparation of Inventive Compounds A-2 and A-1

[0312] To an 100 mL dry, three-necked round flask were charged 4-5 bromo-4'-(9-carbazolyl)biphenyl (2.0 g, 5 mmol) (*Ref. Chem. Mater.* 1998, 10, 2235), 9(10H)-acridone (1.0 g, 5 mmol), K_2CO_3 (1.0 g, 7.5 mmol), copper (0.33 g, 5 mmol), CuI (0.1 g), 2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-3,5-heptanedione (0.2 g), and MS-dried DMF (30 mL). The mixture was degassed and refluxed under nitrogen atmosphere for 24 h (The reaction may have completed in less than 24 h). After cooling to room temperature, the precipitates from the reaction mixture were collected by filtration, washed with 3 N HCl, water and methanol, and dried in air. The light yellow solid was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (small amount of copper was left as brown particles) and purified by column chromatography on silica gel with CH_2Cl_2 -EtOAc (40:1 v/v) as eluting solvents. The major fraction was collected and evaporation of the solvents afforded 2.1 g of pure product A-2, yield 82%. The material was further purified by sublimation at 270-280° C. The same procedure was used to prepare A-1.

Example 3

Preparation of Devices 3.1 through 3.4.

[0313] A series of EL devices (3.1 through 3.4) were constructed in the following manner:

[0314] 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, and exposed to oxygen plasma for about 1 min.

[0315] 2. Over the ITO was deposited a 1 nm fluorocarbon (CFx) hole-injecting layer (HIL) by plasma-assisted deposition of CHF_3 as described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,208,075.

[0316] 3. Next a layer of hole-transporting material 4,4'-Bis[N-(1-naphthyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl (NPB) was deposited to a thickness of 75 nm (HTL).

[0317] 4. Next an exciton block layer (EBL) of 10 nm of 4-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)-N,N-bis[4-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)phenyl]-benzenamine was deposited.

[0318] 5. A 20 nm light-emitting layer (LEL) composed of host material as listed in Table 1 and 6% phosphorescent dopant $Ir(ppy)_3$ was then deposited.

[0319] 6. A 50 nm electron-transporting layer (ETL) of Bphen was vacuum-deposited over the LEL.

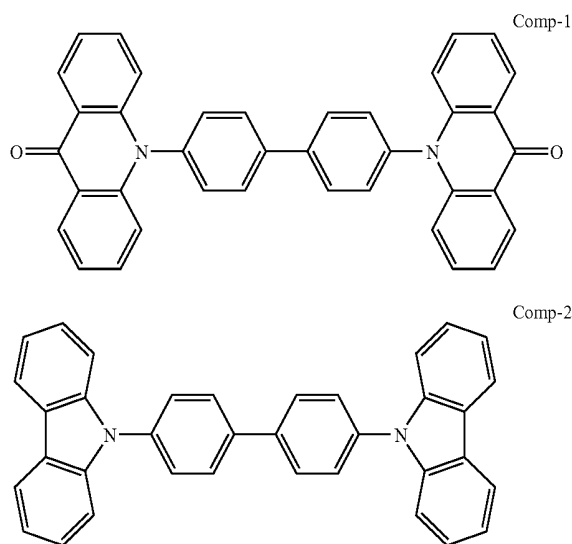
[0320] 7. A 0.5 electron-injection layer (EIL) of LiF was vacuum deposited over the ETL

[0321] 8. And finally, a 100 nm layer of aluminum was deposited onto the EIL, to form the cathode.

[0322] The above sequence completes the deposition of the EL devices. The devices were then hermetically packaged in a dry glove box for protection against ambient environment. The devices thus formed were tested for luminous efficiency at an operating current of 1 mA/cm² and the results are reported in Table 1. % EQE is the external quantum efficiency.

TABLE 1

Experimental Results



Example (Type)	LEL	% EQE	Drive Volt. (Volts)	Efficiency (cd/A)
3.1 (Comparative)	Comp-1	13.4	3.99	47.0
3.2 (Comparative)	Comp-2	13.4	7.82	46.5
3.3 (Inventive)	A-1	14.0	2.79	49.1
3.4 (Inventive)	A-2	16.9	3.29	58.9

[0323] Table 1 shows experimental results for a LEL using a phosphorescent light-emitting compound. Comparison host materials Comp-1 (a bis-acridone) and Comp-2 (a bis-carbazole) are symmetrical compounds. The inventive compounds A-1 and A-2, both of which bear one acridone and one diphenylamine or carbazole group, clearly offer improved performance in terms of efficiency and drive voltage.

Example 4

Preparation of Devices 4.1 through 4.3.

[0324] A series of EL devices (4.1 through 4.3) were constructed in the same manner as Devices 3.1-3.4 except that the light-emitting phosphorescent material in step 5 was replaced by 1% FD-54, a light-emitting fluorescent material, and the thickness of the ETL in step 6 was decreased to 40 nm.

[0325] The devices thus formed were tested for luminous efficiency at an operating current of 1 mA/cm² and the results are reported in Table 2.

TABLE 2

Experimental Results

Example (Type)	LEL	% EQE	Drive Volt. (Volts)	Efficiency (cd/A)
4.1 (Comparative)	Comp-1	2.1	3.87	2.58

TABLE 2-continued

Example (Type)	Experimental Results			Efficiency (cd/A)
	LEL	% EQE	Drive Volt. (Volts)	
4.2 (Inventive)	A-1	4.1	2.91	5.67
4.3 (Inventive)	A-2	5.3	3.43	5.55

[0326] Table 1 shows experimental results for a LEL using a fluorescent light-emitting compound. The inventive compounds A-1 and A-2, both of which bear one acridone and one diphenylamine or carbazole group, clearly offer improved performance in terms of efficiency and drive voltage relative to Comp-1, which lacks the diarylamino or carbazole group of the acridones of the invention.

[0327] 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 patents and other publications referred to are incorporated herein in their entirety.

PARTS LIST

- [0328] 100 OLED
- [0329] 110 Substrate
- [0330] 120 Anode
- [0331] 130 Hole-Injecting layer (HIL)
- [0332] 132 Hole-Transporting layer (HTL)
- [0333] 134 Light-Emitting layer (LEL)
- [0334] 135 Hole-Blocking Layer (HBL)
- [0335] 136 Electron-Transporting layer (ETL)
- [0336] 138 Electron-Injecting layer (EIL)
- [0337] 140 Cathode
- [0338] 150 Voltage/Current Source
- [0339] 160 Electrical Connectors

1. An OLED device comprising a cathode, an anode, and having therebetween a layer containing an acridone compound including a diarylamino or carbazole substituent where the nitrogen of the acridone and the nitrogen of the diarylamino or carbazole are connected by an aromatic hydrocarbon linking group.

2. The OLED device of claim 1 wherein the aromatic hydrocarbon linking group comprises an aromatic group with 6 to 36 carbon atoms.

3. The OLED device of claim 1 wherein the layer containing the acridone compound is a light-emitting layer including a light-emitting dopant.

4. The OLED device of claim 3 wherein the light-emitting dopant is fluorescent.

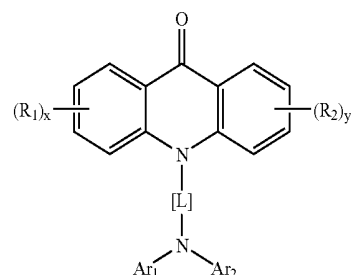
5. The OLED device of claim 4 wherein the fluorescent light-emitting dopant is a bis(azanyl)amine boron compound.

6. The OLED device of claim 3 wherein the light-emitting dopant is phosphorescent.

7. The OLED device of claim 6 wherein the phosphorescent dopant is an iridium complex.

8. The OLED device of claim 1 including a light-emitting layer and where the layer containing the acridone material is a hole-blocking layer located between the light-emitting layer and the anode.

9. The OLED device of claim 1 wherein the acridone compound is according to the following formula:



Formula (I)

wherein:

R_1 and R_2 are substituents;

x and y are independently 0 to 4;

L is a linking group consisting of an unbroken chain of 6 to 36 aromatic, olefinic or acetylenic carbon atoms; and

Ar_1 and Ar_2 are independently aromatic groups of 6 to 30 carbon atoms or are connected together to form a carbazole group.

10. The OLED device of claim 9 wherein x and y are both 0 and L is phenyl or biphenyl.

11. The OLED device of claim 10 wherein Ar_1 and Ar_2 are phenyl groups.

12. The OLED device of claim 10 wherein Ar_1 and Ar_2 are joined together to form a carbazole group.

13. A method of emitting light comprising applying an electric potential across the device of claim 1.

14. A display comprising the device of claim 1.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	具有取代的吡啶酮化合物的OLED器件		
公开(公告)号	US20090153030A1	公开(公告)日	2009-06-18
申请号	US11/956412	申请日	2007-12-14
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	霍寿全 DEATON JOSEPH C		
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发明人	HUO, SHOUQUAN DEATON, JOSEPH C.		
IPC分类号	H01L27/28		
CPC分类号	H01L51/0061 H01L51/0072 H01L2251/308 H01L51/5016 H01L51/5012 Y10S428/917		
其他公开文献	US7842406		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

本发明提供一种OLED器件，其包括阴极，阳极，并且在其间具有含有吡啶酮化合物的层，所述吡啶酮化合物包括二芳基胺或唑唑取代基，其中吡啶酮的氮和二芳基胺或唑唑的氮通过芳烃连接基团连接。本发明的OLED器件表现出改善的效率和驱动电压。

