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Ohshita et al.

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- (54) **ORGANIC ELECTROLUMINESCENT PANEL** 6,614,176 B2* 9/2003 Kim et al. 313/506
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US 2007/0196562 A1 Aug. 23, 2007 JP 2002-367787 A 12/2002

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- (62) **Related U.S. Application Data**
- Division of application No. 10/847,352, filed on May 18, 2004, now Pat. No. 7,264,843.

- (30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**
- May 21, 2003 (JP) P2003-143059

- (51) **Int. Cl.** *H05B 33/00* (2006.01)
- (52) **U.S. Cl.** 313/504; 313/506; 428/917
- (58) **Field of Classification Search** None
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An organic electroluminescent element formed on a substrate has a layer structure in which organic layer including an organic electroluminescent layer is sandwiched between a pair of electrodes. A film formation region of an emission layer which is made of a uniform film forming material in accordance with one opening of a film forming mask is formed by plural layers including a first emission layer and a second emission layer. The layers are formed at each setting of the film forming mask.

4 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets

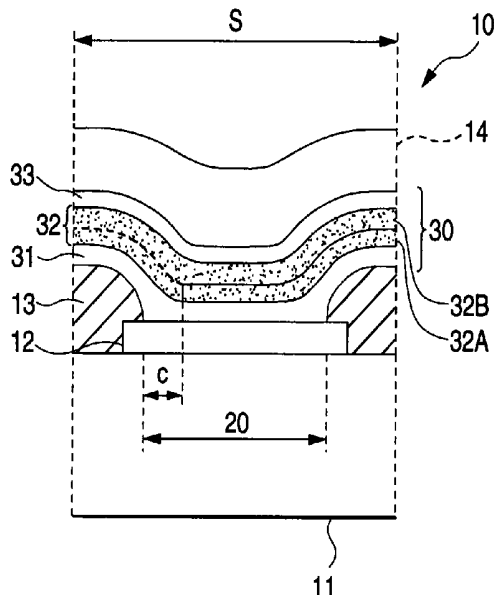


FIG. 1A

RELATED ART

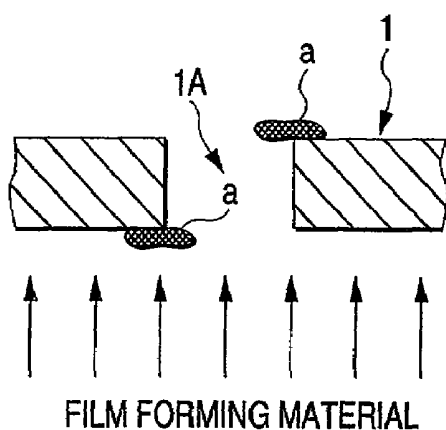


FIG. 1B

RELATED ART

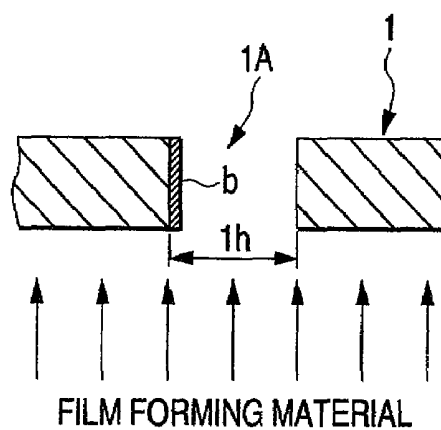


FIG. 1C

RELATED ART

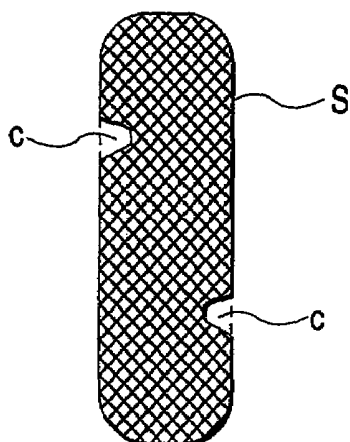


FIG. 2A

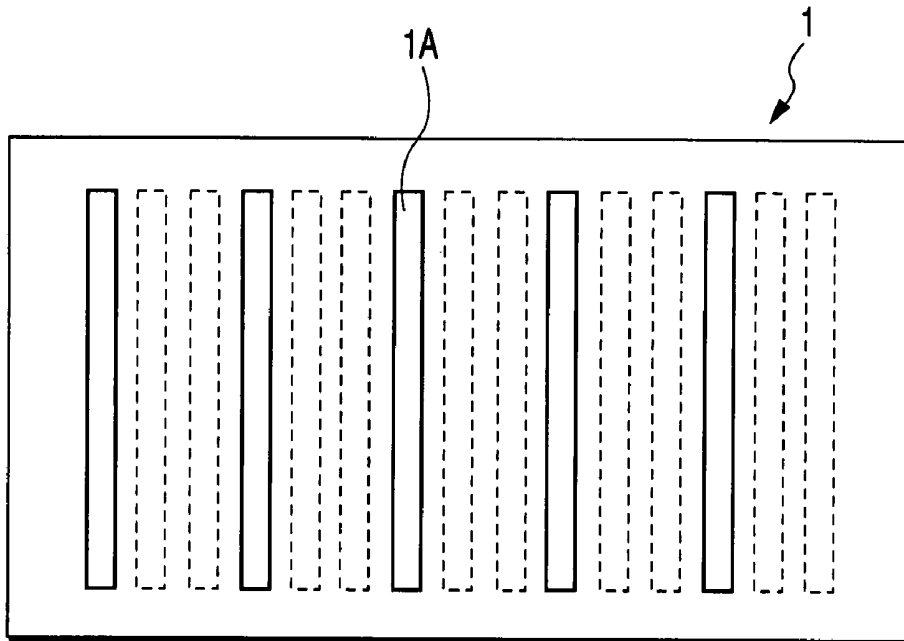


FIG. 2B

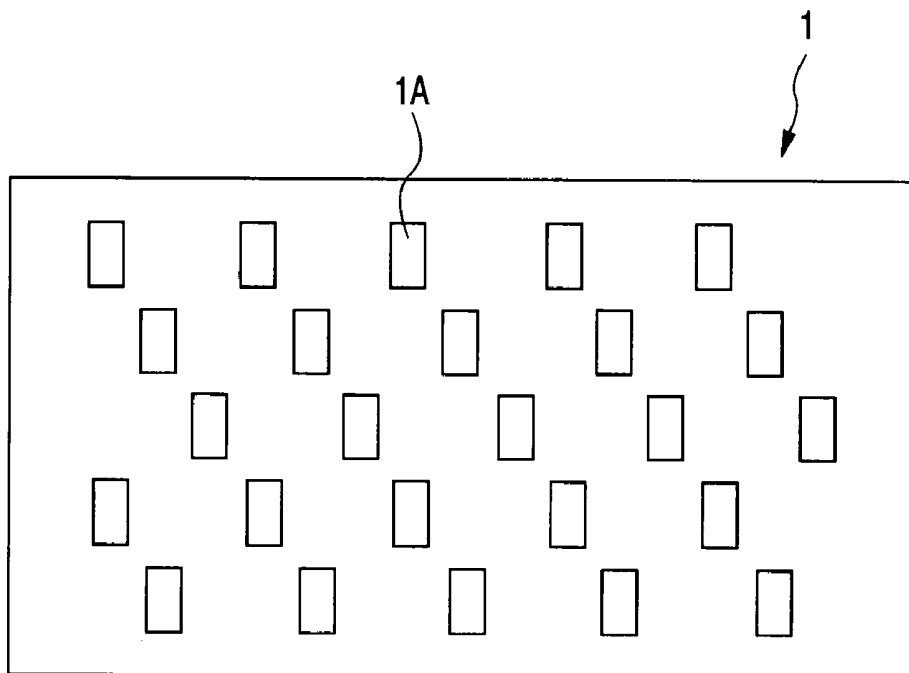


FIG. 3

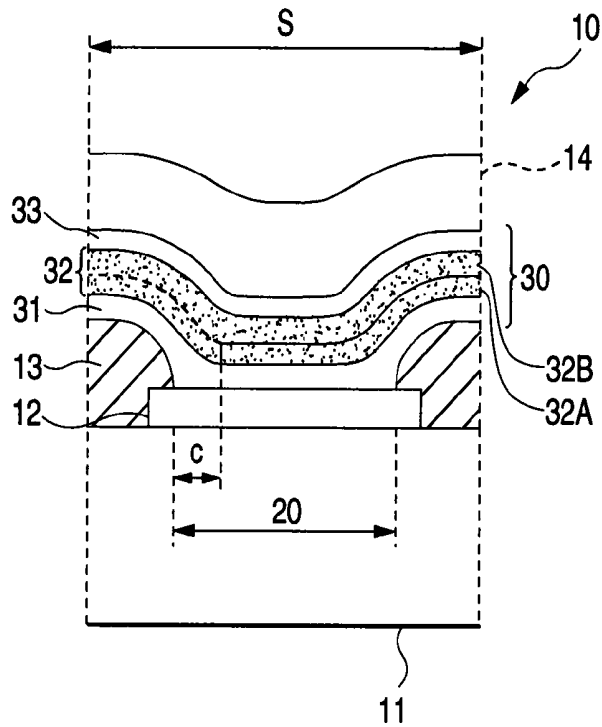


FIG. 4

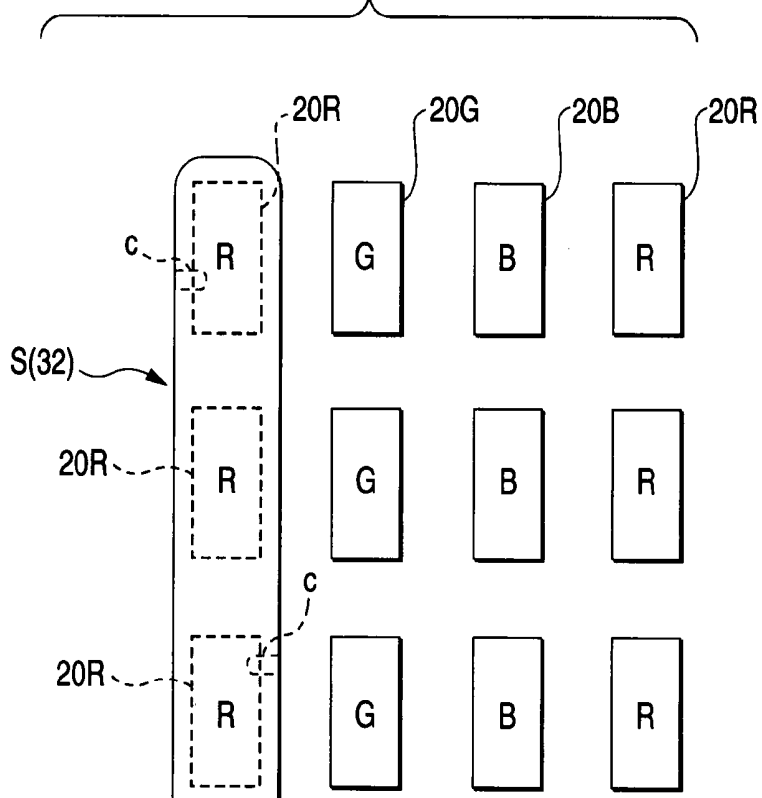


FIG. 5A

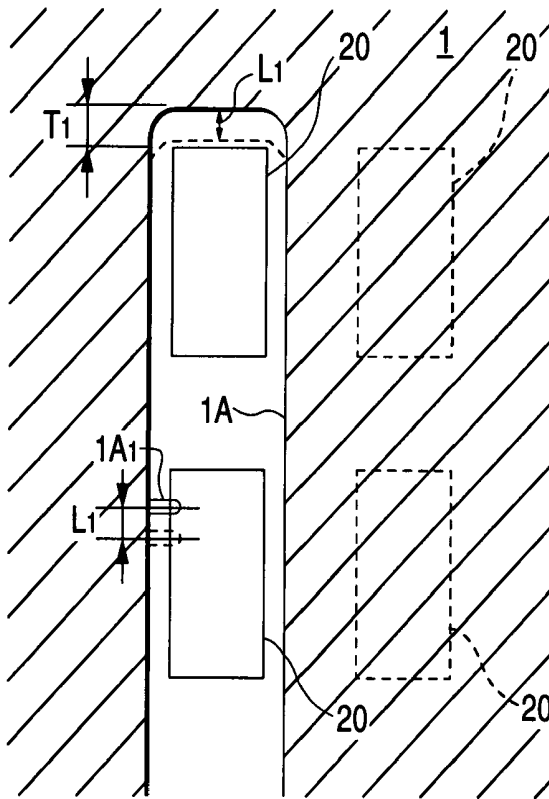


FIG. 5B

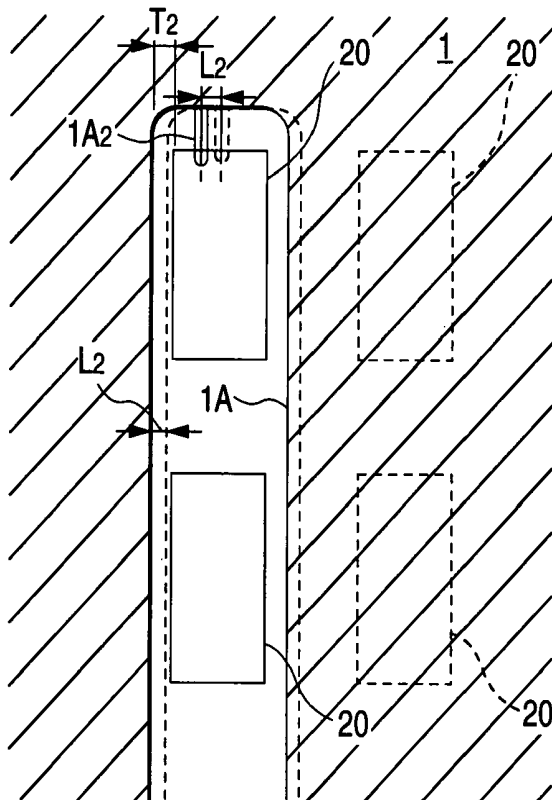


FIG. 6

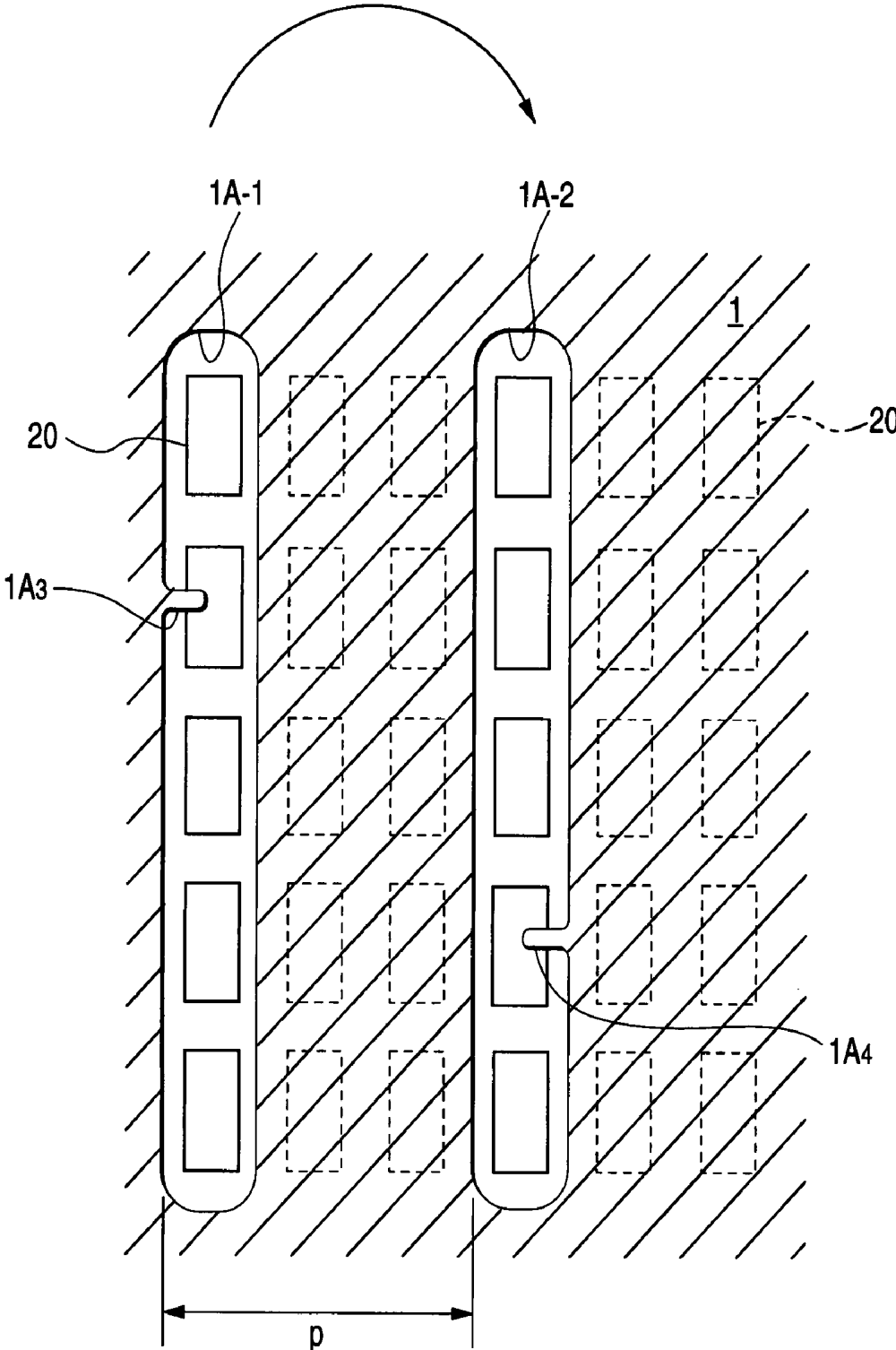


FIG. 7A

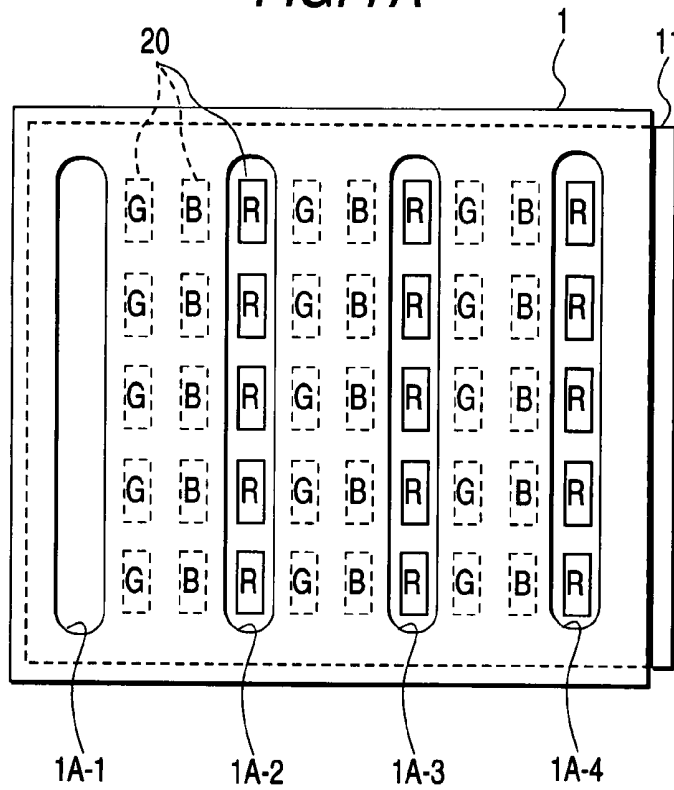


FIG. 7B

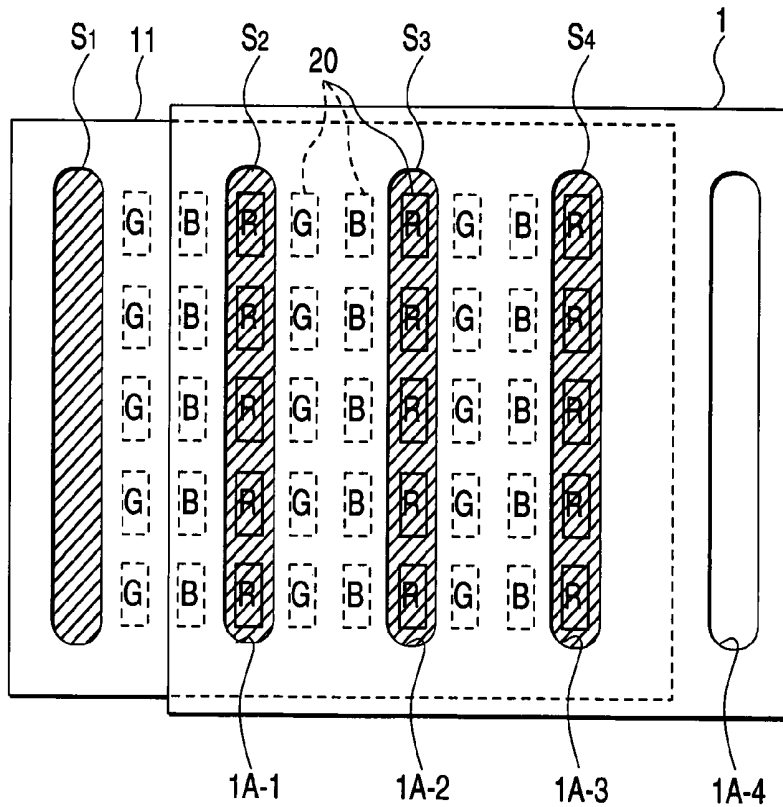
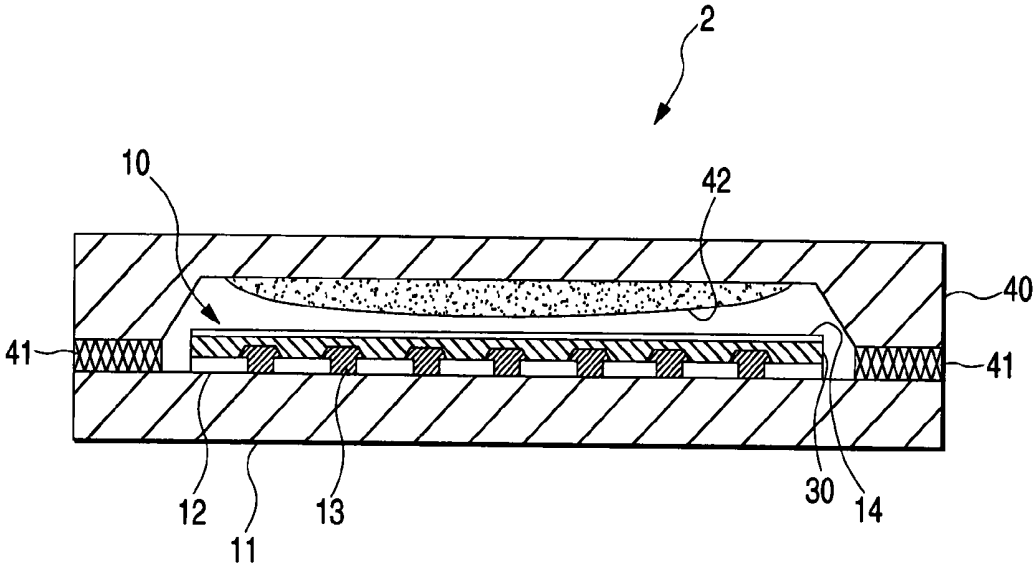


FIG. 8



ORGANIC ELECTROLUMINESCENT PANEL

This is a divisional of application Ser. No. 10/847,352 filed May 18, 2004 now U.S. Pat. No. 7,264,843. The entire disclosure of the prior application, application Ser. No. 10/847, 352 is hereby incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**1. Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to an organic electroluminescent panel and a producing method thereof.

2. Description of the Related Art

In an organic electroluminescent (hereinafter, referred to as "EL") panel, a surface-emitting element due to luminescent areas of an organic EL element is formed on a substrate. A single or plural surface emitting elements are arranged to form a display region. A lower electrode having one of various structures is formed on a substrate. A film pattern of organic layers including an organic electroluminescent layer is then formed, and an upper electrode is formed on the film pattern. When the film pattern is formed, a film forming mask which has openings corresponding to the pattern shape is used, and a desired pattern is formed by a film forming method such as the mask vapor deposition method.

The pattern formation of the organic layers by using a film forming mask will be described. Usually, luminescent areas of an organic EL element are defined by an insulating film formed on a substrate. A film pattern of organic layers is formed on the luminescent areas by using a film forming mask having an opening which is slightly larger in size than the luminescent areas. In the case of plural-color display, film forming masks respectively having openings corresponding to electroluminescent color patterns are used. The masks are adequately replaced with one another or slid so that organic electroluminescent layers of different colors are formed (See JP-A-2002-367787).

The organic layer refers to layer having an organic electroluminescent layer constituting organic EL (such as an emission layer, a hole-transport layer, an electron-transport layer, a hole-injection layer, and an electron-injection layer) which include an organic electroluminescent layer, and which are to be stacked above and below the organic electroluminescent layer. An organic EL element is not restricted to have plural organic layers, and may consist of a single layer, or only an organic electroluminescent layer. For a hole-transport layer and an electron-transport layer which are usually made of a single material on the same substrate, film forming masks having different patterns for respective electroluminescent colors are often used in order to control the film thickness in respective electroluminescent color regions (See JP-A-2001-237068).

In the case of a single-color display, a film forming mask having a predetermined pattern (for example, a stripe shape) corresponding to a luminescent areas is used. In order to avoid the strength of the mask from being reduced by excessive density of openings, a film pattern of organic layers is formed in a display region while the formation pitch of the openings is enlarged, and plural film formation steps are conducted (See JP-A-2000-48954).

The pattern formation using the film forming mask is often employed not only in the above-described pattern formation of the organic layers, but also in pattern formation of other components of an organic EL element, such as upper and lower electrodes, an insulating film, and a sealing film.

Hereinafter, a film formation region refers to a region which forms each organic EL element in accordance with an

opening of the film forming mask. The film formation region is set by a design of the openings of the film forming mask. The film formation region is set by, for example, the width or length of the opening or the position of the opening in the film forming mask.

In case where the film forming mask is used for producing the pattern formation of components such as organic layers, electrodes, an insulating film, and a sealing film, a film forming material, dust, or the like (attachment substance a) sometimes adheres to an opening 1A of a film forming mask 1. (Please see FIG. 1A) Alternatively, as shown in FIG. 1B, there is a partial design fault portion b with respect to the opening width 1h of the opening 1A. When the film forming mask 1 having defects in the opening 1A is used for film formation, the film formation region has an unformed portions c as shown in FIG. 1C. The unformed portions c is formed in accordance with the attachment substance and the design fault portion b, whereby the following problems are caused.

A thin-thickness portion is partially formed in the organic layers interposed between upper and lower electrodes, thereby causing a possibility that a leakage current flows between the upper and lower electrodes so that the emitted light cannot be obtained in a pixel having such a defective film formation region. When a pattern of emission layer is formed, the unformed portion c of the film formation region is formed so that the emission area of the emission layer is reduced and the brightness of the emission is lowered. Additionally, when a layer, which is adjacent to the emission layer, having an electroluminescent is formed on the unformed regions of the film formation region, the color of the emitted light, which is different from predetermined one, is produced so that the chromaticity is changed. This will be described more specifically. When an electron-transport layer made of Alq₃ or the like is formed in the unformed portion of red-emitting layer, green emitted-light is produced therefrom, so that the predetermined chromaticity cannot be attained in the unit luminescent areas.

In pattern formation of the electrodes, the electric resistance partially changes due to an unformed portion, so that a predetermined injection current cannot be obtained. In pattern formation of the insulating film or the sealing film, there is the problem in that the insulating or sealing performance is lowered by an unformed portion. The invention is proposed in order to solve these problems.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the invention to provide an organic Electroluminescent (hereinafter, referred to "EL") panel and a method of producing it in which, even when a defect such as an attachment substance or a partial design fault exists in an opening of a film forming mask, an unformed portion is not formed in a designed film growth region, and functions of various portions corresponding to a preset film growth region can be exerted.

It is an another object of the invention such as that, in an organic EL panel and a method of producing it, an unformed portion of a film growth region related to a component of an organic EL element is eliminated to prevent a leakage current from flowing. Also, partial brightness or chromaticity change is prevented from occurring and excellent insulating and sealing performances are ensured.

To achieve the above-objects, the invention has at least elements regarding aspects of the invention as described below.

According to one aspect of the invention, there is provided an organic electroluminescent panel in which an organic elec-

troluminescent element configured by sandwiching an organic layer including an organic electroluminescent layer between a pair of electrodes is formed on a substrate, wherein one film formation region related to the organic electroluminescent element which is made of a uniform film forming material in accordance with one opening of the film forming mask is formed by plural layers which are formed respectively at each setting of the film forming mask.

According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of producing an organic electroluminescent panel, including the steps of: preparing an organic electroluminescent element including an organic layer having an organic electroluminescent layer sandwiched between a pair of electrodes; performing a setting of film formation mask; and multiple-forming at each setting of the film formation mask one film formation region related to the organic electroluminescent and formed by a uniform film forming material in accordance with one opening of the film forming mask.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGS. 1A, 1B and 1C are diagrams illustrating problems of the related art;

FIGS. 2A and 2B are views showing film forming masks which are used in a producing method of an organic electroluminescent panel according to the embodiments;

FIG. 3 is a diagram showing the structure of an organic electroluminescent element in the organic electroluminescent panel according to the embodiments;

FIG. 4 is a diagram illustrating the organic EL panel and the producing method thereof according to the embodiment, and showing the organic EL panel in plan view;

FIGS. 5A and 5B are diagrams illustrating an embodiment (formation of emission layer);

FIG. 6 is a diagram illustrating an embodiment (formation of emission layer);

FIGS. 7A and 7B are views showing a specific example of the embodiment; and

FIG. 8 is a section view illustrating an organic EL panel of an example of the invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Hereinafter, embodiments of the invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings. An organic electroluminescent (hereinafter, referred to "EL") panel and a method of producing it according to an embodiment of the invention are based on the premise that at least one of components of the organic EL element is formed by pattern formation using a film forming mask.

FIGS. 2A and 2B show examples of film forming masks used in the embodiment. In FIG. 2A, a film forming mask 1 has openings 1A which is formed in stripe shape. The openings 1A are arranged in parallel with each other at predetermined intervals. The film forming mask may be used, for example, in case where emission layers of multi colors are formed in a pattern arrangement where unit luminescent areas of the same color are linearly arranged. In FIG. 2A, each interval between the openings 1A allows to form two openings corresponding to the film formation regions when the three colors are arranged. In FIG. 2B, a film forming mask 1 has rectangular openings 1A which are arranged to be staggered. The mask may be used in a case where emission layers of multi colors are formed in a pattern arrangement where unit luminescent areas of the same color are arranged to be staggered.

In the following description, the film forming mask 1 shown in FIG. 2A will be described as an example. However, embodiments of the invention are not restricted to this. A film forming mask having the pattern shown in FIG. 2B may be similarly employed, and alternatively a film forming mask having another mask pattern may be employed.

In the following description, film formation of an emission layer will be described as an example. However, embodiments of the invention are not restricted to this, and can be applied also to pattern formation of another component of an organic EL element.

FIG. 3 is a diagram showing the structure of an organic EL element in an organic EL panel of the embodiment of the invention. The organic EL element 10 formed on a substrate 11 has a layer structure in which organic layers including an organic electroluminescent layer is sandwiched between a pair of electrodes. More specifically, an insulating film 13 is formed to surround a lower electrode 12 formed on the substrate 11. A region which is above the lower electrode 12, and which is defined by the insulating film 13 is set as luminescent areas 20. Organic layers 30 are formed on the lower electrode 12 in the luminescent areas 20. An upper electrode 14 is formed on the organic layers 30. In this example, the organic layers 30 have a three-layer stacked structure of a hole-transport layer 31, an emission layer 32, and an electron-transport layer 33. The stacked structure is not particularly restricted to this. The upper electrode 14 may be covered by a sealing film.

According to the embodiment of the invention, in the organic EL element 10, one film formation region is formed by plural layers which are formed respectively at different settings of the film forming mask. The one film formation region is related to one component of the organic EL element, and which is made of a uniform film forming material in accordance with one opening of the film forming mask. In the example shown in FIG. 3, a film formation region S of the emission layer 32, which is made of a uniform film forming material in accordance with one opening of the film forming mask, is formed by plural layers of a first emission layer 32A and a second emission layer 32B. The layers 32A, 32B are formed at settings of the film forming mask, respectively.

According to the example, in formation of the first emission layer 32A, even in the case where an attachment substance or a partial design fault exists in the opening of the film forming mask and an unformed portion c is formed, there is no possibility that another unformed portion c is overlappingly formed in the same place in the subsequent film formation process. Therefore, the second emission layer 32B which is to be subsequently formed is formed to cover the unformed portion c which has been formed, with result that it is possible to form the single film formation region S in which no unformed portion c exists as a whole.

FIG. 4 is a diagram illustrating the organic EL panel and the method of producing it according to the embodiment of the invention, and showing the organic EL panel in plan view. When the film forming mask 1 shown in FIG. 2A is used to form luminescent areas 20R, 20G, or 20B, a film formation region S of the emission layer 32 formed in accordance with the opening 1A is formed in stripe shape as shown in FIG. 4. Each of the luminescent areas has the same color emitting light, and is linearly arranged.

In the method of producing the organic EL panel, when one film formation region S related to the component of the organic EL element 10, which is made of a uniform film forming material, is formed in accordance with one opening 1A of the film forming mask 1, film formation is performed at each time when the setting of the film forming mask 1 is changed. Specifically, when the film formation region S of the

emission layer **32** which is one of the components of the organic EL element **10** is to be formed to a predetermined thickness by a uniform film forming material, the first emission layer **32A** is first formed in accordance with the opening **1A** of the film forming mask **1**. Then, the setting of the film forming mask **1** is changed, and the second emission layer **32B** is formed on the first emission layer **32A** by the same material. Even when an unformed portion **c** is formed by a partial defect of the opening **1A** during the forming process of the first emission layer **32A**, the second emission layer **32B** in which another unformed portion **c** does not overlap with the unformed portion **c** is formed on the first emission layer as described above. As a result, the single film formation region **S** in which no unformed portion **c** exists as a whole can be formed. In the illustrated example, in order to form the red emitting layer **20R**, the film formation region **S** made of a material which emits red luminescence is formed. As a red luminescent material, for example, a material in which Alq₃ is used as a host material and DCJTb (a product of Eastman Kodak Company) is used as a guest material can be employed.

As other embodiments, hereinafter, specific examples of changing of setting of the film forming mask will be described.

In a first example, setting of a film forming mask is changed by moving an identical film forming mask by a distance which is equal to or smaller than a design margin of an opening. The term "design margin of an opening" means the width described below. Usually, a film forming mask is designed so that the size of each opening is slightly larger than the film formation region. The film forming mask has a margin which allows to be completely covered by a film forming material. In a state where the film forming mask is placed so that the center of the mask coincides with that of the film formation region, a marginal width is set between an outer edge of the film formation region and that of the opening. The width refers to "design margin of an opening". In the description, the movement of the film forming mask includes oscillation at an amplitude which is not larger than the design margin.

The embodiment will be described with reference to FIGS. **5A** and **5B**, taking as an example the case where the above-described emission layer **32** is formed. The opening **1A** of the film forming mask **1** is placed on the position indicated by the solid line. The first emission layer **32A** (not shown) is first formed on the luminescent areas **20**. As shown in FIG. **5A**, the film forming mask **1** is moved in the longitudinal direction of the stripe opening **1A** by a distance L_1 which is equal to or smaller than a design margin T_1 in the longitudinal direction of the opening **1A**, and the second emission layer **32B** (not shown) is then grown. Alternatively, as shown in FIG. **5B**, the film forming mask **1** may be moved in the lateral direction of the stripe opening **1A** by a distance L_2 which is equal to or smaller than a design margin T_2 in the lateral direction of the opening **1A**, and then the second emission layer **32B** (not shown) may be grown. Although the movements in the longitudinal and lateral directions of the opening **1A** are shown in this example, movement in any direction may be conducted as far as the movement distance is equal to or smaller than a design margin.

Even when a defect $1A_1$ or $1A_2$ which will cause an unformed portion exists in the opening **1A** and an unformed portion is formed in the emission layer in the formation process of the first emission layer, the defect $1A_1$ or $1A_2$ which will cause an unformed portion is moved by L_1 or L_2 in the process of growing the second emission layer. The emission layer is formed also on the unformed portion in the emission

layer, with the result that a single film formation region in which no unformed portion that exists as a whole is formed.

In a second example as shown in FIG. **5B**, setting of a film forming mask onto a film formation region is changed by moving different openings of an identical film forming mask having a pattern in which openings of the same shape are placed at a predetermined pitch. The embodiment will be described with reference to FIG. **6**, taking as an example the case where the above-described emission layer **32** is formed. The film forming mask **1** has a pattern in which stripe openings $1A-1, 1A-2, \dots$ are arranged at pitch p . The first emission layer is formed by using the film forming mask **1** which is placed in the illustrated state. Then, the film forming mask **1** is moved by a distance which is equal to an integer multiple of the pitch p , so that, for example, the opening $1A-1$ is placed on the film formation region which has been grown by using the opening $1A-2$. Thereafter, the second emission layer is formed.

According to the configuration, even when a defect $1A_3$ exists in the openings $1A-1$, a defect $1A_4$ exists in the openings $1A-2$, and the defects respectively cause unformed portions to be formed in the process of growing the first emission layer, it is considered that the defects of the openings do not exist in the same place, and hence the emission layer is grown in the process of growing the second emission layer, also on the unformed portion in the first emission layer. As a result, a single film formation region in which no unformed portion exists as a whole is formed.

FIG. **7** shows a specific example of the embodiment. In this example, openings $1A-1$ to $1A-4$ are larger than that of film formation region **s** that are to be patterned by the film forming mask **1** are formed in the film forming mask **1**. After a first film formation process, the film forming mask **1** is shifted by one pitch p , and a second film formation process is then conducted. In the illustrated example, emission layers are colored into three colors R, G, and B, and three places where a red emission layer is to be formed exist on the substrate **11**. By contrast, the four openings $1A-1$ to $1A-4$ are formed in the film forming mask **1**. The film forming mask **1** is placed in the state shown in FIG. **7A**, and the first emission layer is then formed. As shown in FIG. **7B**, the film forming mask **1** is moved by one pitch p . On the film formation region S_1 to S_4 where the first emission layer has been formed, a second emission layer of the same material is then formed.

In a third example, setting of a film forming mask is changed by replacement to a different film forming mask having the same pattern. Referring again FIG. **6**, the embodiment will be described with taking as an example the case where a emission layer is grown. First, a first emission layer is formed by using the film forming mask **1** which is placed in the illustrated state. Then, the film forming mask **1** is replaced with another film forming mask having the same pattern, and a second emission layer of the same material is grown.

According to the configuration, even when an unformed portion is formed in the film formation process of the first emission layer by using the film forming mask **1**, a defect does not exist in the same places of the different film forming masks, and hence the emission layer is formed in the film formation process of the second emission layer, also on the unformed portion in the first emission layer. As a result, a single film formation region in which no unformed portion that exists as a whole is formed.

In the embodiments described above, the film formation of the emission layer **32** is conducted by the two processes of respectively growing the two layers or the first emission layer **32A** and the second emission layer **32B**. Alternatively, the

emission layer may be divided into plural or three or more sublayers, and the emission layer may be formed by plural film formation processes.

When a film formation region where no unformed portion exists in the process of growing an emission layer is formed as in the above-described embodiments, the emission area can be prevented from being reduced, so that a preset brightness can be ensured. Furthermore, an EL layer which is adjacent to the emission layer is not formed in an unformed portion. Therefore, an electroluminescent color, which is different from a preset one, does not occur, and the chromaticity is not changed. As a result, even when dust or the like attaches to an opening of a film forming mask or a defect such as a partial design fault exists in the opening itself, excellent luminescence performance can be ensured.

Although the embodiments have been described with focusing on the film formation of the emission layer, the invention is not limited to them. The invention can be applied also to a pattern formation process using a film forming mask, on components of an organic EL element, such as another organic layer (irrespective of whether the layer is one which is formed so as to correspond to the electroluminescent color, or one which is formed so as to be common to all colors), an electrode, an insulating film, and a sealing film. In pattern formation of an electrode, elimination of an unformed portion allows the electric resistance to be uniform, whereby driving can be stabilized in the whole display screen. In pattern formation of an insulating film or a sealing film, elimination of an unformed portion enables an excellent insulating or sealing performance to be ensured.

Although the embodiments have been described with focusing on an organic EL panel which is formed so as to emit multi colors, the organic EL panel of the invention is not restricted to such a panel, and may be a panel of monochromatic luminescence, or plural- or two or more-color luminescence. In order to realize an organic EL panel of plural-color luminescence, anyone of methods including the above-described separate-color region method can be employed as far as the method uses a film forming mask to form a film formation region. Examples of such methods are: a method (CF method or CCM method) in which a luminescent layer of a mono-color such as white or blue is combined with a color converting layer based on a color filter or a fluorescent layer; a method (photo bleaching method) in which plural-color luminescence is realized by, for example, irradiating a emission layer of a mono-color luminescent layer with an electromagnetic wave; and a printing method which uses a polymer material.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

Hereinafter, specific examples of constituting members of an organic EL panel in which the above-described embodiments can be employed. A production steps will be described as examples of the invention.

FIG. 8 is a sectional view schematically showing the structure of an organic EL panel which is an example of the invention.

In the organic EL panel 2, the above-described organic EL element 10 is formed on the substrate 11. As described above, the organic EL element 10 has a structure in which the organic layers 30 are sandwiched between the lower electrode 12 and the upper electrode 14, and the insulating film 13 partitions the lower electrode 12 so as to form unit luminescent areas. A sealing member 40 which covers the organic EL element 10 is

bonded via an adhesive agent 41 onto the substrate 11. A desiccant 42 is attached to the inner face of the sealing member 40.

Hereinafter, each of the components will be described more specifically.

a. Electrodes: Either of the lower electrode 12 and the upper electrode 14 can be used as an anode or a cathode. The anode is made of a material having a work function which is higher than that of the cathode, or configured by a film of a metal such as chromium (Cr), molybdenum (Mo), nickel (Ni), or platinum (Pt), or a transparent conductor film of, for example, a metal oxide film such as ITO or IZO. By contrast, the cathode material has a work function which is lower than that of the anode. The cathode material may be aluminum (Al) or magnesium (Mg), an amorphous semiconductor such as doped polyaniline or doped polyphenylene-vinylene, or an oxide such as Cr_2O_3 , NiO, or Mn_2O_5 . In the case where both the lower and upper electrodes are made of a transparent material, a configuration is employed in which a reflection film is disposed on the side of the electrode opposite to the light emission side.

b. Organic layers (organic electroluminescent layer): Usually, the organic material layers 30 are formed by a combination of the hole-transport layer 31, the emission layer 32, and the electron-transport layer 33 as in the above-described embodiment (see FIG. 3). Alternatively, plural emission layers 32, hole-transport layers 31, and electron-transport layers 33 may be stacked in place of a single-layer stack. One or both of the hole-transport layer 31 and the electron-transport layer 33 may be omitted. Organic layers such as a hole-injection layer and an electron-injection layer may be inserted in accordance with the usage of the panel. The materials of the hole-transport layer, the emission layer, and the electron-transport layer can be suitably selected from conventionally known materials (including a fluorescent material, a phosphorous material, a low-molecular weight material, and a polymer material).

c. Adhesive agent: As the adhesive agent 41, useful are adhesive agents such as those of the thermosetting type, the chemical-setting (two-component) type, and the photo (UV) setting type. As the material of the adhesive agent, an acrylic resin, an epoxy resin, polyester, polyolefin, or the like can be used. The use of a UV curing epoxy resin is particularly preferable.

d. Desiccant: The desiccant 42 is formed by: a physical desiccant such as zeolite, silica gel, carbon, or carbon nanotubes; a chemical desiccant such as an alkali metal oxide, a metal halide, or chloride peroxide; a desiccant in which an organic metal complex is dissolved in a petroleum solvent such as toluene, xylene, or an aliphatic organic solvent; or a desiccant in which desiccant particles are dispersed in a transparent binder such as polyethylene, polyisoprene, or polyvinyl cinnamate.

e. Sealing member (sealing film): The sealing member 40 can be configured by a member such as: that in which a sealing recess (such as a one-step depression, or a two-step depression including a depression for placement of the desiccant) is formed by a process such as press molding, etching, or blasting in a sealing substrate that can be selected from glass, plastic, or metal, and preferably made of glass; or that in which plate glass is used, and which cooperates with a supporting substrate to form a sealing space by means of spacers made of glass (or plastic). The sealing configuration is not limited to them, and the organic EL element 10 may be sealed by a sealing film. The sealing film can be formed by a single-layer film or a stack of plural protective films. The sealing film may be made of either one of an inorganic mate-

rial and an organic material. Examples of an inorganic material are: nitrides such as SiN, AlN, and GaN; oxides such as SiO₂, Al₂O₃, Ta₂O₅, ZnO, and GeO₂; carbonitrides such as SiCN; metal fluorides; and metal films. Examples of an organic material are an epoxy resin, an acrylic resin, polyparaxylene, fluorinated polymers (perfluoroolefin, perfluoroether, tetrafluoroethylene, chlorotrifluoroethylene, dichlorodifluoroethylene, and the like), metal alkoxides (CH₃OM, C₂H₅O, and the like), a polyimide precursor, and a perylene compound. The manner of stacking, and the material are adequately selected in accordance with the design of the organic EL element.

f. Production method: The organic EL element **10** is produced in the following manner. First, the lower electrode **12** of ITO or the like functioning as an anode is formed in the form of a thin film on the glass substrate **11** by a method such as vapor deposition or sputtering, and then patterned to a desired shape by photolithography. Next, the organic layers **30** are formed by: a wet process including a coating method such as the spin coating method, or the dipping method, and a printing method such as the screen printing method or the ink jet method; or a dry process such as the vapor deposition method or the laser transfer method. For example, materials of a hole-transport layer, a emission layer, an electron-transport layer are sequentially stacked by the vapor deposition method.

At this time, the above-described film forming mask **1** is used in the formation of the emission layer, so that separate color emission layers are formed in accordance with plural electroluminescent colors. In the formation of separate colors, an organic material which produces luminescences of three colors or RGB, or a combination of organic materials forms a emission layer in pixel regions corresponding to RGB. As in the embodiment described above, film growth using the same material is conducted two or more times on one luminescent areas, whereby an unformed portion is prevented from being produced in the luminescent areas.

Finally, the upper electrode **14** in the form of a metal thin film is formed as a cathode configured by several stripes which are orthogonal to the lower electrode **12**, so that a matrix structure is formed by the lower electrode **12** and the upper electrode **14**. The thin film of the upper electrode **14** is formed by a method such as vapor deposition or sputtering.

A step of sealing the sealing member **40** and the substrate **11** via the adhesive agent **41** is conducted in the following manner. An adequate amount (about 0.1 to 0.5 wt. %) of spacers (preferably, spacers made of glass or plastic) having a diameter of 1 to 300 μm is mixed with an adhesive agent of a UV curing epoxy resin. The mixture is applied by using a dispenser or the like to a place of the substrate **11** corresponding to the side wall of the sealing member **40**. Under an atmosphere of an inert gas such as argon gas, thereafter, the sealing member **40** butts against the substrate **11** via the adhesive agent **41**. The adhesive agent **41** is then irradiated with UV rays from the side of the substrate **11** (or from the side of the sealing substrate) to be cured. In this way, the organic EL element **10** is sealed in the state where the sealing space between the sealing member **40** and the substrate **11** is filled with the inert gas such as argon gas.

A design change which is applied to the examples without departing from the configuration of the invention falls within the scope of the invention. In place of the passive driving method, for example, the active driving method in which the

panel is driven by TFTs may be employed as the method of driving the organic EL panel. The light emission from the organic EL element **10** may be of the bottom emission type in which light is emitted from the side of the substrate **11**, or of the top emission type in which light is emitted in the opposite direction.

According to the embodiments and experiments which are configured as described above, even when a defect such as an attachment substance or a partial design fault exists in an opening of a film forming mask, an unformed portion is not formed in a designed film formation region, and functions of various portions corresponding to a preset film formation region can be exerted. Specifically, in an organic EL panel and a method of producing it, an unformed portion of a film formation region is eliminated, so that a leakage current can be prevented from flowing, partial brightness or chromaticity change can be prevented from occurring, and excellent insulating and sealing performances can be ensured.

What is claimed:

1. An organic electroluminescent panel comprising:
 - a substrate;
 - a pair of electrodes positioned relative to the substrate; and
 - at least one of an organic electroluminescent element including at least one of an organic layer having an emission layer disposed between the pair of electrodes; wherein a surface-emitting element due to luminescent areas of the organic electroluminescent element is formed on the substrate, and plural organic electroluminescent elements are arranged to form a display region, wherein one film formation region is related to the organic electroluminescent element which is made of an uniform film forming material is formed in accordance with one opening of the film forming mask, and wherein the one film formation region is formed by plural layers which are formed respectively at each setting of the film forming mask, and wherein the emission layer is formed by plural layers of a first emission layer and a second emission layer, and the second emission layer is formed on the first emission layer, and wherein the second emission layer is formed by same material as the first emission layer.
2. The organic electroluminescent panel according to claim 1, wherein the emission layer is formed on a hole-transport layer and an electron transport layer is formed on the emission layer.
3. An organic electroluminescent panel comprising:
 - a substrate;
 - a pair of electrodes positioned relative to the substrate; and
 - at least one of an organic electroluminescent element including at least one of an organic layer having an emission layer disposed between the pair of electrodes; wherein the emission layer is formed by plural layers of a first emission layer and a second emission layer, and the second emission layer is formed on the first emission; and wherein the second emission layer is formed by same material as the first emission layer.
4. The organic electroluminescent panel according to claim 3, wherein the emission layer is formed on a hole-transport layer and an electron transport layer is formed on the emission layer.

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摘要(译)

形成在基板上的有机电致发光元件具有层结构，其中包括有机电致发光层的有机层夹在一对电极之间。由包括第一发光层和第二发光层的多个层形成由根据成膜掩模的一个开口的均匀成膜材料制成的发光层的膜形成区域。在成膜掩模的每个设置处形成层。

