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(51) **Int. Cl.**
H01L 51/52 (2006.01)
H01L 27/32 (2006.01)
H01L 51/56 (2006.01)

An organic EL display panel includes a substrate, pixel electrodes, a current feeding auxiliary electrode layer provided to extend in a column direction over gaps between the pixel electrodes adjacent in a row direction, light emitting layers that each contain an organic light emitting material and are disposed over the pixel electrodes, a functional layer provided ranging over the light emitting layers and over the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer, and a common electrode layer provided continuously over the functional layer. A part of the functional layer is lacking or thinned. The common electrode layer is in direct contact with the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer exposed due to the lacking of the functional layer, or is electrically connected to the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer at a lower resistance at the thinned part of the functional layer than at other parts of the functional layer.

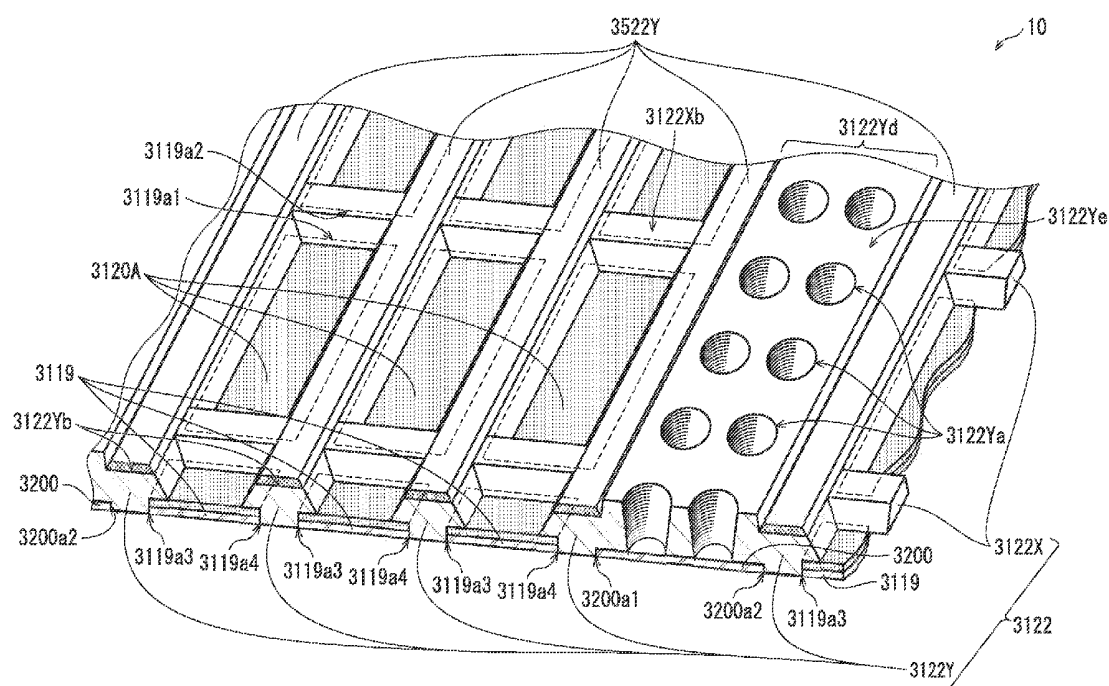


FIG. 1

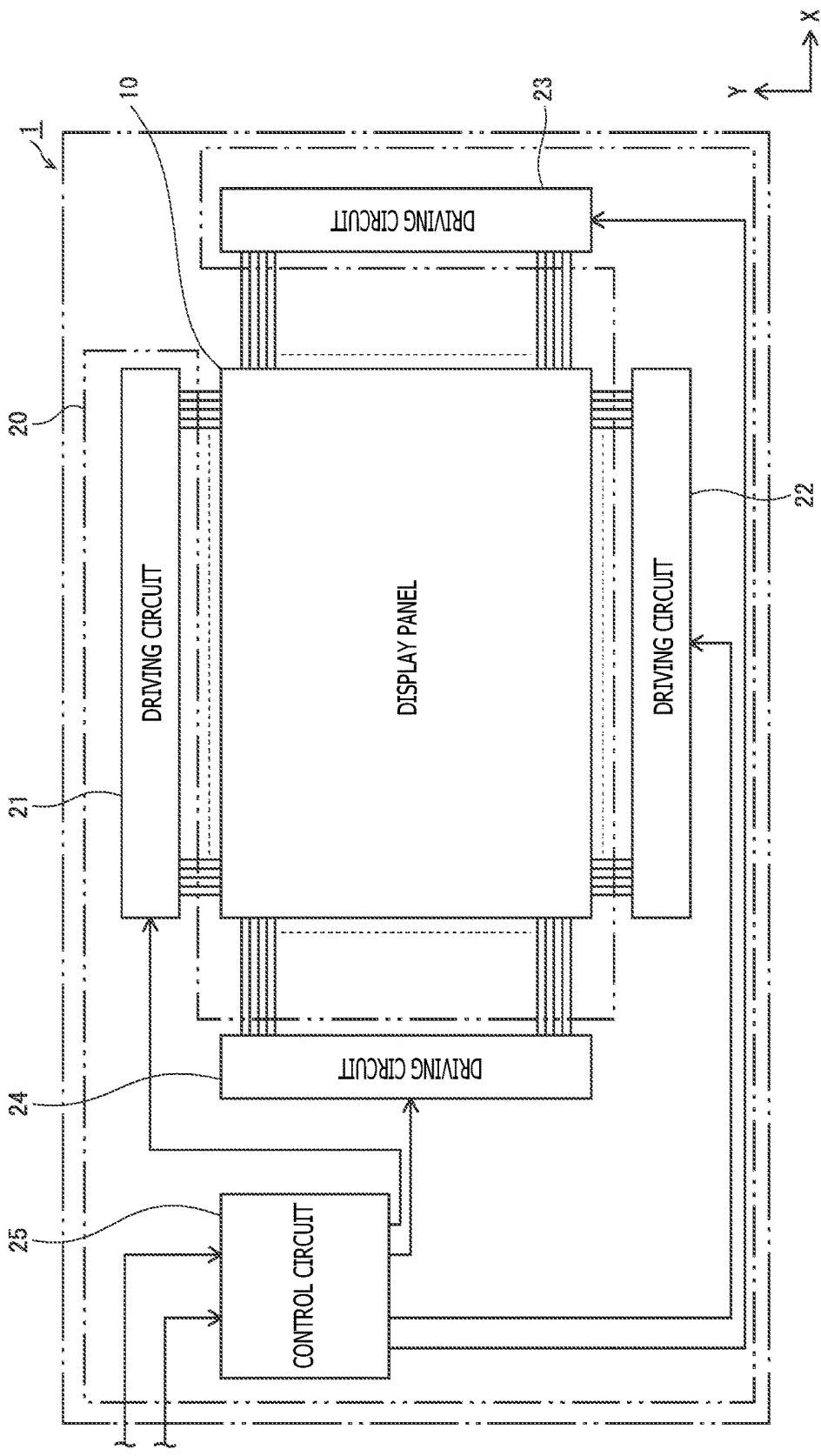


FIG. 2

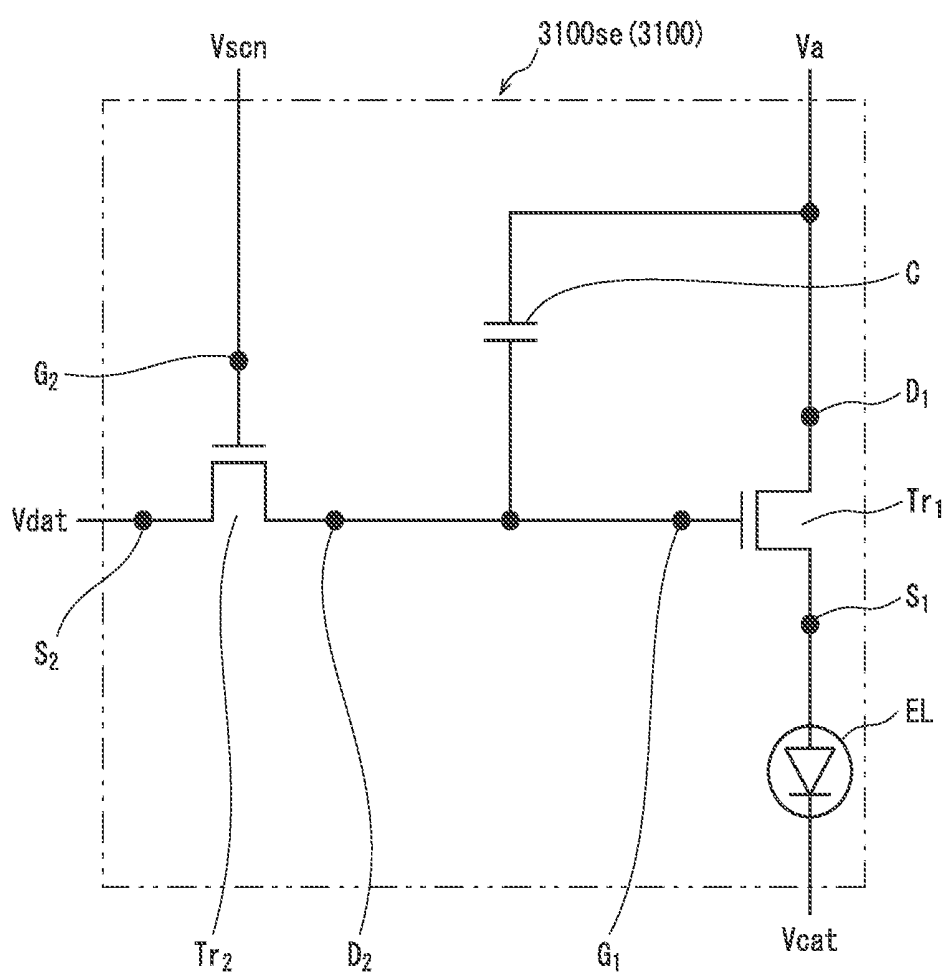


FIG. 4

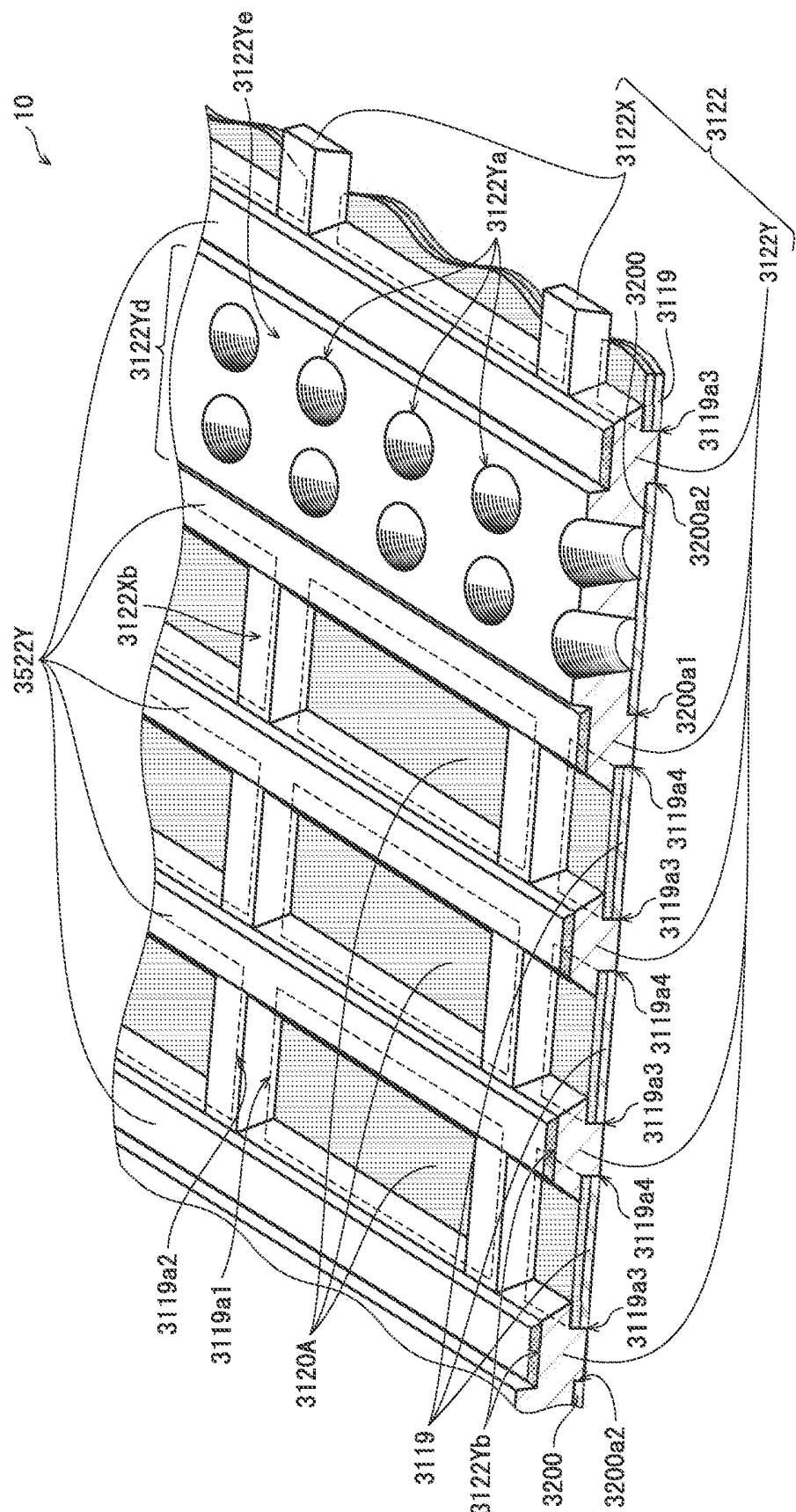


FIG. 8 A



FIG. 8 B

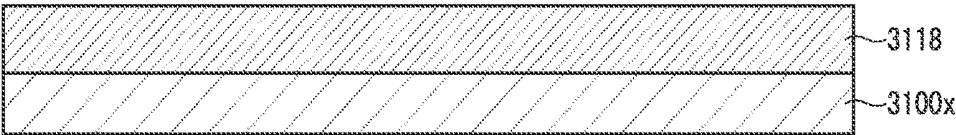


FIG. 8 C

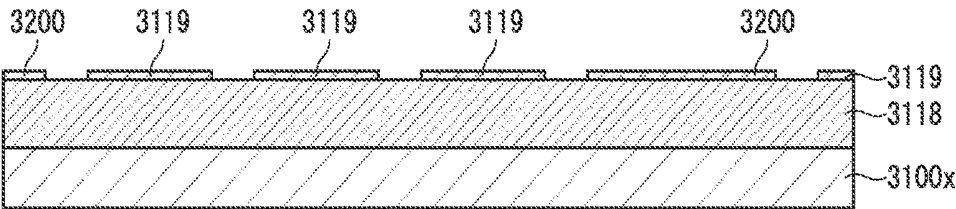


FIG. 8 D

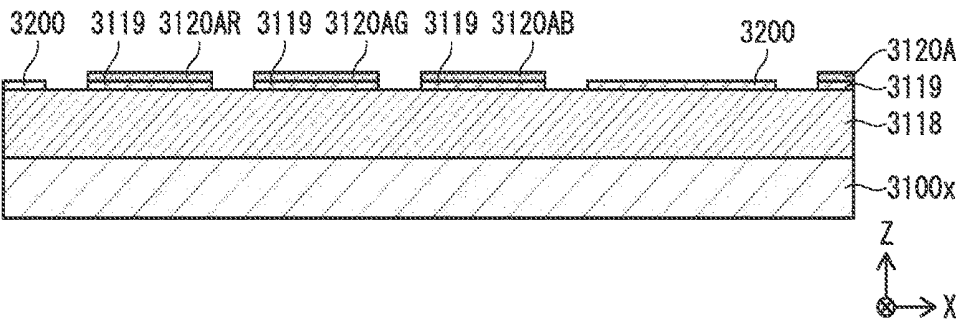


FIG. 9A

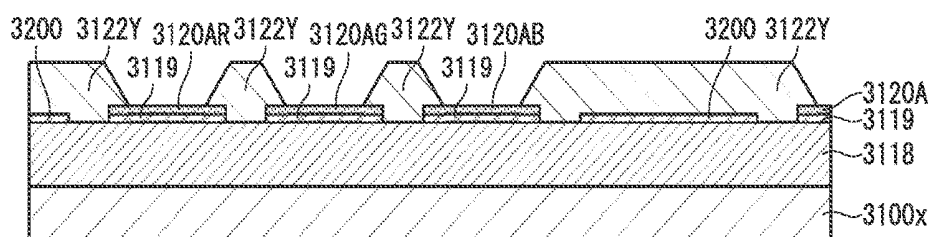


FIG. 9B

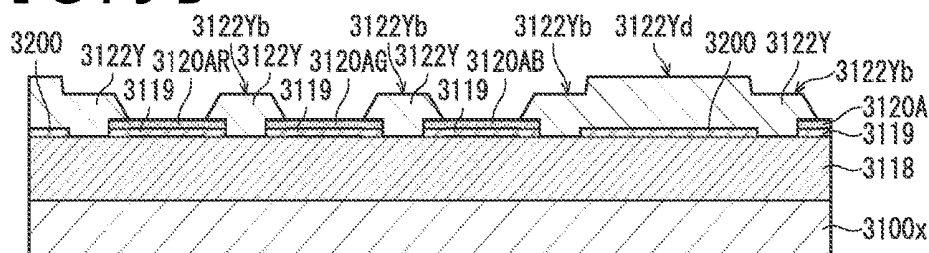


FIG. 9C

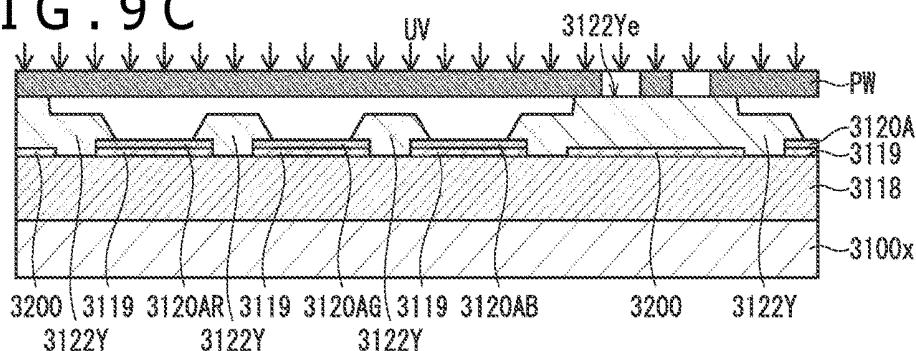


FIG. 9D

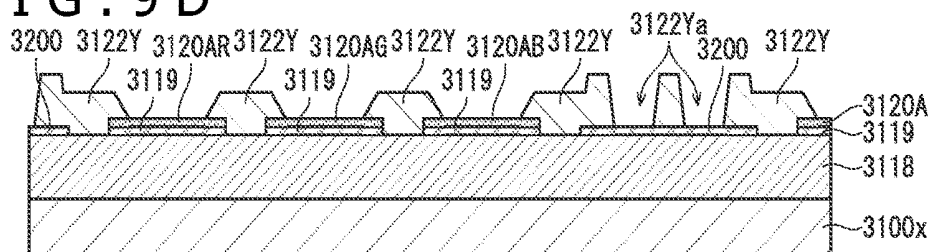


FIG. 9E

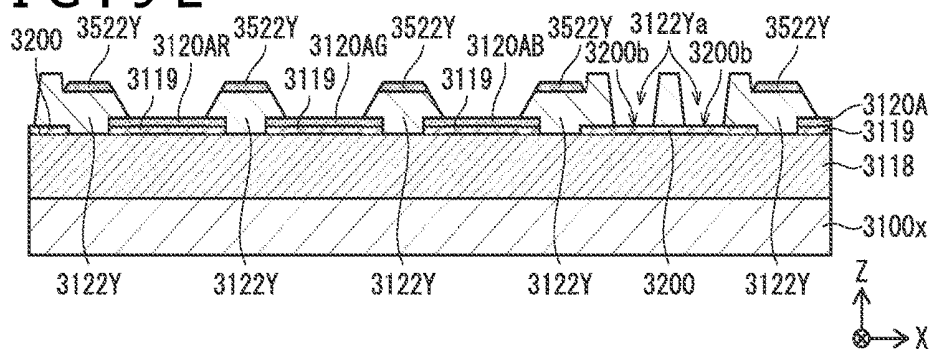


FIG. 11

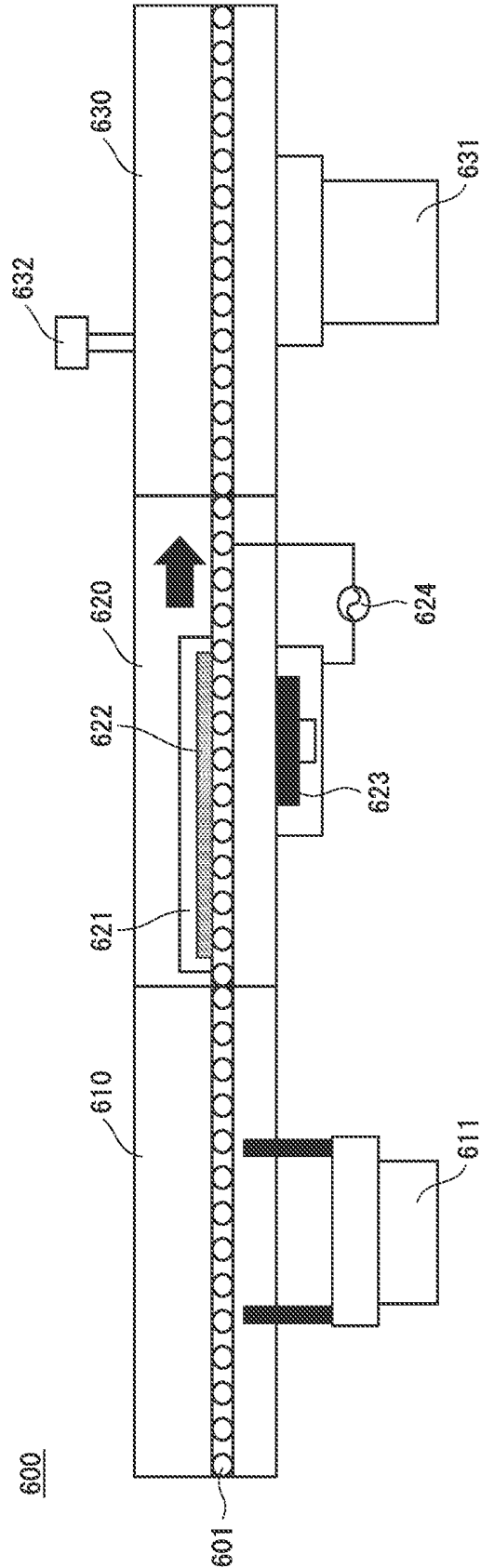


FIG. 12 A



FIG. 12 B

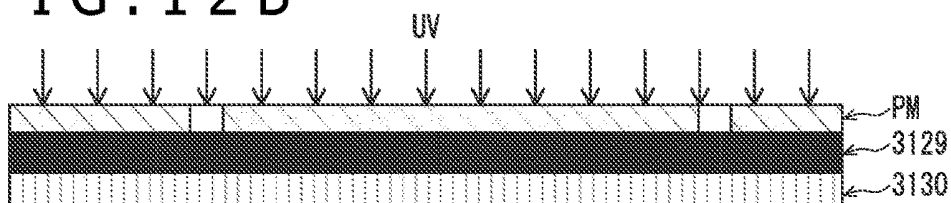


FIG. 12 C

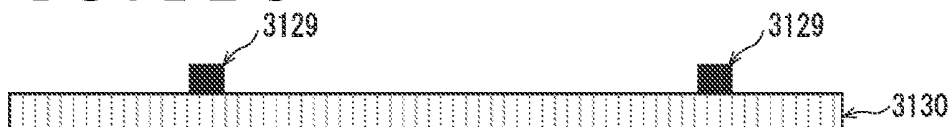


FIG. 12 D

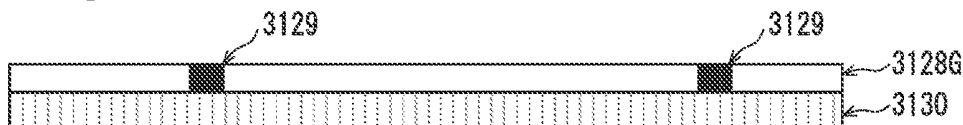


FIG. 12 E

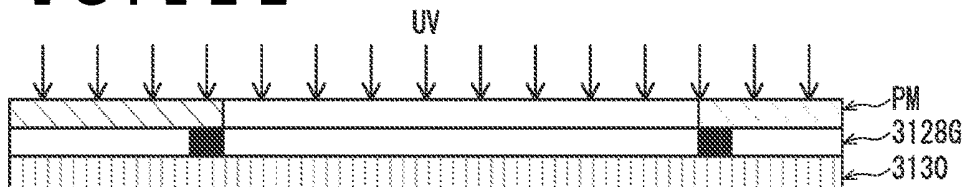


FIG. 12 F

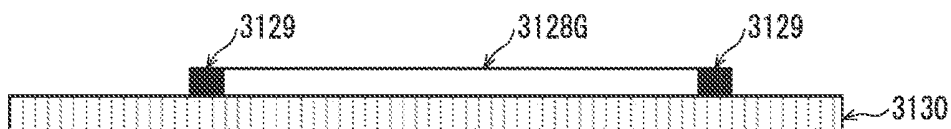


FIG. 12 G

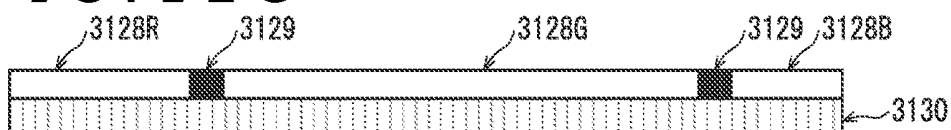


FIG. 14

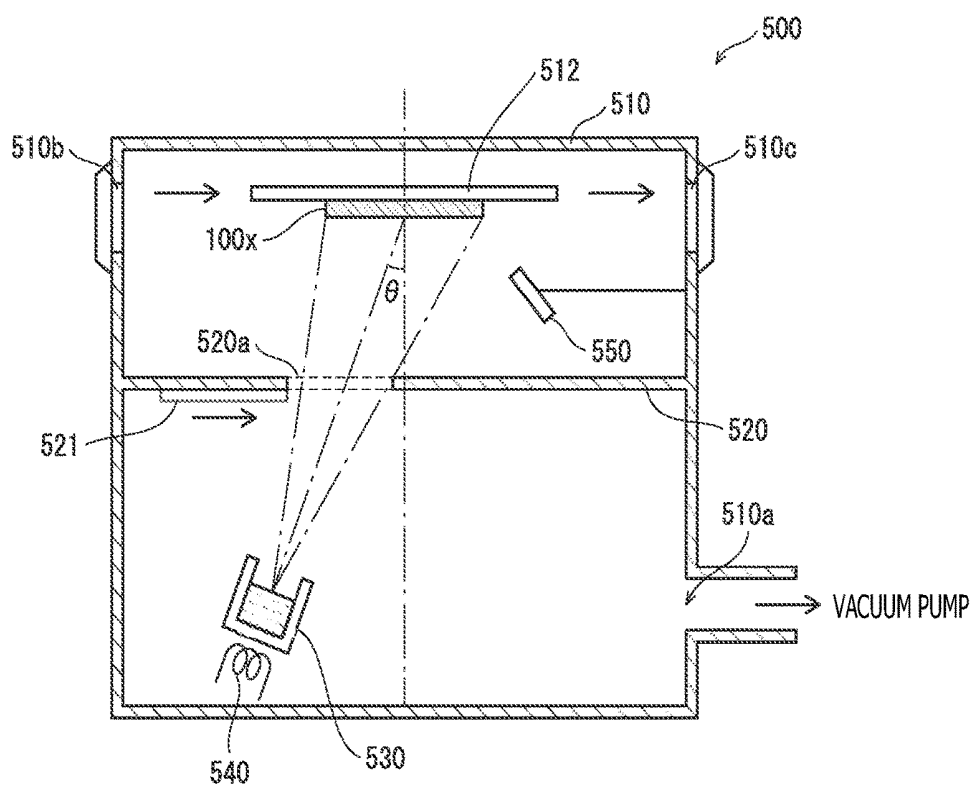


FIG. 15A

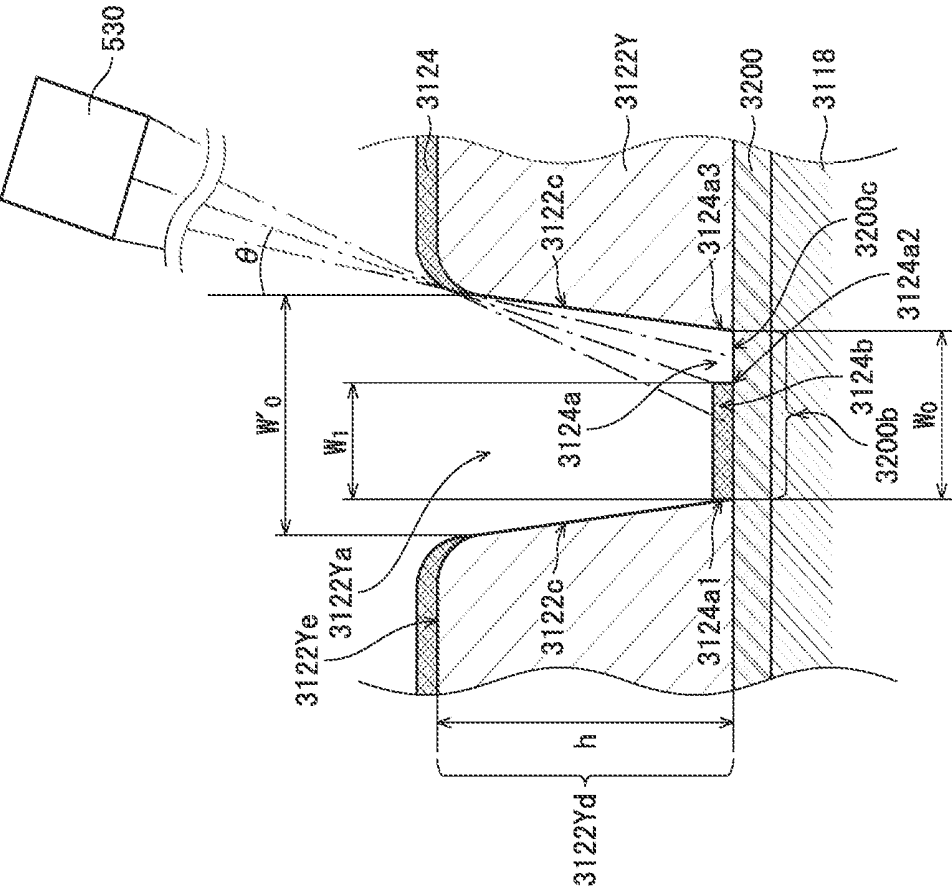


FIG. 15B

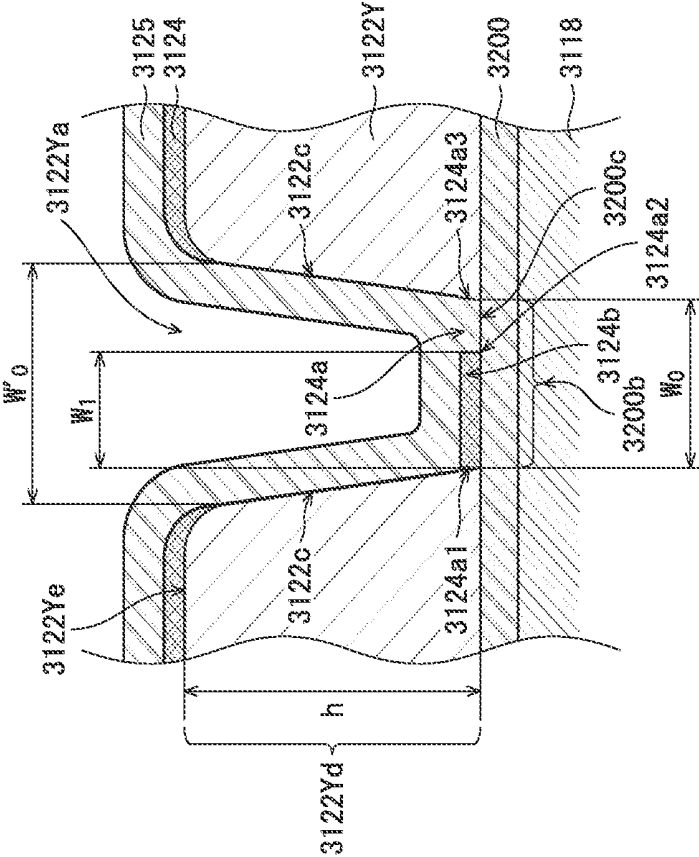


FIG. 17A

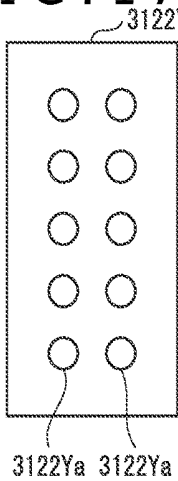


FIG. 17C



FIG. 17B

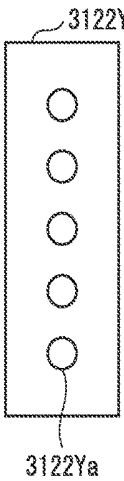


FIG. 17D

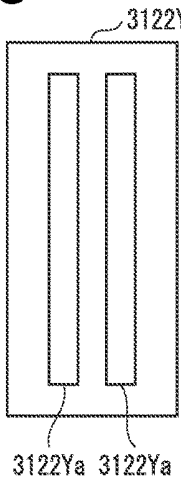


FIG. 18

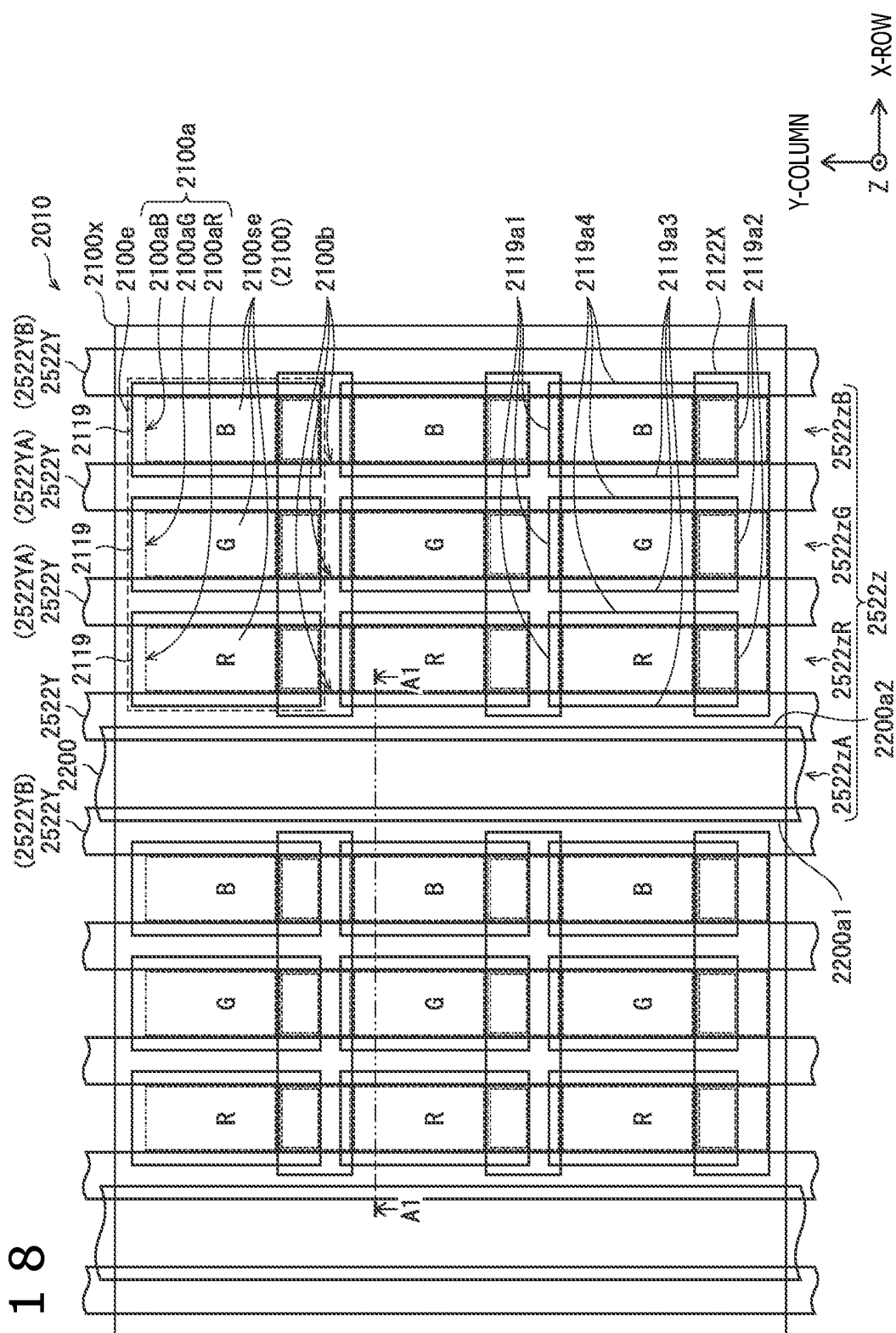


FIG. 20

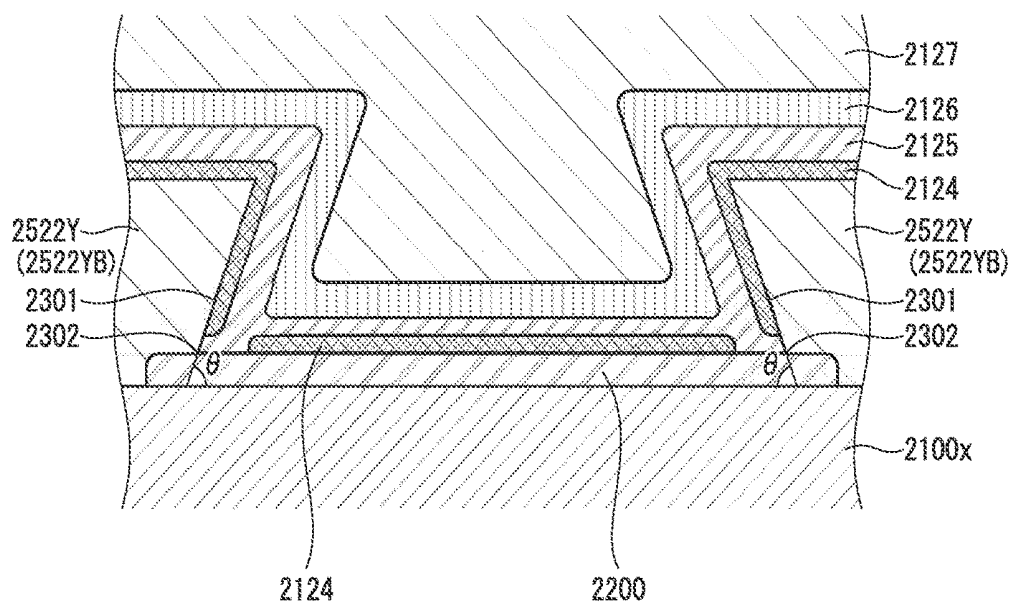


FIG. 21A

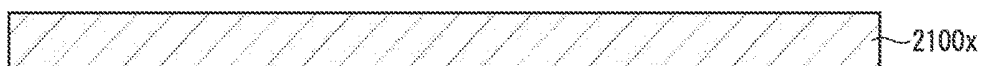


FIG. 21B

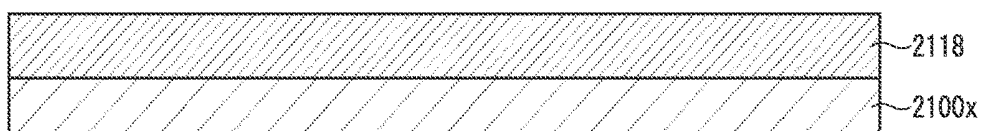


FIG. 21C

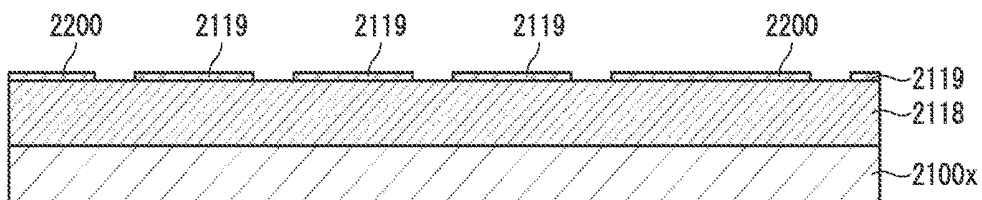


FIG. 21D

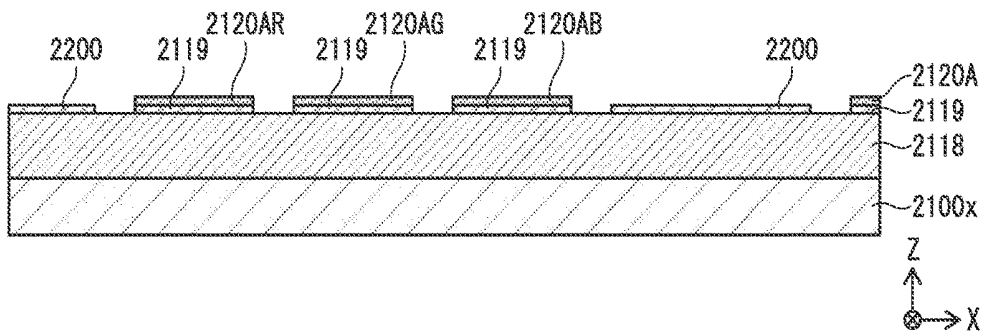


FIG. 22A

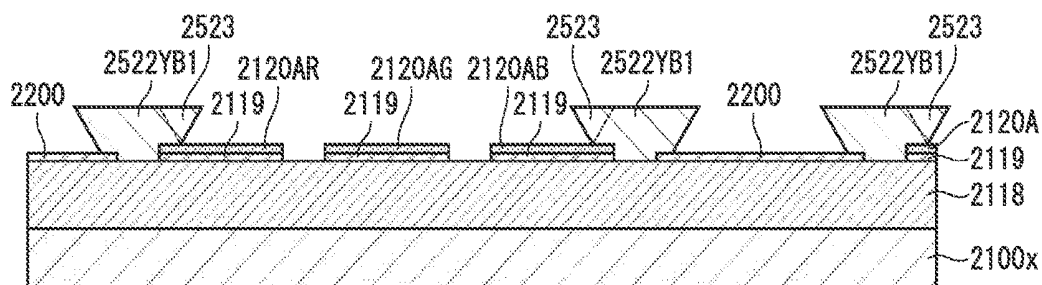


FIG. 22B

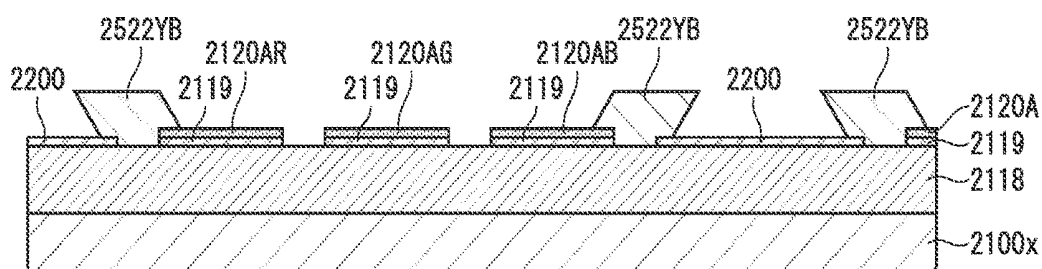


FIG. 22C

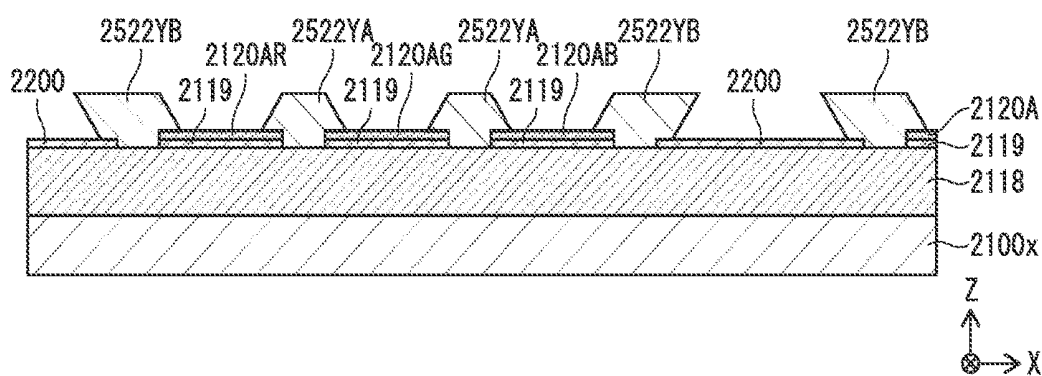


FIG. 23A

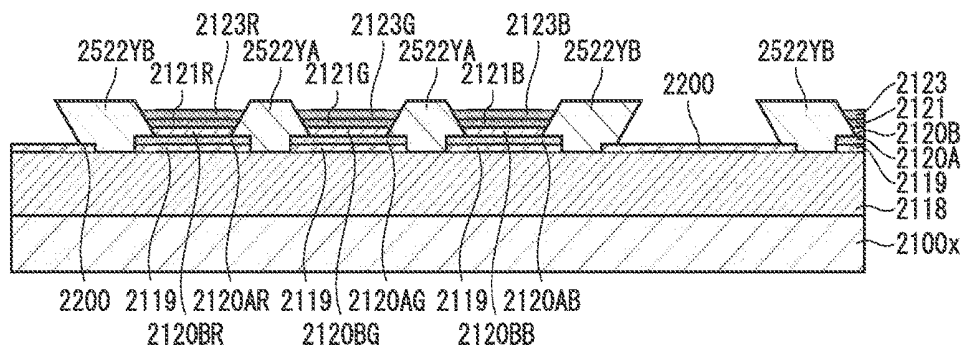


FIG. 23B

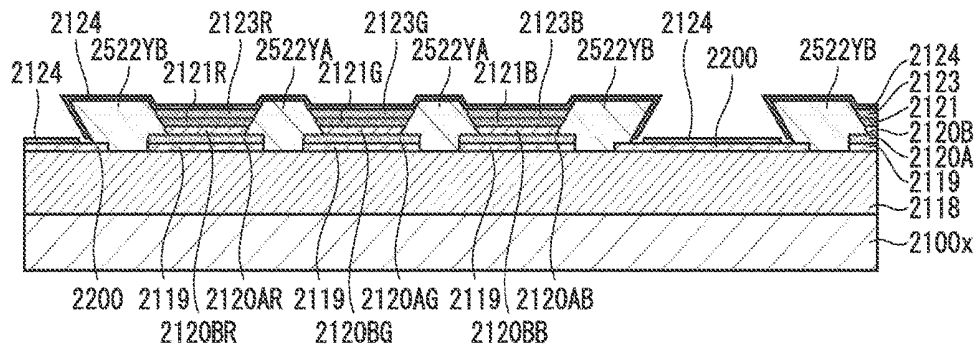


FIG. 23C

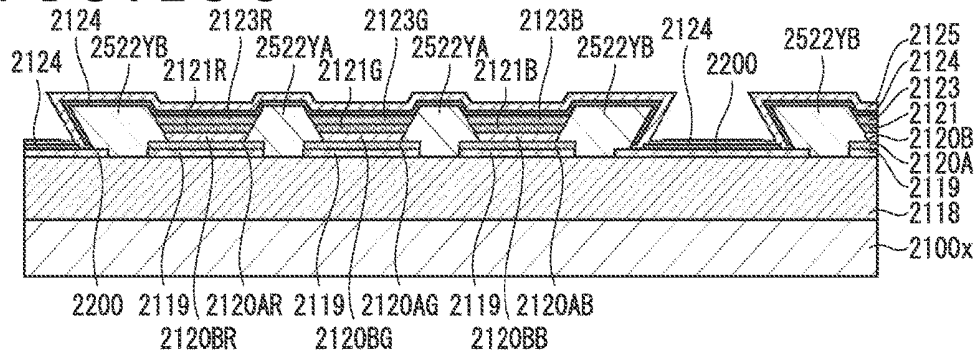


FIG. 23D

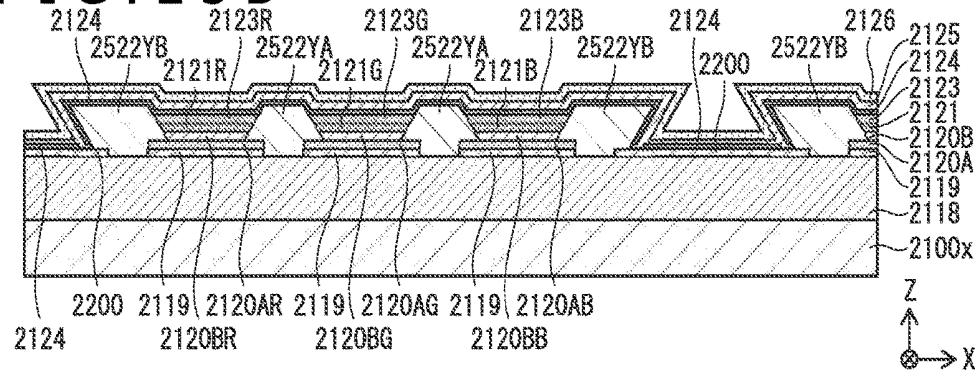


FIG. 24A



FIG. 24B

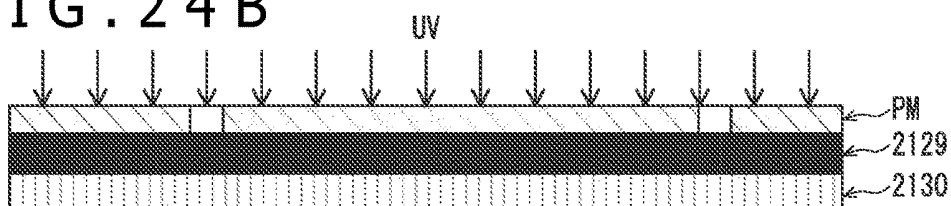


FIG. 24C

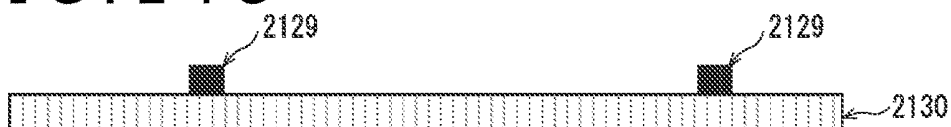


FIG. 24D

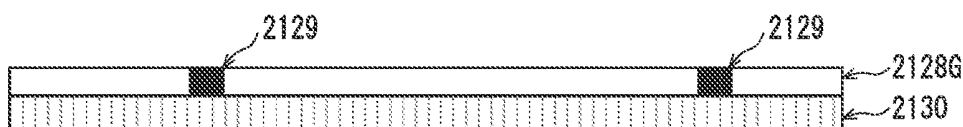


FIG. 24E

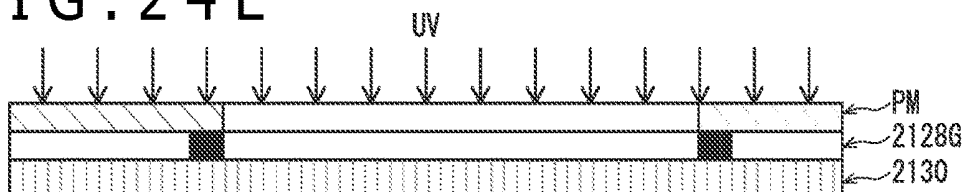


FIG. 24F

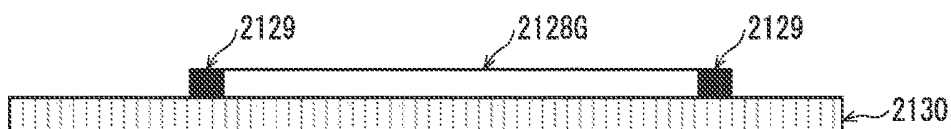


FIG. 24G

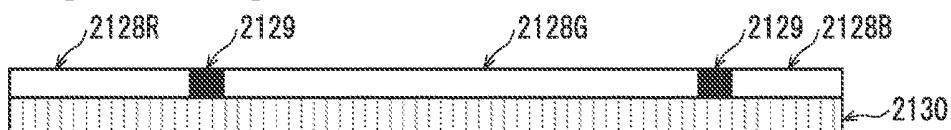


FIG. 25A

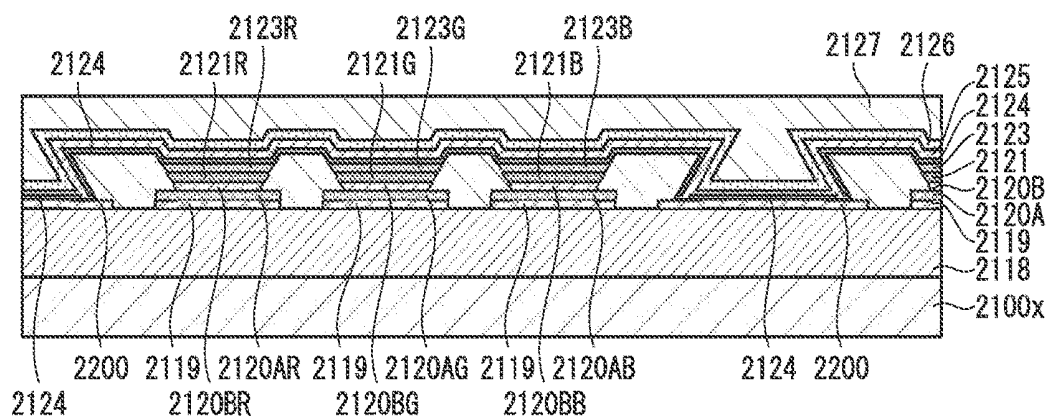


FIG. 25B

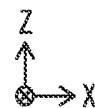
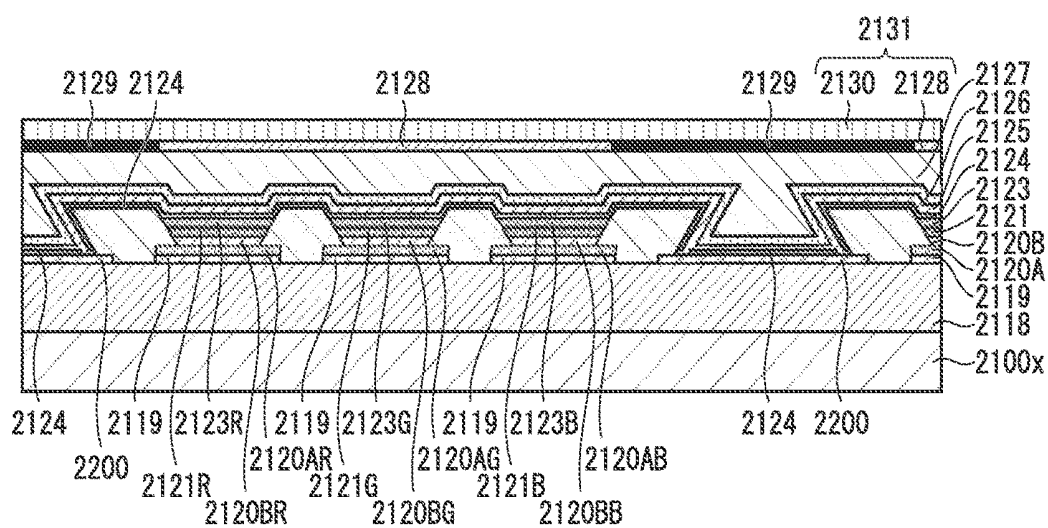
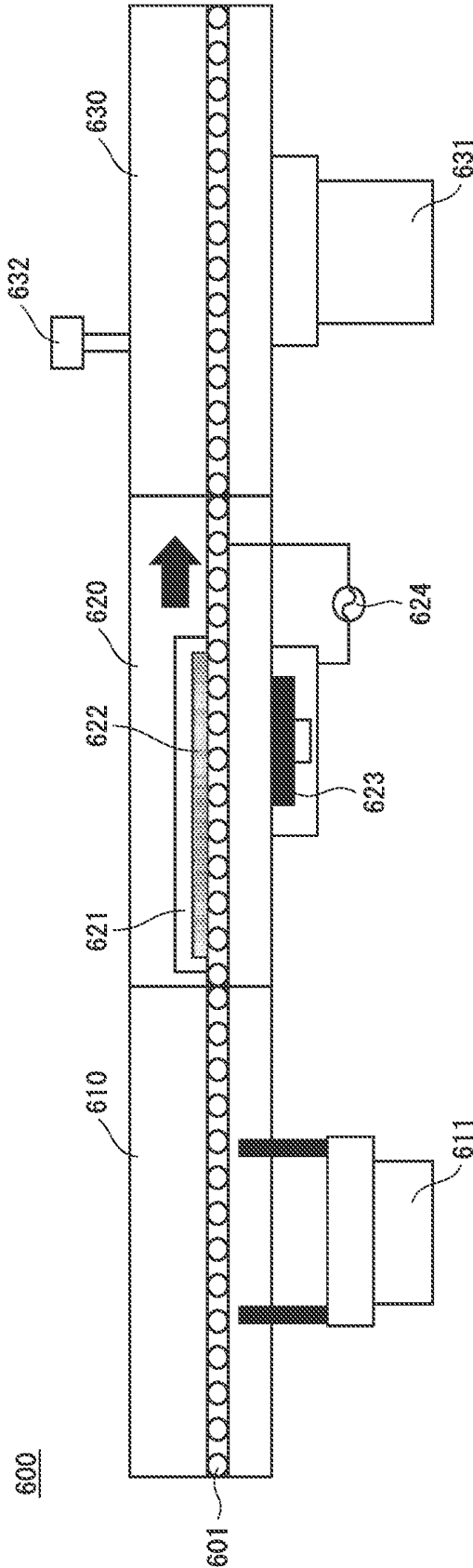


FIG. 26



ORGANIC EL DISPLAY PANEL AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING ORGANIC EL DISPLAY PANEL

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This application is based on JP Application No. 2017-026911 filed in Japan on Feb. 16, 2017, and JP Application No. 2017-054063 filed in Japan on Mar. 21, 2017. Each of the above-referenced applications is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

[0002] The present disclosure relates to an organic electroluminescence (EL) display panel using organic EL elements utilizing electroluminescence of organic materials and a method of manufacturing an EL display panel using the same.

[0003] In recent years, as a display panel for use in a display apparatus such as a digital television set, an organic EL display panel in which a plurality of organic EL elements are arranged in a matrix pattern on a substrate has been put to practical use.

[0004] In an organic EL display panel, in general, a light emitting layer of each organic EL element and the adjacent organic EL element are partitioned from each other by an insulating layer formed from an insulating material. In an organic EL display panel for color display, organic EL elements form sub-pixels that emit light in RGB colors individually, and the RGB sub-pixels adjacent to one another are combined to form a unit pixel in color display.

[0005] The organic EL element has a basic structure in which a light emitting layer containing an organic light emitting material is disposed between a pair of electrodes. At the time of driving, a voltage is impressed between the pair of electrodes, and light is emitted attendant on recombination of holes and electrons injected into the light emitting layer.

[0006] An organic EL element of the top emission type has an element structure in which a pixel electrode, organic layers (inclusive of a light emitting layer), and a common electrode are sequentially provided over a substrate. Light from the light emitting layer is reflected by the pixel electrode formed from a light reflecting material, and is emitted upward from the common electrode formed from a light transmitting material.

[0007] The common electrode is often formed over the whole surface of the substrate. When the electric resistance of the common electrode is high, sufficient current supply is not attained, due to a voltage drop, and light emission efficiency is thereby lowered, at parts far from a current feeding part. This may lead to generation of variability in luminance.

[0008] In view of this problem, Japanese Patent Laid-open No. 2002-318556 proposes a technique of providing an auxiliary electrode for lowering the resistance of the common electrode. Specifically, Japanese Patent Laid-open No. 2002-318556 discloses a configuration in which an auxiliary electrode is formed in the same layer as a pixel electrode, and is electrically connected to the common electrode while being electrically insulated from the pixel electrode.

SUMMARY

[0009] In an aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided an organic EL display panel having a plurality of pixel electrodes arranged in a matrix pattern over a substrate and having a light emitting layer over each of the pixel electrodes. The organic EL display panel includes the substrate, the plurality of pixel electrodes arranged in a matrix pattern with gaps therebetween over the substrate, a current feeding auxiliary electrode layer provided in the state of being not in contact with the pixel electrodes adjacent to an electrode forming region that is secured to extend in a column direction over at least one of the gaps between the pixel electrodes adjacent in a row direction over the substrate, a plurality of the light emitting layers that each contain an organic light emitting material and are disposed over the plurality of pixel electrodes, a functional layer provided ranging over the plurality of light emitting layers and over the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer, and a common electrode layer provided in the state of extending continuously over the functional layer. A part of the functional layer is lacking or thinned, and the common electrode layer is in direct contact with the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer exposed due to the lacking of the functional layer, or is electrically connected to the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer at a lower resistance at the thinned part of the functional layer than at other parts of the functional layer.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] These and the other objects, advantages and features of the invention will become apparent from the following description thereof taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings which illustrate a specific embodiment of the invention. In the drawings:

[0011] FIG. 1 is a schematic block diagram depicting circuit configuration of an organic EL display apparatus 1 according to an embodiment;

[0012] FIG. 2 is a schematic circuit diagram depicting circuit configuration in each sub-pixel 3100_{se} of an organic EL display panel 10 used in the organic EL display apparatus 1;

[0013] FIG. 3 is a schematic plan view depicting a part of the organic EL display panel 10;

[0014] FIG. 4 is a perspective view, from an oblique upper side, of a part of an insulating layer 3122 that corresponds to a unit pixel 3100_e of the organic EL display panel 10;

[0015] FIG. 5 is a schematic sectional view taken along line A1-A1 of FIG. 3;

[0016] FIG. 6 is a schematic sectional view taken along line A2-A2 of FIG. 3;

[0017] FIG. 7 is a schematic sectional view taken along line A3-A3 of FIG. 3;

[0018] FIGS. 8A, 8B, 8C and 8D are schematic sectional views taken at the same position as A1-A1 of FIG. 3, illustrating a state in each step in manufacture of the organic EL display panel 10;

[0019] FIGS. 9A, 9B, 9C, 9D and 9E are schematic sectional views taken at the same position as A1-A1 of FIG. 3, illustrating a state in each step in the manufacture of the organic EL display panel 10;

[0020] FIGS. 10A, 10B, 10C and 10D are schematic sectional views taken at the same position as A1-A1 of FIG. 3, illustrating a state in each step in the manufacture of the organic EL display panel 10;

[0021] FIG. 11 is a schematic drawing depicting a sputtering system 600 used for forming a common electrode layer 3125;

[0022] FIGS. 12A, 12B, 12C, 12D, 12E, 12F and 12G are schematic sectional views taken at the same position as A1-A1 of FIG. 3, illustrating a state in each step in the manufacture of the organic EL display panel 10;

[0023] FIGS. 13A and 13B are schematic sectional views taken at the same position as A1-A1 of FIG. 3, illustrating a state in each step in the manufacture of the organic EL display panel 10;

[0024] FIG. 14 is a schematic drawing depicting a vapor deposition system 500 used for forming an electrode transport layer 3124;

[0025] FIG. 15A is an enlarged view of the vicinity of an auxiliary electrode layer 3200 depicted in FIG. 4 after formation of the electron transport layer 3124, and FIG. 15B is an enlarged view of the vicinity of the auxiliary electrode layer 3200 depicted in FIG. 4 after formation of the common electrode layer 3125;

[0026] FIG. 16 is a perspective view, from an oblique upper side, of a part of the insulating layer 3122 that corresponds to a pixel 3100e of an organic EL display panel 10A according to a modification 1;

[0027] FIGS. 17A, 17B, 17C and 17D are drawings depicting modifications of the shape of a through-hole 3122a in an insulating layer 3122Y;

[0028] FIG. 18 is a schematic plan view depicting a part of an organic EL display panel 2010;

[0029] FIG. 19 is a schematic sectional view taken along line A1-A1 of FIG. 18;

[0030] FIG. 20 is an enlarged view of the vicinity of an auxiliary electrode layer 2200 depicted in FIG. 19;

[0031] FIGS. 21A, 21B, 21C and 21D are schematic sectional views taken at the same position as A1-A1 of FIG. 3, illustrating a state in each step in the manufacture of the organic EL display panel 10;

[0032] FIGS. 22A, 22B and 22C are schematic sectional views taken at the same position as A1-A1 of FIG. 3, illustrating a state in each step in the manufacture of the organic EL display panel 10;

[0033] FIGS. 23A, 23B, 23C and 23D are schematic sectional views taken at the same position as A1-A1 of FIG. 3, illustrating a state in each step in the manufacture of the organic EL display panel 10;

[0034] FIGS. 24A, 24B, 24C, 24D, 24E, 24F and 24G are schematic sectional views taken at the same position as A1-A1 of FIG. 3, illustrating a state in each step in the manufacture of the organic EL display panel 10;

[0035] FIGS. 25A and 25B are schematic sectional views taken at the same position as A1-A1 of FIG. 3, illustrating a state in each step in the manufacture of the organic EL display panel 10; and

[0036] FIG. 26 is a schematic drawing depicting a sputtering system 600 used for producing the common electrode layer 2125.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0037] Embodiment 1 of the present disclosure has been made in consideration of a problem in the related art that in forming, particularly, an electron transport layer located on an upper side of a light emitting layer, among a plurality of organic layers, masked vapor deposition should be carried out for forming the electron transport layer while avoiding auxiliary electrodes, with the result of an increase in manufacturing cost. It is desirable to manufacture an organic EL display panel by a simple manufacturing process, to reduce electric resistance in electrical connection between a common electrode layer and a current feeding auxiliary electrode layer, to enhance light emission efficiency and to restrain variability in luminance.

[0038] An organic EL display panel according to Embodiment 1 of the present disclosure is an organic EL display panel having a plurality of pixel electrodes arranged in a matrix pattern over a substrate and having a light emitting layer containing an organic light emitting material over each of the pixel electrodes. The organic EL display panel includes a current feeding auxiliary electrode layer provided in the state of being not in contact with the pixel electrodes adjacent to an electrode forming region that is secured to extend in a column direction over at least one of gaps between the pixel electrodes adjacent in a row direction over the substrate, an insulating layer that is provided at least over the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer and that extends in the column direction, a functional layer provided ranging over the light emitting layers and over the insulating layer, and a common electrode layer provided in the state of extending continuously over the functional layer. The insulating layer has a plurality of through-holes opened therein, a part of the functional layer is lacking or thinned, the part being inside the through-hole and located in the vicinity of the through-hole over the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer, the common electrode layer is in direct contact with the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer exposed due to the lacking of the functional layer, or the common electrode layer is electrically connected to the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer at a lower resistance at the thinned part of the functional layer than at other parts of the functional layer.

[0039] According to such a configuration, it is possible to provide an organic EL display panel which can be manufactured by a simple manufacturing process, and in which electric resistance in electrical contact between a common electrode layer and a current feeding auxiliary electrode layer is reduced, light emission efficiency is enhanced, and variability in luminance is restrained.

[0040] In addition, in another mode, in any of the above configurations, a ratio of a thickness of the insulating layer to an opening width of the through-hole may be from 0.1 to 0.8.

[0041] According to such a configuration, the functional layer is made to undergo stepping inside a hole bottom portion over the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer located at a bottom surface of the through-hole in a column insulating layer to form a lacking part, whereby it is possible to realize a structure in which the contact surface of the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer is exposed through the lacking part. Alternatively, a part of the functional layer is thinned although the part is not lacking, whereby it is possible to realize a structure in which the common elec-

trode layer is electrically connected to the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer at a lower resistance at the thinned part of the functional layer than at other parts of the functional layer.

[0042] Besides, in another mode, in any of the above configurations, the functional layer may be present in other parts than the part inside the through-hole, on an upper surface of the insulating layer and over the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer, and may be lacking or thinned at the part located on the inner wall of the through-hole.

[0043] In addition, a method of manufacturing an organic EL display panel according to a mode of the present disclosure is a method of manufacturing an organic EL display panel. The method includes preparing a substrate, arranging a plurality of pixel electrodes in a matrix pattern over the substrate, securing an electrode forming region that extends in a column direction over at least one of gaps between the pixel electrodes adjacent in a row direction over the substrate, and forming by a vapor deposition process a current feeding auxiliary electrode layer in the state of being not in contact with the pixel electrodes adjacent to the electrode forming region, forming an insulating layer at least over the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer to extend in the column direction, forming a light emitting layer containing an organic light emitting material over each of the pixel electrodes, opening a plurality of through-holes in the insulating layer, forming by a vacuum deposition process a functional layer ranging over the light emitting layer and the insulating layer, and forming by a sputtering process or a chemical vapor deposition process a common electrode layer extending continuously over the functional layer.

[0044] According to such a configuration, it is possible to manufacture an organic EL display panel in which electric resistance in electrical connection between a common electrode layer and a current feeding auxiliary electrode layer is reduced, light emitting efficiency is enhanced, and variability in luminance is restrained, by use of a simple manufacturing process.

[0045] Besides, in another mode, in any of the above configurations, in the forming the functional layer, the functional layer may be formed in such a manner that its part being inside the through-hole and located in the vicinity of an inner wall of the through-hole over the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer is lacking or thinned. In addition, in the forming the common electrode layer, the common electrode layer may be formed in such a manner that the common electrode layer makes direct contact with the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer exposed due to the lacking of the functional layer, or that the common electrode layer is electrically connected to the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer at a lower resistance at the thinned part of the functional layer than at other parts of the functional layer.

[0046] According to such a configuration, the functional layer formed over the auxiliary electrode layer breaks off (undergoes cutting) at a part of a hole bottom portion inside the through-hole to form a lacking part, and the common electrode layer is formed in contact with a contact surface of the auxiliary electrode layer in the manner of coming around into the lacking part. Therefore, the auxiliary electrode layer makes direct contact with the common electrode layer at the contact surface, so that the electric resistance in connection between the auxiliary electrode layer and the common electrode layer can be reduced. Alternatively, a part of the

functional layer may be thinned although the part is not lacking, whereby it is possible to realize a structure in which the common electrode layer is electrically connected to the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer at a lower resistance at the thinned part of the functional layer than at other parts of the functional layer.

[0047] In addition, in another mode, in any of the above configurations, a ratio of a thickness of the insulating layer to an opening width of the through-hole may be from 0.1 to 0.8.

[0048] According to such a configuration, the functional layer can be made to undergo stepping inside a hole bottom portion over the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer located at a bottom surface of the through-hole in a column insulating layer to form a lacking part, whereby it is possible to realize a structure in which the contact surface is exposed through the lacking part. Alternatively, a part of the functional layer may be thinned, whereby it is possible to realize a structure in which the common electrode layer is electrically connected to the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer at a lower resistance at the thinned part of the functional layer than at other parts of the functional layer.

[0049] Besides, in another mode, in any of the above configurations, let a thickness of the insulating layer be h , let a resistivity of the functional layer be R_1 , let a resistivity of the common electrode layer be R_0 , and let an average incidence angle on the substrate from a vapor source used in the forming the functional layer be θ , then an opening width w of the through-hole may be defined by the following expression.

$$w_0 < R_0/R_1 h \cdot \tan \theta$$

[0050] According to such a configuration, the functional layer formed over the auxiliary electrode layer breaks off (undergoes cutting) at a part of a hole bottom portion inside the through-hole to form a lacking part, and the common electrode layer is formed in contact with the contact surface of the auxiliary electrode layer in the manner of coming around into the lacking part of the functional layer.

[0051] Embodiment 2 of the present disclosure has been made in consideration of a problem in the related art that a common electrode is often formed over the whole surface of a substrate, and in the case where the electric resistance of the common electrode is high, sufficient current supply is not attained and, hence, light emission efficiency is lowered, at parts far from a current feeding part, which causes generation of variability in luminance. It is desirable to reduce the electric resistance of the common electrode, to enhance light emission efficiency and to restrain variability in luminance.

[0052] An organic EL display panel according to Embodiment 2 of the present disclosure is an organic EL display panel having a plurality of pixel electrodes arranged in a matrix pattern over a substrate and having a light emitting layer containing an organic light emitting material over each of the pixel electrode. The organic EL display panel includes a current feeding auxiliary electrode layer provided in the state of being not in contact with the pixel electrodes adjacent to an electrode forming region that is secured to extend in a column or row direction over at least one of gaps between the pixel electrodes adjacent in the row or column direction over the substrate, a plurality of column banks that are provided over gaps each located between the pixel electrodes adjacent in the row direction and over gaps each located between the pixel electrode and the current feeding

auxiliary electrode layer adjacent in the row direction and that extend in the column direction, a functional layer provided ranging over the light emitting layer and over the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer, and a common electrode layer provided in the state of extending continuously over the functional layer. The column banks provided over the gaps each located between the pixel electrode and the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer adjacent in the row direction have a side wall inclined toward the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer side at an acute angle against a surface of the substrate, the functional layer has a part, which is located at a base portion of the side wall, lacking or thinned, and the common electrode layer is in direct contact with the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer exposed due to the lacking of the functional layer, or is electrically connected to the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer at a lower resistance at the thinned part of the functional layer than at other parts of the functional layer.

[0053] According to such a configuration, it is possible to reduce the electric resistance in electrical connection between the common electrode and the auxiliary electrode, to enhance light emission efficiency and to restrain variability in luminance.

[0054] In addition, the column banks provided over the gaps each located between the pixel electrode and the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer adjacent in the row direction may be formed from a negative type photosensitive material.

[0055] Besides, an inclination angle of the side wall against the substrate surface may be 45 to 80 degrees.

[0056] In addition, a method of manufacturing an organic EL display panel according to a mode of the present disclosure is a method of manufacturing an organic EL display panel that has a plurality of pixel electrodes arranged in a matrix pattern over a substrate and has a light emitting layer containing an organic light emitting material over each of the pixel electrodes. The method includes securing an electrode forming region that extends in a column or row direction over at least one of gaps between the pixel electrodes adjacent in the row or column direction over the substrate, and forming by a vapor deposition process a current feeding auxiliary electrode layer in the state of being not in contact with the pixel electrodes adjacent to the electrode forming region, forming a plurality of column banks extending in the column direction over gaps between the pixel electrodes adjacent in the row direction and over gaps each located between the pixel electrode and the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer adjacent in the row direction, and, for the column banks provided over the gaps each located between the pixel electrode and the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer adjacent in the row direction, forming a side wall inclined toward the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer side at an acute angle against the substrate surface, forming by a vacuum deposition process a functional layer ranging over the light emitting layers and over the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer in such a manner that a part of the functional layer is lacking or thinned, the part being located at a base portion of the side wall, and forming by a sputtering process or a CVD process a common electrode layer in such a manner as to extend continuously over the functional layer and in such a manner that the common electrode layer makes direct contact with the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer exposed due to the lacking of the functional layer or that the common

electrode layer is electrically connected to the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer at a lower resistance at the thinned part of the functional layer than at other parts of the functional layer.

[0057] According to such a configuration, it is possible to reduce the electric resistance in electrical connection between the common electrode and the auxiliary electrode, to enhance light emission efficiency and to restrain variability in luminance.

[0058] Besides, in the forming the column banks, a side wall having an angle against the substrate surface of 45 to 80 degrees may be formed.

Embodiment 1 (No. 2017-026911)

1.1 Circuit Configuration of Display Apparatus 1

[0059] Hereinafter, the circuit configuration of an organic EL display apparatus 1 according to Embodiment 1 (hereafter referred to as “the display apparatus 1”) will be described referring to FIG. 1.

[0060] As illustrated in FIG. 1, the display apparatus 1 includes an organic EL display panel 10 (hereafter referred to as “the display panel 10”) and a driving control circuit section 20 connected thereto.

[0061] The display panel 10 is an organic EL panel utilizing an electroluminescence phenomenon of organic materials, and includes a plurality of organic EL elements arranged, for example, in a matrix pattern. The driving control circuit section 20 includes four driving circuits 21 to 24 and a control circuit 25.

[0062] Note that in the display apparatus 1, the layout of each circuit of the driving control circuit section 20 relative to the display panel 10 is not restricted to the one illustrated in FIG. 1.

1.2 Circuit Configuration of Display Panel 10

[0063] The plurality of organic EL elements in the display panel 10 include unit pixels 3100e composed of three color sub-pixels (not depicted) 3100se that emit R (red), G (green), and B (blue) lights. The circuit configuration of each sub-pixel 3100se will be described referring to FIG. 2.

[0064] FIG. 2 is a schematic circuit diagram depicting the circuit configuration of an organic EL element 3100 corresponding to each sub-pixel 3100se of the display panel 10 used in the display apparatus 1. In the display panel 10, the organic EL elements 3100 constituting the unit pixels 3100e are arranged in a matrix pattern to form a display region.

[0065] As depicted in FIG. 2, in the display panel 10 according to the present embodiment, each sub-pixel 3100se includes two transistors Tr1 and Tr2, one capacitor C, and an organic EL element section EL as a light emitting section. The transistor Tr1 is a driving transistor, and the transistor Tr2 is a switching transistor.

[0066] A gate G2 of the switching transistor Tr2 is connected to a scanning line Vscn, and its source S2 is connected to a data line Vdat. A drain D2 of the switching transistor Tr2 is connected to a gate G1 of the driving transistor Tr1.

[0067] A drain D1 of the driving transistor Tr1 is connected to a power supply line Va, and its source S1 is connected to a pixel electrode (anode) of the organic EL

element section EL. A common electrode layer (cathode) of the organic EL element section EL is connected to a ground line Vcat.

[0068] Note that the capacitor C is provided in such a manner as to connect the drain D2 of the switching transistor Tr2 and the gate G1 of the driving transistor Tr1 to the power supply line Va.

[0069] In the display panel 10, a plurality of adjacent sub-pixels 3100_{se} (for example, three sub-pixels 3100_{se} of red (R), green (G), and blue (B) emission colors) are combined together to constitute one unit pixel 3100_e, and the unit pixels 3100_e are distributedly arranged to form a pixel region. A gate line is individually led out from the gate G2 of each sub-pixel 3100_{se}, and is connected to the scanning line Vscn connected from the outside of the display panel 10. Similarly, a source line is individually led out from the source S2 of each sub-pixel 3100_{se}, and is connected to the data line Vdat connected from the outside of the display panel 10.

[0070] In addition, the power supply line Va of each sub-pixel 3100_{se} and the ground line Vcat of each sub-pixel 3100_{se} are collectively connected to a common power supply line and a common ground line.

1.3 General Configuration of Display Panel 10

[0071] The display panel 10 according to the present embodiment will be described referring to the drawings. Note that the drawings are schematic views, and the scale therein may be different from the actual dimensions.

[0072] FIG. 3 is a schematic plan view depicting a part of the display panel according to the embodiment. FIG. 4 is a perspective view, from an oblique upper side, of a part of an insulating layer 3122 that corresponds to the unit pixel 3100_e of the organic EL display panel 10.

[0073] The display panel 10 is an organic EL display panel utilizing an electroluminescence phenomenon of organic compounds, in which a plurality of organic EL elements 3100 each constituting a pixel are arranged in a matrix pattern over a substrate 3100_x (TFT substrate) formed with thin film transistors (TFTs), to form a top emission type configuration in which light is emitted from an upper surface. In the present specification, an X-direction, a Y-direction, and a Z-direction in FIG. 3 are respectively a row direction, a column direction, and a thickness direction in the display panel 10.

[0074] In a display element arrangement region of the display panel 10, unit pixels 3100_e corresponding to the organic EL elements 3100 are arranged in a matrix pattern. In each unit pixel 3100_e, there are formed three kinds of self-luminescence regions 3100_a, which are each a region of light emission by an organic compound, namely, 3100_{aR} that emits red light, 3100_{aG} that emits green light, and 3100_{aB} that emits blue light (where 3100_{aR}, 3100_{aG}, and 3100_{aB} are not distinguished from one another, they will hereafter be referred to simply as “3100_a”). Specifically, three sub-pixels 3100_{se} corresponding individually to the self-luminescence regions 3100_{aR}, 3100_{aG}, and 3100_{aB} aligned in a row direction (where these sub-pixels are distinguished from one another, they will hereafter be referred to as “red sub-pixel 3100_{seR},” “green sub-pixel 3100_{seG},” and “blue sub-pixel 3100_{seB}”) in one set constitute the unit pixel 3100_e in color display.

[0075] In the display panel 10, a plurality of pixel electrodes 3119 are arranged over a substrate 3100_x in a matrix

pattern, in the state of being spaced from one another by predetermined distances in a row direction and in a column direction. The pixel electrode 3119 is rectangular in shape in plan view, and is formed from a light reflecting material. The pixel electrodes 3119 arranged in the matrix pattern correspond to the three self-luminescence regions 3100_{aR}, 3100_{aG}, and 3100_{aB} arranged in order in the row direction.

[0076] In the display panel 10, a plurality of auxiliary electrode layers 3200 are arranged continuously in the column direction, between the unit pixels 3100_e, over the substrate 3100_x. The auxiliary electrode layers 3200 are formed from the same light reflecting material as that of the pixel electrodes 3119.

[0077] A linear-shaped bank of an insulating layer type is provided, for insulation, between the pixel electrodes 3119 adjacent to each other and between the pixel electrode 3119 and the auxiliary electrode layer adjacent to each other. A plurality of column insulating layers 3122_Y each extending in the column direction (the Y-direction in FIG. 3) and a plurality of column banks 3522_Y over the column insulating layers 3122_Y are arranged juxtaposedly, over row-direction outer edges 3119_{a3} and 3119_{a4} of two pixel electrodes 3119 adjacent to each other in the row direction and over that region of the substrate 3100_x which is located between the outer edges 3119_{a3} and 3119_{a4}. In addition, a plurality of column insulating layers 3122_Y and a plurality of column banks 3522_Y over the column insulating layers 3122_Y are also arranged juxtaposedly, over the row-direction outer edge 3119_{a3} of the pixel electrode 3119 and an outer edge 3200_{a2} of the auxiliary electrode layer 3200 which are adjacent to each other in the row direction, over the outer edge 3119_{a4} of the pixel electrodes 3119 and an outer edge 3200_{a1} of the auxiliary electrode layer 3200 which are adjacent to each other in the row direction, and over those regions of the substrate 3100_x which are located between the outer edges. Therefore, the row-direction outer edges of the self-luminescence regions 3100_a are defined by the row-direction outer edges of the column banks 3522_Y. Besides, the column insulating layer 3122_Y located between the row-direction outer edge 3119_{a3} of the pixel electrode 3119 and the outer edge 3200_{a2} of the auxiliary electrode layer 3200 which are adjacent to each other in the row direction and the column insulating layer 3122_Y located between the row-direction outer edge 3119_{a4} of the pixel electrode 3119 and the outer edge 3200_{a1} of the auxiliary electrode layer 3200 which are adjacent to each other in the row direction, are arranged ranging over the auxiliary electrode layer 3200 and are in connection in the row direction. That part of the column insulating layer 3122_Y which is located over the auxiliary electrode layer 3200 is formed with a plurality of through-holes 3122_{Ya} (contact holes) for connection between the auxiliary electrode 3200 and a common electrode layer 3125 which will be described later.

[0078] On the other hand, a plurality of row insulating layers 3122_X each extending in the row direction (the X-direction in FIG. 3) are arranged juxtaposedly, over column-direction outer edges 3119_{a1} and 3119_{a2} of two pixel electrodes 3119 adjacent to each other in the column direction and over that region of the substrate 3100_x that is located between the outer edges 3119_{a1} and 3119_{a2}. The regions where the row insulating layers 3122_Y are formed are non-self-luminescence regions 3100_b, since organic electroluminescence does not occur in the light emitting layer 3123 over the pixel electrodes 3119. Therefore, the

outer edges in the column direction of the self-luminescence region **3100a** are defined by the column-direction outer edges of the row insulating layers **3122X**.

[0079] Where a space between the adjacent column banks **3522Y** is defined as a gap **3522z**, a red gap **3522zR** corresponding to the self-luminescence region **3100aR**, a green gap **3522zG** corresponding to the self-luminescence region **3100aG**, and a blue gap **3522zB** corresponding to the self-luminescence region **3100aB** (where the gap **3522zR**, the gap **3522zG**, and the gap **3522zB** are not distinguished from one another, they will hereafter be referred to as “the gap **3522z**”) are present as the gap **3522z**.

[0080] In the display panel **10**, pluralities of self-luminescence regions **3100a** and non-self-luminescence regions **3100b** are alternately arranged in the column direction along the gaps **3522zR**, the gaps **3522zG**, and the gaps **3522zB**. The non-self-luminescence region **3100b** is provided with a connection recess **3119c** (contact hole) for connection between the pixel electrode **3119** and the source **S1** of the TFT, and is provided over the pixel electrode **3119** with a contact region **3119b** (contact window) for electrical connection to the pixel electrode **3119**.

[0081] In each sub-pixel **3100se**, the column bank **3522Y** provided in the column direction and the row insulating layer **3122X** provided in the row direction are orthogonal to each other, and the self-luminescence region **3100a** is located between the row insulating layer **3122X** and the row insulating layer **3122X** in the column direction.

1.4 Configuration of Each Section of Display Panel **10**

[0082] The configuration of the organic EL element **3100** in the display panel **10** will be described below, referring to FIGS. **5**, **6**, and **7**. FIG. **5** is a schematic sectional view taken along line A1-A1 of FIG. **3**. FIG. **6** is a schematic sectional view taken along line A2-A2 of FIG. **3**. FIG. **7** is a schematic sectional view taken along line A3-A3 of FIG. **3**.

[0083] In the display panel **10** according to the present embodiment, a substrate (TFT substrate) provided with thin film transistors is disposed on the lower side in the Z-axis direction, and the organic EL element sections are provided over the substrate.

1.4.1 Substrate

(1) Substrate **3100x**

[0084] A substrate **3100x** is a support member of the display panel **10**, and includes a base material (not depicted) and a transistor (TFT) layer (not depicted) formed on the base material.

[0085] The base material as the support member of the display panel **10** is flat plate-like in shape. As the material of the base material, there can be used an electrically insulating material, for example, glass materials, resin materials, semiconductor materials, metallic materials coated with an insulating layer, and the like.

[0086] The TFT layer includes a plurality of TFTs and a plurality of wirings such as wirings **3110**, which are formed on an upper surface of the base material. The TFT electrically connects the pixel electrode **3119** corresponding thereto and an external power supply to each other, according to a driving signal sent from an external circuit for the display panel **10**, and has a multi-layer structure that includes electrodes, a semiconductor layer, an insulating

layer and the like. The wirings electrically connect the TFTs, the pixel electrodes **3119**, the external power supply, the external circuit and the like. The wiring **3110** is connected to the source **S1** of the TFT.

(2) Interlayer Insulating Layer **3118**

[0087] An interlayer insulating layer **3118** is provided on the substrate and on an upper surface of the TFT layer. The interlayer insulating layer **3118** located on an upper surface of the substrate **3100x** is for planarizing the upper surface of the substrate **3100x** having projections and recesses due to the presence of the TFT layer. In addition, the interlayer insulating layer **3118** fills up the gaps between the wirings and the TFTs, thereby insulating the wirings and the TFTs from each other.

[0088] As depicted in FIG. **6**, the interlayer insulating layer **3118** has contact holes **3118a** opened in its parts on the upper side of the wirings **3110**. If an upper limit film thickness of the interlayer insulating layer **3118** is not less than 10 μm , variability in film thickness upon manufacture is enlarged, and it becomes difficult to control the bottom line width. In addition, the upper limit film thickness is preferably not more than 7 μm , from the viewpoint of a lowering in productivity due to an increase in tact. As for a lower limit film thickness, as the film thickness decreases, it may become necessary to make the film thickness and the bottom line width comparable to each other. If the lower limit film thickness is not more than 1 μm , it becomes difficult to obtain a desired bottom line width due to limitations as to resolution. In the case of a general exposure apparatus for flat panel displays, the limit is 2 μm . Therefore, the thickness of the interlayer insulating layer **3118** is preferably, for example, 1 to 10 μm , more preferably 2 to 7 μm .

1.4.2 Organic EL Element Section

(1) Pixel Electrode **3119**

[0089] As depicted in FIGS. **5** and **6**, the interlayer insulating layer **3118** located at the upper surface of the substrate **3100x** is provided with pixel electrodes **3119** on a sub-pixel **3100se** basis. The pixel electrode **3119** is for supplying carriers to a light emitting layer **3123**; for example, where the pixel electrode **3119** functions as an anode, it supplies holes to the light emitting layer **3123**. In addition, since the display panel **10** is of the top emission type, the pixel electrode **3119** has a light reflecting property. The pixel electrode **3119** is rectangular flat plate-like in shape. The pixel electrodes **3119** are disposed on the interlayer insulating layer **3118**, with a spacing **OX** therebetween in the row direction and with a spacing δY therebetween in the column direction in each of the gap **3522zR**, the gap **3522zG**, and the gap **3522zB**. The interlayer insulating layer **3118** is formed on the upper side of the contact hole **3118a** with the connection recess **3119c** for the pixel electrode **3119**, by recessing a part of the pixel electrode **3119** in the direction of the substrate **3100x**. At the bottom of the connection recess **3119c**, the pixel electrode **3119** and the wiring **3110** are connected to each other.

(2) Auxiliary Electrode Layer **3200**

[0090] As depicted in FIGS. **5** and **7**, the auxiliary electrode layers **3200** are also provided on the interlayer insu-

lating layer **3118** located at the upper surface of the substrate **3100x**. The auxiliary electrode layers **3200** are arranged between the pixel electrodes **3119**, with a spacing δX therebetween in the row direction. The auxiliary electrode layer **3200** is covered with the column insulating layer **3122Y** in ranges other than the through-holes **3122Ya** in the column insulating layer **3122Y**. Details of the manner of contact between the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** and an electron transport layer **3124** or a common electrode layer, inside the through-hole **3122Ya**, will be described later.

(3) Hole Injection Layer **3120**

[0091] As depicted in FIGS. 5 and 6, hole injection layers **3120** are stacked on the pixel electrodes **3119**. The hole injection layer **3120** has a function of transporting holes, which are injected from the pixel electrode **3119**, to a hole transport layer **3121**.

[0092] The hole injection layer **3120** includes a lower layer **3120A** formed of a metallic oxide formed on the pixel electrode **3119**, and an upper layer **3120B** formed of an organic matter stacked at least on the lower layer **3120A**, in this order from the substrate side. The lower layers **3120A** provided in a blue sub-pixel, a green sub-pixel, and a red sub-pixel are referred to as a lower layer **3120AB**, a lower layer **3120AG**, and a lower layer **3120AR**, respectively. In addition, the upper layers **3120B** provided in the blue sub-pixel, the green sub-pixel, and the red sub-pixel are referred to as an upper layer **3120BB**, an upper layer **3120BG**, and an upper layer **3120BR**, respectively.

[0093] In the present embodiment, the upper layers **3120B** are provided in a linear shape such as to extend in the column direction, in the gap **3522zR**, the gap **3522zG**, and the gap **3522zB** which will be described later. However, a configuration may be adopted in which the upper layers **3120B** are formed only on the lower layers **3120A** formed on the pixel electrodes **3119**, and are provided intermittently in the column direction in the gaps **3522z**.

(4) Insulating Layer **3122**

[0094] As depicted in FIGS. 5 and 6, the insulating layers **3122** formed of an insulating material are formed so as to cover end edges of the lower layers **3120A** of the hole injection layers **3120** and the auxiliary electrode layers **3200**. As the insulating layers **3122**, there are a plurality of column insulating layers **3122Y** that extend in the column direction and are provided juxtaposedly in the row direction, and a plurality of row insulating layers **3122X** that extend in the row direction and are provided juxtaposedly in the column direction. As depicted in FIG. 3, the column insulating layers **3122Y** are provided in the state of being along the row direction orthogonal to the row insulating layers **3122X**. The column insulating layers **3122Y** and the row insulating layers **3122X** together form a grid-like pattern (where the row insulating layer **3122X** and the column insulating layer **3122Y** are not distinguished from each other, they will hereafter be referred to as “the insulating layer **3122**”).

[0095] The shape of the row insulating layer **3122X** is a linear shape extending in the row direction, and its section parallel to the column direction is a normal tapered trapezoid tapered upward. The row insulating layers **3122X** are provided in the state of being along the row direction orthogonal to the column direction, in such a manner as to intersect each

of the column insulating layer **3122Y** in a grid-like pattern. The row insulating layers **3122X** each have an upper surface **3122Xb** at the same height position as an upper surface **3122Yb** of the column insulating layer **3122Y**. Therefore, openings corresponding to the self-luminescence regions **3100a** are defined by the row insulating layers **3122X** and the column insulating layers **3122Y**.

[0096] The row insulating layers **3122X** are for controlling flow, in the column direction, of an ink containing an organic compound as a material of the light emitting layers **3123**. Therefore, the row insulating layers **3122X** should have an affinity for the ink of not less than a predetermined value. By such a configuration, it is possible to restrain variations in the ink coating amount among the sub-pixels. The row insulating materials **3122X** prevent the pixel electrodes **3119** from being exposed, so that, in the regions where the row insulating layers **3122X** are present, light emission does not occur; thus, such regions do not contribute to luminance.

[0097] Specifically, the row insulating layers **3122X** are present over outer edges **3119a1** and **3119a2** in the column direction of the pixel electrodes **3119**, and are formed in the state of overlapping with the contact regions **3119b** of the pixel electrodes **3119**. The length in the column direction of the non-self-luminescence region **3100b** where the row insulating layer **3122X** is formed is larger by a predetermined length than the distance δY between the column-direction outer edges **3119a1** and **3119a2** of the pixel electrodes **3119**. As a result of this, by covering the column-direction outer edges **3119a1** and **3119a2** of the pixel electrodes **3119**, electric leak between the pixel electrode **3119** and the common electrode layer **3125** is prevented, and outer edges of the light emitting region **3100a** of each sub-pixel **3100se** in the column direction are defined.

[0098] The shape of the column insulating layer **3122Y** is a linear shape extending in the column direction, and its section parallel to the row direction is a normal tapered trapezoid tapered upward. The column insulating layers **3122Y** are present over outer edges **3119a3** and **3119a4** in the row direction of the pixel electrodes **3119** and over the outer edges **3119a3** and **3119a4** in the row direction of the pixel electrodes **3119** and outer edges **3200a1** and **3200a2** in the row direction of the auxiliary electrode layers **3200**, and are formed in the state of overlapping with the pixel electrodes **3119** and the auxiliary electrode layers **3200**. The width in the row direction of the region where the column insulating layer **3122Y** is formed is greater by a predetermined width than the distance δX between the row-direction outer edges **3119a3** and **3119a4** of the pixel electrodes **3119**. As a result of this, by covering the row-direction outer edges **3119a3** and **3119a4** of the pixel electrodes **3119**, electric leak between the pixel electrode **3119** and the common electrode layer **3125** is prevented, and outer edges of the light emitting region **3100a** of each sub-pixel **3100se** in the row direction are defined.

[0099] In addition, as depicted in FIG. 5, the column insulating layer **3122Y** located between the row-direction outer edge **3119a3** of the pixel electrode **3119** and the outer edge **3200a2** of the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** that are adjacent to each other in the row direction and the column insulating layer **3122Y** located between the row-direction outer edge **3119a4** of the pixel electrode **3119** and the outer edge **3200a1** of the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** that are adjacent to each other in the row direction are disposed ranging over the auxiliary electrode layer **3200**, and are

formed in connection with each other in the row direction. That bank-shaped portion of the column insulating layer 3122Y which is raised to the upper side of the auxiliary electrode layer 3200 is referred to as an electrode upper portion 3122Yd. An upper surface 3122Ye of the electrode upper portion 3122Yd is located above an upper surface 3122Yb of the column insulating layer 3122Y.

[0100] Besides, the upper surface 3122Ye of the electrode upper portion 3122Yd located on the upper side of the auxiliary electrode layer 3200, of the column insulating layer 3122Y, is formed with a plurality of through-holes 3122Ya (contact holes) for connection between the auxiliary layer 3200 and the common electrode layer 3125 which will be described later.

(5) Column Bank 3522Y

[0101] The column banks 3522Y are present over the outer edges 3119a3 and 3119a4 in the row direction of the pixel electrodes 3119 and over the outer edges 3119a3 and 3119a4 in the row direction of the pixel electrodes 3119 and the outer edges 3200a1 and 3200a2 in the row direction of the auxiliary electrode layers 3200, and are formed on upper surfaces 3122Yb of the column insulating layers 3122Y in the state of overlapping with the column insulating layers 3122Y. The shape of the column bank 3522Y is a linear shape extending in the column direction, and its section parallel to the row direction is a normal tapered trapezoid tapered upward. The column banks 3522Y are for damming up flow, in the row direction, of inks each containing an organic compound as a material of the light emitting layer 3123, to thereby define the row-direction outer edges of the light emitting layers 3123. Therefore, the column banks 3522Y should have a repellency against the inks of not less than a predetermined value. By this function, the column banks 3522Y define outer edges of the self-luminescence region of each pixel in the row direction.

(6) Hole Transport Layer 3121

[0102] As depicted in FIGS. 5 and 6, hole transport layers 3121 are stacked on the row insulating layers 3122X and on the hole injection layers 3120 in the gaps 3522zR, 3522zG, and 3522zB. The hole transport layers 3121 are in contact with the upper layers 3120B of the hole injection layers 3120. The hole transport layer 3121 has a function of transporting holes, which are injected from the hole injection layer 3120, to the light emitting layer 3123. The hole transport layers 3121 provided in the gaps 3522zR, 3522zG, and 3522zB are referred to as a hole transport layer 3121R, a hole transport layer 3121G, and a hole transport layer 3121B, respectively.

[0103] In the present embodiment, in the gaps 3522z which will be described later, the hole transport layer 3121 is provided in a linear shape such as to extend in the column direction, like the upper layer 3120B. However, the hole transport layer 3121 may be provided intermittently in the column direction in the gaps 3522z.

(7) Light Emitting Layer 3123

[0104] As depicted in FIGS. 5 and 6, the light emitting layers 3123 are stacked on the hole transport layers 3121. The light emitting layer 3123 is a layer formed from an organic compound, and has a function of emitting light through recombination of holes and electrons in the inside

thereof. In the gap 3522zR, the gap 3522zG, and the gap 3522zB, the light emitting layers 3123 are provided in a linear shape extending in the column direction. In the gaps 3522zR, the gaps 3522zG, and the gaps 3522zB defined by the column banks 3522Y, the light emitting layers 3123 are formed to extend in the column direction. The light emitting layers 3123R, 3123G, and 3123B that emit light in respective colors are formed in the red gaps 3522zR corresponding to the self-luminescence regions 3100aR in the red sub-pixels 3100seR, the green gaps 3522zG corresponding to the self-luminescence regions 3100aG in the green sub-pixels 3100seG, and the blue gaps 3522zB corresponding to the self-luminescence regions 3100aB in the blue sub-pixels 3100seB, respectively.

[0105] The light emitting layer 3123 emit light only at its part supplied with carriers from the pixel electrode 3119; therefore, in a range where the row insulating layer 3122X as an insulating material is present between the layers, the electroluminescence phenomenon of an organic compound does not occur. For this reason, the light emitting layer 3123 emits light only at its part where the row insulating layer 3122X is absent, and this part serves as the self-luminescence region 3100a. Outer edges in the column direction of the self-luminescence region 3100a are defined by column-direction outer edges of the row insulating layers 3122X.

[0106] Of the light emitting layer 3123, the parts located over side surfaces and the upper surface 3122Xb of the row insulating layer 3122X do not emit light, and these parts serve as the non-self-luminescence regions 3100b. The light emitting layer 3123 is located on the upper side of the hole transport layer 3121 at its self-luminescence region 3100a, and is located on the upper side of the hole transport layer 3121 over the upper surface and side surfaces of the row insulating layer 3122X.

[0107] Note that the light emitting layer 3123 extends continuously not only in the self-luminescence region 3100a but also in the adjacent non-self-luminescence regions 3100b. This configuration ensures that at the time of forming the light emitting layers 3123, the ink applied in the self-luminescence region 3100a can flow in the column direction through the ink applied in the non-self-luminescence regions 3100b, so that the film thickness of the ink can be leveled off between the pixels in the column direction. It is to be noted, however, that in the non-self-luminescence regions 3100b, flow of the ink is moderately restrained by the row insulating layer 3122X. Therefore, large variability in film thickness is not liable to be generated in the column direction, and variability in luminance from pixel to pixel is improved.

(8) Electron Transport Layer 3124

[0108] As illustrated in FIGS. 5 and 6, an electron transport layer 3124 is stackedly formed so as to cover the column banks 3522Y and the gaps 3522z defined by the column banks 3522Y. The electron transport layer 3124 is formed in the state of being continuous over the whole part of the display panel 10. As depicted in FIGS. 5 and 6, the electron transport layer 3124 is formed on the light emitting layers 3123. The electron transport layer 3124 has a function of transporting electrons, coming from the common electrode layer 3125, to the light emitting layers 3123, and restricting the injection of electrons into the light emitting layers 3123.

[0109] In addition, as depicted in FIGS. 5 and 7, the electron transport layer 3124 is formed also on the column

insulating layers **3122Y** which cover the auxiliary electrode layers **3200**. The electron transport layer **3124** is partly formed also on the auxiliary electrode layers **3200** in the through-holes **3122Ya** in the column insulating layers **3122Y**. Specifically, of the electron transport layer **3124**, a part located in the vicinity of an inner wall **3122c** of the through-hole **3122Ya** is lacking, so that there is a lacking part **3124a** where the electron transport layer **3124** is not formed. At the lacking part **3124a**, a contact surface **3200c** of the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** is exposed. In addition, the electron transport layer **3124** is formed at parts exclusive of the contact surface **3200c** in a hole bottom portion **3200b** of the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** corresponding to a bottom surface of the through-hole **3122Ya**, to constitute a deposited portion **3124b**.

[0110] Note that the electron transport layer **3124** is not formed at a part located on the inner wall **3122Yc** of the through-hole **3122Ya**.

(9) Common Electrode Layer **3125**

[0111] As illustrated in FIGS. **5** and **6**, the common electrode layer **3125** is formed on the electron transport layer **3124**. The common electrode layer **3125** is formed over the whole surface of the display panel **10**, and serves as a common electrode for the light emitting layers **3123**. As depicted in FIGS. **5** and **6**, the common electrode layer **3125** is formed also in those regions on the electron transport layer **3124** which are on the upper side of the pixel electrodes **3119**. The common electrode layer **3125** sandwiches the light emitting layers **3123** together with the pixel electrodes **3119** to form conducting paths, thereby supplying carriers to the light emitting layers **3123**; for example, where the common electrode layer **3125** functions as a cathode, it supplies electrons to the light emitting layers **3123**.

[0112] As depicted in FIGS. **5** and **7**, the common electrode layer **3125** is formed also in regions over the auxiliary electrode layers **3200**. The common electrode layer **3125** is formed so as to make direct contact with the contact surfaces **3200c** exposed at the lacking parts **3124a** of the electron transport layer **3124** over the auxiliary electrode layers **3200** in the through-holes **3122Ya** in the column insulating layers **3122Y**.

(10) Sealing Layer **3126**

[0113] A sealing layer **3126** is stackedly formed so as to cover the common electrode layer **3125**. The sealing layer **3126** is for restraining the light emitting layers **3123** from being deteriorated due to contact with moisture or air. The sealing layer **3126** is provided over the whole surface of the display panel **10** so as to cover the upper surface of the common electrode layer **3125**.

(11) Bonding Layer **3127**

[0114] On the upper side in the Z-axis direction of the sealing layer **3126**, a CF substrate **3131** having color filter layers **3128** formed on a main surface on the lower side in the Z-axis direction of an upper substrate **3130** is disposed, and is bonded to the sealing layer **3126** by a bonding layer **3127**. The bonding layer **3127** laminates a back panel composed of layers ranging from the substrate **3100x** to the sealing layer **3126** and the CF substrate **3131**, and has a function of preventing each of the layers from being exposed to moisture or air.

(12) Upper Substrate **3130**

[0115] The CF substrate **3131** having the color filter layers **3128** formed on the upper substrate **3130** is disposed on and bonded to the bonding layer **3127**. Since the display panel **10** is of the top emission type, a light-transmitting material such as, for example, a cover glass or a transparent film is used as the upper substrate **3130**. In addition, with the upper substrate **3130** thus provided, it is possible to enhance rigidity of the display panel **10** and prevent penetration of moisture, air or the like.

(13) Color Filter Layer **3128**

[0116] The color filter layers **3128** are formed in the upper substrate **3130** at positions corresponding to the color self-luminescence regions **3100a** of the pixels. The color filter layers **3128** are transparent layers provided for transmitting therethrough visible lights of wavelengths corresponding to R, G, and B, and has a function of permitting the light emitted from each color pixel to pass therethrough, thereby correcting chromaticity of the light. For instance, in the present example, red, green, and blue filter layers **3128R**, **3128G**, and **3128B** are formed on the upper side of the self-luminescence region **3100aR** in the red gaps **3522zR**, the self-luminescence regions **3100aG** in the green gaps **3522zG**, and the self-luminescence regions **3100aB** in the blue gaps **3522zB**, respectively.

(14) Light-Shielding Layer **3129**

[0117] The upper substrate **3130** is provided with light-shielding layer **3129** at positions corresponding to boundaries between the light emitting regions **3100a** of the pixels. The light-shielding layer **3129** is black resin layers provided for inhibiting transmission therethrough of visible lights of wavelengths corresponding to R, G, and B, and is formed from, for example, a resin material containing a black pigment excellent in light-absorbing and light-shielding properties.

1.4.3 Constituent Material of Each Section

[0118] An example of constituent materials of the sections depicted in FIGS. **5**, **6**, and **7** will be given below.

(1) Substrate **3100x** (TFT Substrate)

[0119] As the base material, there can be adopted, for example, glass substrates, quartz substrate, silicon substrate, metallic substrates made of molybdenum sulfide, copper, zinc, aluminum, stainless steel, magnesium, iron, nickel, gold, silver or the like, semiconductor substrates such as gallium arsenide substrate, plastic substrates, and the like. As the flexible plastic material, there may be used both thermoplastic resins and thermosetting resins. As the material, there can be used electrically insulating materials, for example, resin materials. For the gate electrode, gate insulating layer, channel layer, channel protection layer, source electrode, drain electrode and the like constituting the TFTs, known materials can be used. As the gate electrode, for example, there is adopted a stacked body of copper (Cu) and molybdenum (Mo). For the gate insulating layer, known organic materials and known inorganic materials such as, for example, silicon oxide (SiO₂) or silicon nitride (SiN_x), can both be used so long as they are electrically insulating materials. For the channel layer, there can be used oxide

semiconductors that contain at least one selected from among indium (In), gallium (Ga), and zinc (Zn). For the channel protection layer, there can be used, for example, silicon oxynitride (SiON), silicon nitride (SiN_x), or aluminum oxide (AlO_x). As the source electrode and the drain electrode, there can be used, for example, a stacked body of copper-manganese (CuMn) and copper (Cu) and molybdenum (Mo).

[0120] For the insulating layer at an upper portion of the TFT, there can also be used, for example, silicon oxide (SiO₂), silicon nitride (SiN), and silicon oxynitride (SiON). As a connection electrode layer of the TFT, there can be used, for example, a stacked body of molybdenum (Mo) and copper (Cu) and copper-manganese (CuMn). Note that the material to be used for constituting the connection electrode layer is not restricted to this, and can be appropriately selected from among conductive materials.

[0121] As the material for the interlayer insulating layer **3118** located at the upper surface of the substrate **3100x**, there can be used, for example, polyimide resins, acrylic resins, siloxane resins, novolak type phenolic resins and the like.

(2) Pixel Electrode **3119** and Auxiliary Electrode Layer **3200**

[0122] The pixel electrodes **3119** are formed from a metallic material. In the case of the display panel **10** according to the present embodiment that is of the top emission type, the thickness of the pixel electrodes **3119** is optimally set and an optical resonator structure is adopted, thereby controlling the chromaticity of light and enhancing luminance; therefore, a surface portion of the pixel electrode **3119** should have a high reflective property. In the display panel **10** according to the present embodiment, the pixel electrodes **3119** may have a structure wherein a plurality of films selected from among metallic layers, alloy layers, and transparent conductive films are stacked. The metallic layer can be formed, for example, from a metallic material containing silver (Ag) or aluminum (Al). For the alloy layer, there can be used, for example, APC (an alloy of silver, palladium, and copper), ARA (an alloy of silver, rubidium, and gold), MoCr (an alloy of molybdenum and chromium), NiCr (an alloy of nickel and chromium), and the like. As the constituent material of the transparent conductive layer, there can be used, for example, indium tin oxide (ITO), indium zinc oxide (IZO) and the like.

(3) Hole Injection Layer **3120**

[0123] The lower layer **3120A** of the hole injection layer **3120** is a layer formed of an oxide of, for example, silver (Ag), molybdenum (Mo), chromium (Cr), vanadium (Va), tungsten (W), nickel (Ni), iridium (Ir) or the like. In the case where the lower layer **3120A** is formed of an oxide of a transition metal, the transition metal takes a plurality of oxidation numbers and can thereby take a plurality of levels, so that hole injection is facilitated and the driving voltage can be lowered. In the present embodiment, the lower layer **3120A** included an oxide of tungsten (W). In the case of an oxide of tungsten (W), as the ratio (W⁵⁺/W⁶⁺) of pentavalent tungsten atoms to hexavalent tungsten atoms is higher, the driving voltage for the organic EL element is lower; therefore, it is preferable that the tungsten oxide contains pentavalent tungsten atoms in a large amount of not less than a predetermined value.

[0124] As the upper layer **3120B** of the hole injection layer **3120**, there can be used, for example, a coating film formed from an organic polymer solution of a conductive polymer material such as PEDOT (a mixture of polythiophene and polystyrenesulfonic acid), as aforementioned.

(4) Insulating Layer **3122** and Column Bank **3522Y**

[0125] The insulating layers **3122** and the column banks **3522Y** are formed by use of an organic material such as resin, and have an insulating property. Examples of the material to be used for forming the insulating layers **3122** include acrylic resins, polyimide resins, and novolak type phenolic resins. It is preferable that the organic material has organic solvent resistance. It is more preferable to use acrylic resin, since it is low in refractive index and is suitable for use as reflector.

[0126] Alternatively, the insulating layers **3122** and the column banks **3522Y** may be formed by use of an inorganic material; in this case, for example, silicon oxide (SiO₂) is preferably used, from the viewpoint of refractive index. Alternatively, the insulating layers **3122** and the column banks **3522Y** may be formed by use of an inorganic material such as, for example, silicon nitride (SiN) or silicon oxynitride (SiON).

[0127] Further, an etching treatment, a baking treatment and the like may be conducted during the manufacturing process, and, therefore, the insulating layers **3122** and the column banks **3522Y** are preferably formed from a material high in resistance to the treatments so that they would not be excessively deformed or denatured by the treatments.

[0128] In addition, the column banks **3522Y** may have their surfaces subjected to a fluorine treatment for imparting water repellency to the surfaces. Besides, a fluorine-containing material may be used for forming the column banks **3522Y**. In addition, the insulating layers **3122** may be subjected to irradiation with ultraviolet (UV) rays or a baking treatment at a low temperature, for lowering water repellency of the surfaces thereof.

(5) Hole Transport Layer **3121**

[0129] For the hole transport layers **3121**, there can be used, for example, high-molecular compounds such as polyfluorene and derivatives thereof, polyarylamines, which are amine-based organic polymers, or TFB (poly(9,9-di-n-octylfluorene-alt-(1,4-phenylene-((4-sec-butylphenyl)imino)-1,4-phenylene))).

(6) Light Emitting Layer **3123**

[0130] The light emitting layers **3123** have a function of emitting light by generation of an excited state through recombination of holes and electrons injected therein, as aforementioned. As the material for forming the light emitting layers **3123**, there should be used a light-emitting organic material which can be formed into a film by use of a wet printing method.

[0131] Specifically, the light emitting layers **3123** are preferably formed from a fluorescent material, examples of which include oxinoid compounds, perylene compounds, coumarin compounds, azacoumarin compounds, oxazole compounds, oxadiazole compounds, perynone compounds, pyrrolopyrrole compounds, naphthalene compounds, anthracene compounds, fluorenone compounds, fluoranthene compounds, tetracene compounds, pyrene com-

pounds, coronene compounds, quinolone compounds and azaquinolone compounds, pyrazoline derivatives and pyrazolone derivatives, rhodamine compounds, chrysene compounds, phenanthrene compounds, cyclopentadiene compounds, stilbene compounds, diphenylquinone compounds, styryl compounds, butadiene compounds, dicyanomethylenepyrans compounds, dicyanomethylenethiopyran compounds, fluorescein compounds, pyrylium compounds, thiapyrylium compounds, selenapyrylium compounds, telluropyrilium compounds, aromatic aldadiene compounds, oligophenylene compounds, thioxanthene compounds, anthracene compounds, cyanine compounds, acridine compounds, metal complexes of 8-hydroxyquinoline compounds, metal complexes of 2-bipyridine compounds, complexes of Schiff base and Group III metal, oxine metal complexes, and rare earth complexes, which are described in patent publication (Japanese Patent Laid-open No. Hei 5-163488).

(7) Electron Transport Layer **3124**

[0132] For the electron transport layer **3124**, an organic material having a high electron transporting property is used. Examples of the organic material to be used for the electron transport layer **3124** include 7-electron low-molecular-weight organic materials such as oxadiazole derivatives (OXD), triazole derivatives (TAZ), and phenanthroline derivatives (BCP, Bphen). In addition, the electron transport layer **3124** may include a layer formed by doping an organic material having a high electron transporting property with a dopant metal selected from among alkali metals and alkaline earth metals. Besides, the electron transport layer **3124** may include a layer formed by use of sodium fluoride.

(8) Common Electrode Layer **3125**

[0133] For the common electrode layer **3125**, a conductive material having a light transmitting property is used. For example, indium tin oxide (ITO) or indium zinc oxide (IZO) or the like is used to form the common electrode layer **3125**. An electrode obtained by forming silver (Ag) or aluminum (Al) or the like into a thin film may also be used.

(9) Sealing Layer **3126**

[0134] The sealing layer **3126** has a function of restraining the organic layers such as the light emitting layers **3123** from being exposed to moisture or air, and is formed by use of a light transmitting material such as, for example, silicon nitride (SiN) or silicon oxynitride (SiON). In addition, a sealing resin layer formed of a resin material such as acrylic resin or silicone resin may be provided on the layer formed by use of such material as silicon nitride (SiN) or silicon oxynitride (SiON).

[0135] The sealing layer **3126** should be formed from a light transmitting material, in the case of the display panel **10** according to the present embodiment that is of the top emission type.

(10) Bonding Layer **3127**

[0136] The material of the bonding layer **3127** is, for example, a resin adhesive or the like. For the bonding layer **3127**, there can be adopted a light transmitting resin material such as acrylic resins, silicone resins, and epoxy resins.

(11) Upper Substrate **3130**

[0137] As the upper substrate **3130**, there can be adopted substrates formed of a light transmitting material, such as, for example, glass substrates, quartz substrate, and plastic substrates.

(12) Color Filter Layer **3128**

[0138] For the color filter layers **3128**, there can be adopted, for example, known resin materials (e.g., such commercially available materials as Color Resists produced by JSR corporation).

(13) Light Shielding Layer **3129**

[0139] The light shielding layers **3129** are formed from a resin material containing a UV-curing resin (e.g., UV-curing acrylic resin) material as a main constituent, with a black pigment added thereto. As the black pigment, there can be adopted light shielding materials such as, for example, carbon black pigments, titanium black pigments, metallic oxide pigments, and organic pigments.

1.5 Method of Manufacturing Display Panel **10**

[0140] A method of manufacturing the display panel **10** will be described referring to FIGS. **8A**, **8B**, **8C**, **8D**, **9A**, **9B**, **9C**, **9D**, **9E**, **10A**, **10B**, **10C**, **10D** and **11**.

(1) Preparation of Substrate **3100x**

[0141] The substrate **3100x** formed with pluralities of TFTs and wirings inclusive of the wirings **3110** is prepared. The substrate **3100x** can be produced by a known TFT production method (FIG. **8A**).

(2) Formation of Interlayer Insulating Layer **3118**

[0142] The aforementioned constituent material (photo-sensitive resin material) of the interlayer insulating layer **3118** is applied as a photoresist in such a manner as to cover the substrate **3100x**, and the surface is planarized, to form the interlayer insulating layer **3118** (FIG. **8B**).

[0143] After the interlayer insulating layer **3118** is formed, a photomask provided with predetermined openings is placed thereon, and irradiation with UV rays from above is conducted to expose the interlayer insulating layer **3118**, thereby transferring the pattern possessed by the photomask (not illustrated). Thereafter, development is performed, to form the interlayer insulating layer **3118** in which contact holes **3118a** are patterned. Wirings **3110** are exposed at bottom portions of the contact holes **3118a** (not illustrated).

[0144] While the interlayer insulating layer **3118** is formed by use of a positive type photoresist in the present embodiment, the interlayer insulating layer **3118** may be formed by use of a negative type photoresist.

(3) Formation of Pixel Electrode **3119** and Auxiliary Electrode Layer **3200**

[0145] After the interlayer insulating layer **3118**, which has the contact holes **3118a** opened, are formed, the pixel electrodes **3119** and the auxiliary electrode layers **3200** are formed (FIG. **8C**).

[0146] Formation of the pixel electrodes **3119** and the auxiliary electrode layers **3200** is conducted by forming a metallic film by use of a sputtering process or the like,

followed by patterning by use of a photolithography method and an etching method. In this instance, a metallic film is formed along inner walls of the contact holes **3118a**, whereby the connection recesses **3119c** of the pixel electrodes **3119** are formed (not illustrated).

[0147] The pixel electrode **3119** makes direct contact with the wiring **3110** exposed at a bottom portion of the contact hole **3118a**, to be in electrical connection with the electrode of the TFT.

[0148] The pixel electrode **3119** is preferably formed by a film forming process which is excellent in step coverage (for example, a sputtering process and a CVD process), in order not to be cut off at a side surface of the contact hole **3118a** in the interlayer insulating layer **3118**. In addition, even when the film forming process excellent in step coverage is used, if the film thickness of the pixel electrodes **3119** is excessively small, stepping may be generated; therefore, it is preferable to form the pixel electrodes **3119** in a film thickness of not less than 70 nm.

(4) Formation of Lower Layer **3120a** of Hole Injection Layer **3120**

[0149] After the pixel electrodes **3119** and the auxiliary electrode layers **3200** are formed, the lower layers **3120A** of the hole injection layers **3120** are formed (FIG. 8D).

[0150] The lower layers **3120A** are formed by forming films composed individually of a metal (e.g., tungsten) by use of sputtering process or a vapor deposition process such as a vacuum deposition process, followed by baking to oxidize the metal, and patterning on a pixel basis by use of a photolithography process and an etching process.

(5) Formation of Insulating Layer **3122**

[0151] After the lower layer **3120A** of the hole injection layer **3120** is formed, the insulating layers **3122** are formed so as to cover edge portions of the lower layer **3120A** and of the auxiliary electrode layers **3200** (FIG. 9A). In forming the insulating layers **3122**, the row insulating layers **3122X** and the column insulating layers **3122Y** are formed so as to form the gaps **3522Z**. The insulating layers **3122** are so formed that the surfaces of the lower layers **3120A** of the hole injection layers **3120** are exposed between the row insulating layer **3122X** and the row insulating layer **3122X** in the gaps **3522Z**.

[0152] In forming the insulating layers **3122**, first, a film of the constituent material (e.g., photosensitive resin material) of the insulating layers **3122** is stackedly formed on the lower layers **3120A** of the hole injection layers **3120** by use of a spin coating process or the like. Then, the resin film is patterned to simultaneously form the row insulating layers **3122X** and the column insulating layers **3122Y**. The patterning of the row insulating layers **3122X** and the column insulating layers **3122Y** is carried out by performing exposure utilizing a photomask over the resin film, and performing a development step and a baking step (approximately 230° C., approximately 60 minutes).

[0153] Specifically, in the step of forming the insulating layers **3122**, first, a photosensitive resin film of an organic photosensitive resin material, for example, an acrylic resin, a polyimide resin, a novolak type phenolic resin or the like is formed, is then dried, the solvent is volatilized to some extent, a photomask provided with predetermined openings is placed thereon, and irradiation with UV rays is conducted

from above to expose the photoresist formed of the photosensitive resin or the like, thereby transferring a pattern possessed by the photomask to the photoresist. Next, the photosensitive resin is developed, whereby the insulating layers obtained by patterning of the insulating layer **3122** are formed. Generally, a photoresist called the positive type is used. Of a positive type photoresist, those parts which are exposed are removed by development. Those parts which are not exposed are left without being developed.

[0154] Electrode upper portions **3122Yd** are formed over the auxiliary electrode layers **3200**, in the column insulating layers **3122Y** (FIG. 9B). In forming the electrode upper portions **3122Yd**, first, a film of the constituent material (e.g., photosensitive resin material) of the insulating layers **3122** is stackedly formed on the upper surfaces **3122Yb** of the column insulating layer **3122Y** and the lower layers **3120A** of the hole injection layers **3120**. Then, the resin film is patterned, to form the bank-shaped electrode upper portions **3122Yd** over the auxiliary electrode layers **3200**. The patterning of the electrode upper portions **3122Yd** is carried out by performing exposure utilizing a photomask over the resin film, and performing a development step and a baking step (approximately 230° C., approximately 60 minutes).

[0155] On a production basis, an upper limit film thickness for the banks **3122** is not more than 6,000 nm; with such a setting, variability in film thickness upon production is reduced and control of bottom line width can be performed. In addition, as the film thickness is reduced, it may become necessary for the film thickness to be comparable to the bottom line width, so that a lower limit film thickness is not less than 200 nm; with such a setting, it becomes possible to obtain a desired bottom line width under limitations as to resolution. From the viewpoint of manufacturing process, for example, a film thickness of 200 to 6,000 nm is preferable. In the present embodiment, the film thickness of the banks **3122Yb** was approximately 4,000 nm, and the film thickness of the banks **3122X** was approximately 500 nm. The conditions for Xb and Y may be the same.

[0156] After the electrode upper portions **3122Yd** are formed, a photomask formed with predetermined openings is placed on the upper surfaces **3122Ye**, and irradiation with UV rays is conducted from above to expose the electrode upper portions **3122Yd**, thereby transferring the pattern possessed by the photomask (FIG. 9C). By regulating the exposure dose in forming the through-holes **3122Ya**, the inclination angle of inner walls of the through-holes **3122Ya** can be controlled.

[0157] Thereafter, development is performed, whereby the column insulating layers **3122Y** with the through-holes **3122Ya** patterned in the electrode upper portions **3122Yd** are formed (FIG. 9D). At bottom portions of the through-holes **3122Ya**, the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** is exposed. The exposed portions of the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** are referred to as hole bottom portions **3200b**.

[0158] While the through-holes **3122Ya** are formed by use of the positive type photoresist in the present embodiment, the through-holes **3122Ya** may be formed by use of a negative type photoresist.

[0159] Next, on the upper surfaces **3122Yb** of the column insulating layers **3122Y**, the bank-shaped column banks **3522Y** are formed so as to form the gaps **3522Z** (FIG. 9E). In forming the column banks **3522Y**, first, a film of the constituent material (e.g., photosensitive resin material) of the column banks **3522Y** is formed by use of a spin coating

process or the like. Then, the resin film is patterned to open the gaps **3522z**, thereby forming the column banks **3522Y**. The formation of the gaps **3522z** is carried out by performing exposure by disposing a mask over the resin film, followed by development. The column banks **3522Y** are provided to extend in the column direction, and provided juxtaposedly through the gaps **3522z** therebetween in the row direction.

[0160] On a production basis, an upper limit film thickness of the banks **3522Y** is desirably not more than 1,500 nm, from the viewpoint of enhancement of productivity through a reduction in cost. In addition, as the film thickness is reduced, it may become necessary for the film thickness to be comparable to the bottom line width, so that a lower limit film thickness is not less than 1 μm ; with such a setting, it is possible to obtain a desired bottom line width under limitations as to resolution. Besides, in the case of a process involving application of a solution, uniformity of film thickness under ruggedness of the substrate to be coated is enhanced. For this reason, the steps due to the TFTs should be reduced as much as possible, and, therefore, it is preferable for a lower limit film thickness for the insulating film to be not less than 500 nm. Accordingly, from the viewpoint of manufacturing process, the thickness of the banks **3522Y** is preferably 500 to 1,500 nm, for example. In the present embodiment, the thickness was approximately 1,000 nm.

(6) Formation of Organic Functional Layer

[0161] The upper layers **3120B** of the hole injection layers **3120**, the hole transport layers **3121**, and the light emitting layers **3123** are sequentially stackedly formed on the lower layers **3120A** of the hole injection layers **3120** formed in the gaps **3522z** defined by the column banks **3522Y** inclusive of the areas over the row insulating layers **3122X** (FIG. 10A).

[0162] In forming the upper layers **3120B**, an ink containing a conductive polymer material such as PEDOT (a mixture of polythiophene and polystyrenesulfonic acid) is applied to the inside of the gaps **3522z** defined by the column banks **3522Y** by an ink jet process, after which the solvent is removed by volatilization. Alternatively, baking is conducted. Thereafter, patterning may be conducted on a pixel basis by use of a photolithography process and an etching process.

[0163] In forming the hole transport layer **3121**, an ink containing the constituent material is applied to the inside of the gaps **3522z** defined by the column banks **3522Y** by use of a wet process such as an ink jet process or a gravure printing process, after which the solvent is removed by volatilization. Alternatively, baking is conducted. The method for applying the ink for forming the hole injection layers **3121** to the inside of the gaps **3522z** is the same as the method for the upper layer **3120B** described above. Alternatively, the hole transport layers **3121** are formed by depositing a film of a metal (e.g., tungsten) by a sputtering process, followed by baking to oxidize the metal. Thereafter, patterning on a pixel basis may be conducted by use of a photolithography process and an etching process.

[0164] Formation of the light emitting layers **3123** is conducted by applying inks containing the constituent materials to the inside of the gaps **3522z** defined by the column banks **3522Y** by an ink jet process, after which baking is conducted. Specifically, in this step, the inks each containing the material for the organic light emitting layer for one of R, G, and B are applied to fill the gaps **3522z** as sub-pixel forming regions by an ink jet process, then the applied inks

are dried under a reduced pressure, followed by a baking treatment, to form the light emitting layers **3123R**, **3123G**, and **3123B**. In this instance, in applying the inks for the light emitting layers **3123**, first, the solutions for forming the light emitting layers **3123** are applied by a droplet jetting apparatus. After the application of the ink for forming one of the red light emitting layer, the green light emitting layer, and the blue light emitting layer to the substrate **3100x** is finished, next an ink of another color is applied to the substrate, then an ink of a third color is applied to the substrate, and these steps are performed repeatedly, whereby the inks of three colors are sequentially applied. In this way, the red light emitting layers, the green light emitting layers, and the blue light emitting layers are formed juxtaposedly and repeatedly, in the horizontal direction on the paper surface of the drawing, on the substrate **3100x**.

[0165] The method for forming the upper layers **3120B** of the hole injection layers **3120**, the hole transport layers **3121**, and the light emitting layers **3123** is not limited to the above-mentioned, and other known methods than the ink jet method and the gravure printing method may be used to drop or apply the inks, such as a dispenser method, a nozzle coating method, a spin coating method, an intaglio printing method, or a relief printing method.

(7) Formation of Electron Transport Layer **3124**

[0166] After the light emitting layers **3123** are formed, the electron transport layer **3124** is formed over the whole surface of the display panel **10** by a vacuum deposition process or the like (FIG. 10B). The electron transport layer **3124** is formed also on the electrode upper portions **3122Ye** of the column insulating layers **3122Y** and on the auxiliary electrode layers **3200** in the through-holes **3122Ya** in the column insulating layers **3122Y**. In this instance, a part located in the vicinity of the inner wall **3122c** of the through-hole **3122Ya** is lacking (undergoes stepping), whereby a lacking part **3124a** is generated at which the electron transport layer **3124** is not formed. Through the lacking part **3124a**, a part of the hole bottom portion **3200b** of the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** is exposed. That part of the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** which is exposed through the lacking part **3124a** is referred to as the contact surface **3200c**.

[0167] If the film thickness of the electron transport layer **3124** is excessively small, electrons are directly migrated from the common electrode layer **3125** to the light emitting layer **3123**, so that the function of restricting the injection of electrons into the light emitting layer **3123** cannot be realized. Therefore, the film thickness of the electron transport layer **3124** is preferably not less than 10 nm. On the other hand, thickening of the electron transport layer **3124** lowers the transmittance of the electron transport layer **3124**, and hinders the generation of the stepping. For preventing the light transmitted through the electron transport layer **3124** from being attenuated excessively and for intentionally generating the stepping over the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** in the through-hole **3122Ya** in the auxiliary electrode layer **3200**, the film thickness of the electron transport layer **3124** is preferably not more than 40 nm.

[0168] The reason why the lacking parts **3124a** are generated will be described later.

(8) Formation of Common Electrode Layer **3125**

[0169] After the electron transport layer **3124** is formed, the common electrode layer **3125** is formed so as to cover

the electron transport layer **3124** by a CVD process, a sputtering process or the like (FIG. 10C). The common electrode layer **3125** is formed also on the inner walls **3122Yc** of the through-holes **3122Ya** in the column insulating layers **3122Y** and on the electron transport layer **3124** and on the auxiliary electrode layers **3200**. In this instance, the common electrode layer **3125** is formed in such a manner that the common electrode layer **3125** comes around into the lacking parts **3124a** of the electron transport layer **3124**, to make direct contact with the inner walls of the contact surfaces **3200c** of the auxiliary electrode layers **3200** that are exposed at the lacking parts of the electron transport layer **3124**.

[0170] If the common electrode layer **3125** is excessively thin, it may cause generation of stepping; therefore, the common electrode layer **3125** is preferably formed in a film thickness of not less than 25 nm. On the other hand, thickening of the common electrode layer **3125** lowers the transmittance of the common electrode layer **3125**; therefore, the common electrode layer **3125** is preferably formed in a film thickness of not more than 250 nm.

[0171] Here, the method of forming the common electrode layer **3125** will be described further.

[0172] First, referring to FIG. 11, general configuration of a sputtering system **600** will be described. The sputtering system **600** includes a substrate transfer chamber **610**, a film forming chamber **620**, and a load lock chamber **630**, and sputtering is conducted in the film forming chamber **620** by a magnetron sputtering process. A sputtering gas is introduced into the film forming chamber **620**. As the sputtering gas, an inert gas such as Ar (argon) is used. In the present embodiment, Ar is used.

[0173] On a carrier **621** in the sputtering system **600**, a substrate **622** on which to form a film is disposed. In the substrate transfer chamber **610**, the substrate **622** is mounted to the carrier **621** by a substrate pushing-up mechanism **611**. The carrier **621** with the substrate **622** mounted thereto is moved from the substrate transfer chamber **610** to the load lock chamber **630** through the film forming chamber **620** rectilinearly at a constant speed on a carrying passage **601**. In the present embodiment, the moving speed of the carrier **621** is 30 mm/second. Note that the substrate **622** is not heated, and the sputtering is conducted at normal temperature.

[0174] In the film forming chamber **620**, a rod-shaped target **623** extending in a direction orthogonal to the carrying passage **601** is disposed. In the present embodiment, the target **623** is ITO. Note that the target **623** may not necessarily be rod-shaped, and may be, for example, in a powdery form.

[0175] A power supply **624** impresses a voltage on the target **623**. Note that while the power supply **624** in FIG. 11 is an alternate current (AC) power supply, it may be a direct current (DC) power supply or a DC/AC hybrid power supply.

[0176] The inside of the sputtering system **600** is evacuated by an evacuation system **631**, and the sputtering gas is introduced into the film forming chamber **620** by a gas supply system **632**. When a voltage is impressed on the target **623** by the power supply **624**, a plasma of the sputtering gas is generated, and the surface of the target **623** is sputtered. Then, the sputtered atoms of the target **623** are deposited on the substrate **622**, whereby a film is formed.

[0177] Note that the gas pressure of Ar as the sputtering gas is, for example, 0.6 Pa, and its flow rate is 100 sccm.

(9) Formation of Sealing Layer **3126**

[0178] After the common electrode layer **3125** is formed, the sealing layer **3126** is formed so as to cover the common electrode layer **3125** (FIG. 10D). The sealing layer **3126** can be formed by a CVD process, a sputtering process or the like.

(10) Formation of CF Substrate **3131**

[0179] Next, a step of producing the CF substrate **3131** will be exemplified.

[0180] The transparent upper substrate **3130** is prepared, and a material for the light-shielding layer **3129**, which contains a UV-curing resin (e.g., UV-curing acrylic resin) material as a main constituent with a black pigment added thereto, is applied to a surface on one side of the transparent upper substrate **3130** (FIG. 12A).

[0181] A pattern mask PM provided with predetermined openings is placed on the upper surface of the applied light-shielding layer **3129**, and irradiation with UV rays is conducted from above (FIG. 12B).

[0182] Thereafter, development is conducted by removing the pattern mask PM and uncured portions of the light-shielding layer **3129**, and curing is performed, whereon the light-shielding layers **3129** in a rectangular sectional shape are completed (FIG. 12C).

[0183] Next, a material **3128G** for a color filter layer **3128** (e.g., **3128(G)**), which contains a UV-curing resin component as a main constituent, is applied to the surface of the upper substrate **3130** formed with the light-shielding layer **3129** (FIG. 12D), a predetermined pattern mask PM is placed thereon, and irradiation with UV rays is conducted (FIG. 12E).

[0184] Thereafter, curing is performed, and development is conducted by removing the pattern mask PM and uncured portions of the paste **3128R**, whereon color filter layers **3128(G)** are formed (FIG. 12F).

[0185] The steps of FIGS. 12D, 12E, and 12F are similarly repeated for each of color filter materials, whereby color filter layers **3128(R)** and **3128(B)** are formed (FIG. 12G). Note that commercially available color filter products may be utilized, instead of using the pastes **3128G**, **3128R**, and **3128B**.

[0186] In this way, the CF substrate **3131** is formed.

(11) Lamination of CF Substrate **3131** and Back Panel

[0187] Next, a material for the bonding layer **3127**, which contains a UV-curing resin such as acrylic resin, silicone resin, and epoxy resin as a main constituent, is applied to the back panel including the layers ranging from the substrate **3100x** to the sealing layer **3126** (FIG. 13A).

[0188] Subsequently, the applied material is irradiated with UV rays, to laminate the back panel and the CF substrate **3131** in the state in which they are relatively positioned (aligned). In this instance, care should be taken to prevent gas from entering between both substrates. Thereafter, both the substrates are baked to complete the sealing step, whereon the display panel **10** is completed (FIG. 13B).

1.6 Configuration in Which Auxiliary Electrode Layer 3200 and Common Electrode Layer 3125 are Brought Into Direct Contact With Each Other

(1) Generation of Stepping in Vacuum Deposition

[0189] As has been described above, in the display panel 10, when the electrode transport layers 3124 are formed by a vacuum deposition process or the like, a part located in the vicinity of the inner wall 3122c of each through-hole 3122Ya made to be lacking (to undergo stepping), whereby the lacking part 3124a where the electron transport layer 3124 is not formed is generated. Due to the presence of the lacking part 3124a, a part of each hole bottom portion 3200b of the auxiliary electrode layer 3200 is exposed. The reason why the lacking parts 3124a are generated when the electron transport layer 3124 is formed will be described below.

[0190] FIG. 14 is a schematic diagram depicting a vapor deposition system 500 used for forming the electron transport layer 3124. As illustrated in FIG. 14, the vapor deposition system 500 includes a chamber 510. A vacuum pump (not illustrated) is connected to a chamber exhaust port 510a of the chamber 510 so that a vacuum can be maintained inside the chamber 510. The inside space of the chamber 510 is partitioned to upper and lower portions by a partition plate 520, and the substrate 3100x is carried over the partition plate 520. At side walls of the chamber 510, there are provided a carrying-in port 510b through which the substrate 3100x is carried into the chamber 510, and a carrying-out port 510c through which the substrate 3100x is carried out of the chamber 510. The substrate 3100x is intermittently carried into the chamber 510 through the carrying-in port 510b by carrying means 512, then is passed over the partition plate 520, and is carried out through the carrying-out port 510c.

[0191] Under the partition plate 520 in the chamber 510, a vapor source 530 for spouting a substance to be vapor deposited is disposed. The vapor source 530 is provided with a heater 540, and the substance to be vapor deposited which is spouted from the vapor source 530 by heating is, for example, a substance for forming a functional layer of the organic EL element, and is an organic substance, an inorganic substance, or a metal. The organic substance is, for example, a material for forming a functional layer of the organic EL element, and examples thereof include oxadiazole derivatives (OXD), triazole derivatives (TAZ), and phenanthroline derivatives (BCP, Bphen). Examples of the inorganic substance include dopant metals selected from among alkali metals and alkaline earth metals. In addition, examples of the material for forming an anode include metallic materials such as Al, Ba, Ni, Li, Mg, Au, and Ag, and metallic oxide materials such as MgF₂, SiO₂, and Cr₂O₃.

[0192] The partition plate 520 is provided with a window 520a through which the substance to be deposited released from the vapor source 530 passes, and the window 520a can be opened and closed with a shutter 521. In such a vapor deposition system 500, while the substance to be deposited is spouted from the vapor source 530, with the shutter 521 open, the substrate 3100x is carried, whereby the substance to be deposited which is spouted from the vapor source 530 passes through the window 520a, to be deposited on the lower surface of the substrate 3100x. In this instance, the positional relation between the vapor source 530 and the window 520a is such that a straight line extending from the

center of the vapor source 530 to pass through the center of the window 520a is kept inclined at an angle θ against the normal to the substrate 3100x. As a result, the substance to be deposited is deposited on the substrate 3100x at an average incidence angle of θ , throughout the vapor deposition time.

[0193] In the inside of the chamber 510, there is disposed a sensor 550 for measuring the quantity of the substance to be deposited which is supplied from the vapor source 530 toward the substrate 3100x per unit time (evaporation rate). The velocity at which to carry the substrate 3100x and the like factors are set with reference to the evaporation rate of the substance to be deposited which is measured by the sensor 550. Note that in the case of pattern vapor deposition of the substance to be deposited on the substrate 3100x, the vapor deposition is conducted by providing on the lower side of the substrate 3100x a mask formed with a pattern.

[0194] FIG. 15A is an enlarged view of the vicinity of the auxiliary electrode layer 3200 depicted in FIG. 5 after the formation of the electron transport layer 3124. In the step of forming the electron transport layer 3124 by use of the vapor deposition system 500, as depicted in FIG. 15A, vapor deposition is conducted using the vapor source 530 the center of which is disposed at a position inclined by an angle θ from the normal to the substrate 3100x. In a vacuum deposition process in which vapor deposition is conducted in a high-vacuum-degree atmosphere, the substance to be deposited travels straight through the atmosphere. In the vapor deposition system 500, the substance to be deposited is supplied from the vapor source 530 inclined by the angle θ relative to the substrate 3100x, to be deposited on the substrate 3100x.

[0195] In the display panel 10, as aforementioned, the upper surface 3122Ye of the electrode upper portion 3122Yd located over the auxiliary electrode layer 3200 in the column insulating layer 3122Y is formed with the through-hole 3122Ya. The opening width w_0' of the through-hole 3122Ya is substantially equal to the width w_0 of the through-hole 3122Ya at the bottom surface of the insulating layer 3122Y, and $w_0' > w_0$. In the present embodiment, the through-hole 3122Ya is so formed that the thickness h is 4,000 nm and the width w_0 is 10,000 nm, with h/w_0 being 0.4.

[0196] For this reason, of the hole bottom portion 3200b of the auxiliary electrode layer 3200 located at the bottom surface of the through-hole 3122Ya, a part located in the vicinity of the inner wall 3122c of the through-hole 3122Ya is included in a region shaded from the vapor source 530. As a result, at this part, so-called vignetting (shading) where the substance to be deposited does not reach is generated, so that the lacking part 3124a due to the stepping, or no deposition of the substance to be deposited, is generated.

[0197] Specifically, as depicted in FIG. 15A, the electron transport layer 3124 is lacking at the part located in the vicinity of the inner wall 3122c of the through-hole 3122Ya, so that the lacking part 3124a where the electron transport layer 3124 is not formed is formed between end portions 3124a2 and 3124a3. At the lacking part 3124a, the contact surface 3200c of the auxiliary electrode layer 3200 is exposed.

[0198] In addition, the electron transport layer 3124b is formed at a part (presence part) exclusive of the lower side of the lacking part 3124a in the hole bottom portion 3200b over the auxiliary electrode layer 3200 located at the bottom

surface of the through-hole **3122Ya**. This part is located between end portions **3124a1** and **3124a2**.

[0199] Thus, the electron transport layer **3124** is formed by a film forming process (e.g., vacuum deposition process) comparatively poor in step coverage so that stepping occurs, and the contact surface **3200** is exposed, in the hole bottom portion **3200b** over the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** located at the bottom surface of the through-hole **3122Ya**.

(2) Generation of Coming-Around in Sputtering Process or CVD Process

[0200] When the common electrode layer **3125** is formed by a CVD process, a sputtering process or the like, the common electrode layer **3125** comes around into the lacking part **3124a** of the electron transport layer **3124**, to make direct contact with the contact surface **3200c** of the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** that is exposed through the lacking part of the electron transport layer **3124**. Formation of the common electrode layer **3125** will be described below.

[0201] FIG. 15B is an enlarged view of the vicinity of the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** depicted in FIG. 4 after the formation of the common electrode layer **3125**. The common electrode layer **3125** is formed by a film forming process (e.g., sputtering process or CVD process) excellent in step coverage, whereby the common electrode layer **3125** is formed to come around into the lacking part **3124a** (between the end portions **3124a2** and **3124a3**) of the electron transport layer **3124**. As a result, as depicted in FIG. 15B, the common electrode layer **3125** is formed in such a manner as to make direct contact with the contact surface **3200c** of the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** exposed at the lacking part **3124a** (between the end portions **3124a2** and **3124a3**) of the electron transport layer **3124** over the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** inside the through-hole **3122Ya** in the column insulating layer **3122Y**.

[0202] In this instance, the ratio of the width **w1** of the lacking part **3124a** (between the end portions **3124a2** and **3124a3**) constituting the contact surface **3200c** to the opening width **w0** of the through-hole **3122Ya** should be not less than the ratio in resistivity between the electron transport layer **3124** and the common electrode layer **3125**.

[0203] Therefore, the width **w1** of the lacking part **3124a** should satisfy the following expression.

$$w_1 > \frac{R_0}{R_1} \cdot w_0$$

[0204] Further, let the angle of incidence on the substrate from the center of the vapor source **630** in the step of forming the electron transport layer **3124** be θ , then the opening width **w0** should satisfy the following expression.

$$w_0 < \frac{R_1}{R_0} \cdot h \cdot \tan \theta$$

[0205] The reason is as follows. In the present embodiment, if the incidence angle θ on the substrate from the center of the vapor source **630** is less than 75 degrees, cutting of the electron transport layer **3124** would not be generated, and it would be difficult to secure electrical contact with the common electrode layer **3125**. If the inci-

dence angle θ exceeds 85 degrees, on the other hand, the vapor deposition rate of the electron transport layer **3124** would be lowered, and it would be difficult to secure a film thickness of the electron transport layer **3124** on the upper surface of the insulating layer **3122Y**.

[0206] In this instance, the thickness **h** of the insulating layer **3122Y** is in the range of 1,000 to 6,000 nm, preferably 2,000 to 5,000 nm. In addition, the opening width **w0** at the bottom surface of the through-hole **3122Ya** is in the range of 2 to 10 μm , though not limited.

[0207] Therefore, the ratio of the thickness **h** of the insulating layer **3122Y** to the opening width **w0** of the through-hole **3122Ya** in the insulating layer **3122Y** is preferably in the range of 0.1 to 0.8, more preferably of 0.13 to 0.3.

[0208] Such a shape ensures that the electron transport layer **3124** formed on the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** breaks off (undergoes cutting) at a part of the hole bottom portion **3200b** inside the through-hole **3122Ya**, whereby the lacking part **3124a** is formed. More in detail, of the electron transport layer **3124**, the end portions **3124a1** and **3124a2** (or the end portions **3124a3** and **3124a4**) are spaced apart from each other so that the contact surface **3200c** of the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** is exposed. The common electrode layer **3125** is formed in contact with the contact surface **3200c** of the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** in the manner of coming around into the lacking part **3124a** between the end portions **3124a1** and **3124a2** (or between the end portions **3124a3** and **3124a4**) of the electron transport layer **3124**.

[0209] As a result, the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** makes direct contact with the common electrode layer **3125** at the contact surface **3200c**, so that electric resistance in connection between the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** and the common electrode layer **3125** can be lowered. As a result, the voltage drop at the joint portion between the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** and the common electrode layer **3125** is suppressed, whereby light emission efficiency is enhanced, a lowering in luminance at a central portion of the screen is suppressed, and variability in luminance can be reduced.

1.7 In Regard of Effect of Display Panel 10

[0210] The effects produced by the display panel **10** will be described below.

[0211] The display panel **10** according to the present embodiment is an organic EL display panel having a plurality of pixel electrodes **3119** arranged in a matrix pattern on the substrate **3100x** and having the light emitting layer, containing an organic light emitting material, disposed on each of the pixel electrodes **3119**. The display panel **10** includes the current feeding auxiliary electrode layers **3200** provided in the state of being not in contact with the pixel electrodes **3119** adjacent to the electrode forming region that extends in the column direction over at least one of the gaps between the pixel electrodes **3119** adjacent in the row direction on the substrate **3100x**, the insulating layers **3122Y** that are provided at least on the current feeding auxiliary electrode layers **3200** and extend in the column direction, the functional layers **3124** provided ranging over the light emitting layers **3123** and over the insulating layers **3122Y**, and the common electrode layer **3125** provided in the state of extending continuously on the functional layers **3124**. The functional layers **3124** have parts **3125a** lacking, the parts

3125a located in the vicinity of the inner walls **3122Yc** of the through-holes **3122Ya** over the current feeding auxiliary electrode layers **3200** inside the through-holes **3122Ya**, and the common electrode **3125** is in direct contact with the current feeding auxiliary electrode layers **3200c** exposed due to the lacking **3125a** of the functional layers **3124**.

[0212] According to such a configuration, the electron transport layer **3124** formed on the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** breaks off (undergoes cutting) at a part of the hole bottom portion **3200b** inside each through-hole **3122Ya** to form the lacking part **3124a**, and the common electrode layer **3125** is formed in contact with the contact surface **3200c** of the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** in the manner of coming around into each lacking part **3124a** of the electron transport layer **3124**.

[0213] Therefore, the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** makes direct contact with the common electrode **3125** at the contact surface **3200c**, so that electric resistance in connection between the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** and the common electrode layer **3125** can be lowered. As a result, the voltage drop at the joint portion between the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** and the common electrode layer **3125** is suppressed, whereby light emission efficiency is enhanced, a lowering in luminance at a central portion of the screen is suppressed, and variability in luminance can be reduced.

[0214] Thus, it is possible to provide an organic EL display panel which can be manufactured by a simple manufacturing process, and in which it is possible to reduce the electric resistance in electrical connection between a common electrode layer and a current feeding auxiliary electrode layer, to enhance light emission efficiency and to restrain variability in luminance.

[0215] Besides, in another mode, in any of the above configurations, the ratio of the thickness h of the insulating layer **3122Y** to the opening width w_0 of the through-hole **3122Ya** may be in the range of 0.1 to 0.8.

[0216] According to such a configuration, it is possible, by a simple manufacturing process not involving a special step, to cause the functional layer **3124** to undergo stepping in the hole bottom portion **3200b** over the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** located at the bottom surface of each through-hole **3122Ya** in the insulating layer **3122Y** to form the lacking part **3125a**, and thereby to realize a structure in which the contact surface **3200c** of the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer **3200** is exposed through the lacking part **3125a**.

[0217] In addition, in another mode, in any of the above configurations, a configuration may be adopted wherein the functional layer **3124** is present at other parts than one part inside the through-hole **3122Ya**, on the upper surface **3122Yb** of the insulating layer **3122Y** and on the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer **3200**, and is lacking at the part located on the inner wall **3122Yc** of the through-hole **3122Ya**.

[0218] The method of manufacturing the organic EL display panel **10** according to the present embodiment includes the steps of preparing the substrate **3100x**, arranging a plurality of pixel electrodes **3119** in a matrix pattern over the substrate **3100x**, securing the electrode forming region that extends in the column direction over at least one of gaps between the pixel electrodes **3119** in the row direction over the substrate **3100x**, and forming by a vapor deposition process the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer **3200** in the state of being not in contact with the pixel electrodes

3119 adjacent to the electrode forming region, forming the insulating layer **3122Y** extending in the column direction at least over the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer **3200**, forming the light emitting layer **3123** containing an organic light emitting material over each pixel electrode **3119**, opening a plurality of through-holes **3122Ya** in the insulating layer **3122Y**, forming by a vapor deposition process the functional layer **3124** ranging over the light emitting layer **3123** and over the insulating layer **3122Y**, and forming by a sputtering process or a CVD process the common electrode layer **3125** extending continuously over the functional layer **3124**.

[0219] According to such a configuration, the electron transport layer **3124** formed on the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** breaks off (undergoes cutting), to form the lacking part **3124a**, at a part of the hole bottom portion **3200b** inside each through-hole **3122Ya**, and the common electrode layer **3125** is formed in contact with the contact surface **3200c** of the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** in the manner of coming around into the lacking part **3124a**. As a result, it is possible, by use of a simple manufacturing process, to manufacture an organic EL display panel in which the electric resistance in electrical connection between the common electrode and the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer is lowered, light emission efficiency is enhanced, and variability in luminance is restrained.

[0220] Besides, in another mode, in any of the above configurations, let the thickness of the insulating layer **3122Y** be h , let the resistivity of the functional layer **3124** be R_1 , let the resistivity of the common electrode **3125** be R_0 , let the average angle of incidence on the substrate **3100x** from the vapor source **630** in the step of forming the functional layer **3124** be θ , then the opening width w of the through-hole **3122Ya** may be defined by the following expression.

$$w_0 < \frac{R_1}{R_0} \cdot h \cdot \tan \theta$$

[0221] According to the shape defined by the above expression, the electron transport layer **3124** formed on the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** breaks off (undergoes cutting), to form the lacking part **3124a**, at a part of the hole bottom portion **3200b** inside each through-hole **3122Ya**, and the common electrode layer **3125** is formed in contact with the contact surface **3200c** of the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** in the manner of coming around into the lacking part **3124a** of the electron transport layer **3124**.

[0222] As has been described above, the organic EL display panel according to Embodiment 1 can be manufactured by a simple manufacturing process, and in the organic EL display panel, the electric resistance in electrical connection between the common electrode layer and the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer can be lowered, light emission efficiency can be enhanced, and variability in luminance can be restrained.

1.8 Modifications

(1) Modification 1

[0223] In the display panel **10**, the electron transport layer **3124** is lacking, to form the lacking part **3124a** where the

electron transport layer **3124** is not formed, at a part located in the vicinity of the inner wall **3122c** of each through-hole **3122Ya** in the column insulating layer **3122Y**, over the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** inside the through-hole **3122Ya**, and the common electrode layer **3125** is formed in direct contact with the contact surface **3200c** exposed at the lacking part **3124a** of the electron transport layer **3124**.

[0224] However, the electron transport layer **3124** is not restricted to the above-described, and may be modified as required.

[0225] In an organic EL display panel according to Modification 2, the electron transport layer **3124** may be formed with a thinned part (not illustrated) where a part of the electron transport layer **3124** is not lacking but is thinned to or below 1 nm, at a part located in the vicinity of the inner wall **3122c** of each through-hole **3122Ya** in the column insulating layer **3122Y**, over the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** inside the through-hole **3122Ya**.

[0226] According to such a configuration, although the part of the electron transport layer **3124** is not lacking, a structure can be realized wherein the common electrode layer **3125** is electrically connected to the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** at a lower electric resistance at the thinned part of the electron transport layer **3124** over the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** inside each through-hole **3122Ya** in the column insulating layer **3122Y** than at other parts of the electron transport layer **3124**. As a result, the electric resistance in electrical connection between the common electrode layer **3125** and the auxiliary electrode layer **3200** can be lowered, light emission efficiency can be enhanced, and variability in luminance can be restrained.

(2) Modification 2

[0227] While the display panel **10** according to Embodiment 1 has been described above, the present disclosure is not limited to the above embodiment, except for essential and characteristic constituent elements thereof. For instance, modes obtained by subjecting the embodiments to various modifications conceived by those skilled in the art and modes realized by arbitrary combinations of the constituent elements and functions in each of the embodiments without departing from the gist of the present disclosure are also embraced in the present disclosure. As an example of such modes, a modification of the display panel **10** will be described below. In the display panel **10**, as depicted in FIG. 4, the row insulating layers **3122X** are provided in the state of being along the row direction orthogonal to the column direction, in such a manner as to intersect the column insulating layers **3122Y** in a grid-like pattern, and each have an upper surface **3122Xb** at the same height position as the upper surface **3122Yb** of the column insulating layer **3122Y**. Further, a plurality of column banks **3522Y** are juxtaposedly provided on the upper surfaces **3122Yb** of the column insulating layers **3122Y** in the state of overlapping with the column insulating layers **3122Y**, and outer edges of the self-luminescence region of each pixel in the row direction are defined by the column banks **3522Y**.

[0228] However, the shapes of the row insulating layers **3122X** and the column insulating layers **3122Y** are not limited to the above-mentioned, and may be modified as required.

[0229] FIG. 16 is a perspective view, from an oblique upper side, of a part of insulating layers **3122A** corresponding to a unit pixel **3100e** of an organic EL display panel **10A**

according to Modification 2. As illustrated in FIG. 16, in the organic EL display panel **10A**, a plurality of column banks **3522YA** each extending in the column direction (Y-direction in FIG. 16) are juxtaposedly provided over row-direction outer edges, and between the outer edges, of the two pixel electrodes **3119** adjacent in the row direction, over the row-direction outer edges of the pixel electrodes **3119** adjacent in the row direction and outer edges of the auxiliary electrode layers **3200**, and over those regions on the substrate **3100x** which are located between them. In addition, a plurality of row insulating layers **3122XA** each extending in the row direction (X-direction in FIG. 16) are juxtaposedly provided over column-direction outer edges of the two pixel electrodes adjacent in the column direction and over those regions on the substrate **3100x** which are located between the outer edges. Further, the upper surfaces **3122XAb** of the row insulating layers **3122XA** are at the same height as the upper surface **3122Ye** of an electrode upper portion **3122YAd**, raised above the auxiliary electrode layer **3200**, of the column insulating layers **3122YA**, and are present at a higher position than the upper surfaces **3122YAb** of the column insulating layers **3122YA**.

[0230] According to such a configuration, also, the column insulating layers **3122YA** have a repellency to inks containing organic compounds as materials for the light emitting layers **3123** of not less than a predetermined value, and, therefore, can define the outer edges of the self-luminescence region of each pixel in the row direction. Besides, the row insulating layers **3122XA** has an affinity for the inks of not less than a predetermined value, and, therefore, can control the flow of the inks in the column direction, whereby variations in the ink application amount among sub-pixels can be restrained, and variability in luminance can be reduced.

[0231] Furthermore, the row insulating layers **3122XA** and the column insulating layers **3122YA** can be patterned by performing once each the exposure and development utilizing a photomask, so that a lowering in productivity attendant on high-accuracy alignment of high-precision masks conducted multiple times can be avoided, and manufacturing cost can be reduced.

1.9 Other Modifications

[0232] In the display panel **10** according to Embodiment 1, the through-holes **3122Ya** provided in the column insulating layer **3122Y** are composed of substantially circular holes arranged in two rows in the column direction at a predetermined interval, as illustrated in FIG. 17A. However, the through-holes **3122Ya** may be arranged in one row, as depicted in FIG. 17B, and may be in the form of a slit or slits as depicted in FIGS. 17C and 17D.

[0233] In the display panel **10**, the light emitting layers **3123** each extend continuously in the column direction on the column bank. However, in the above-mentioned configuration, the light emitting layers **3123** may each be intermittent on a pixel basis on the column bank.

[0234] In the display panel **10**, the colors of lights emitted by the light emitting layers **3123** of the sub-pixels **3100se** arranged in the gaps **3522z** between the column banks **3522Y** adjacent in the row direction have been different from one another, whereas the colors of lights emitted from the light emitting layers **3123** of the sub-pixels **3100se** arranged in the gaps between the row insulating layers **3122X** adjacent in the column direction have been the same.

However, in the above-mentioned configuration, a configuration may be adopted wherein the colors of the lights emitted by the light emitting layers **3123** of the sub-pixels **3100_{se}** adjacent in the row direction are the same, whereas the colors of the lights emitted by the light emitting layers **3123** of the sub-pixels **3100_{se}** adjacent in the column direction are different from one another. In addition, a configuration may be adopted wherein the colors of the lights emitted by the light emitting layers **3123** of the sub-pixels **3100_{se}** adjacent in the row direction, and those in the column direction, are both different from one another.

[0235] In the display panel **10** according to the above embodiment, the pixels **3100_e** have included three kinds of pixels, namely, red pixels, green pixels and blue pixels, but this is not restrictive of the present disclosure. For instance, the light emitting layers may be of one kind, or the light emitting layers may be of four kinds that emit light in red, green, blue, and yellow.

[0236] In addition, while the pixels **3100_e** are arranged in a matrix pattern in the above embodiment, this is not limitative of the present disclosure. For example, the present disclosure has an effect also on a configuration wherein when the interval between the pixel regions is one pitch, the pixel regions are shifted (deviated) by half pitch in the column direction, between the adjacent gaps. In the display panels with a trend toward higher precision, some shifts (deviations) in the column direction are difficult to visually distinguish, and, even if irregularities in film thickness are aligned on a straight line (or zigzag line) having a certain degree of width, they appear in a belt-like form on a visual basis. Therefore, even in such a case, irregularities in luminance are restrained from being aligned in a zigzag pattern, whereby display quality of the display panel can be enhanced.

[0237] Besides, in the above embodiment, the hole injection layer **3120**, the hole transport layer **3121**, the light emitting layer **3123**, and the electron transport layer **3124** have been present between the pixel electrode **3119** and the common electrode layer **3125**, but this is not restrictive of the present disclosure. For example, a configuration may be adopted in which the hole injection layer **3120**, the hole transport layer **3121**, and the electron transport layer **3124** are not used, and only the light emitting layer **3123** is present between the pixel electrode **3119** and the common electrode layer **3125**. In addition, for example, a configuration including the hole injection layer, the hole transport layer, the electron transport layer, the electron injection layer and the like, or configurations including some or all of these layers simultaneously may also be adopted. Besides, these layers may not necessarily be all formed from organic compounds, but may be formed from inorganic materials or the like.

[0238] In addition, in the above embodiment, a wet film forming process such as a printing process, a spin coating process and an ink jet process has been used as the method for forming the light emitting layers **3123**, but this is not limitative of the present disclosure. For example, a dry film forming process such as a vacuum deposition process, an electron beam deposition process, a sputtering process, a reactive sputtering process, an ion plating process, and a vapor deposition process can also be used. Further, as the material for each of the constituent parts, known materials can be adopted as required.

[0239] In the above embodiment, the pixel electrode **3119** as an anode has been disposed at a lower portion of the EL

element section, and the pixel electrode **3119** has been connected to the wiring **3110** connected to the source electrode of the TFT. However, a configuration may be adopted wherein the common electrode layer is disposed at a lower portion of the EL element section, and the anode is disposed at an upper portion of the EL element section. In that case, the cathode disposed at a lower portion is connected to the drain of the TFT.

[0240] Besides, in the above embodiment, the two transistors Tr1 and Tr2 have been provided for one sub-pixel **3100_{se}**, but this is not restrictive of the present disclosure. For instance, one transistor may be provided for one sub-pixel, or three or more transistors may be provided for one sub-pixel.

[0241] Furthermore, while a top emission type EL display panel has been taken as an example in the above embodiment, this is not limitative of the present disclosure. For example, the present disclosure is applicable also to a bottom emission type display panel and the like. In that case, appropriate modifications in regard of each component are possible.

Embodiment 2 (No. 2017-054063)

1.1 Circuit Configuration of Display Apparatus 1

[0242] The circuit configuration of an organic EL display apparatus according to Embodiment 2 is the same as the circuit configuration of the display apparatus **1** according to Embodiment 1 depicted in FIG. 1, and, therefore, description thereof is omitted.

1.2 Circuit Configuration of Display Panel 10

[0243] The circuit configuration of a display panel **10** according to Embodiment 2 is the same as the circuit configuration of the display panel **10** according to Embodiment 1 depicted in FIG. 1, and, therefore, description thereof is omitted.

1.3 General Configuration of Display Panel 10

[0244] The display panel **10** according to Embodiment 2 will be described referring to the drawings. Note that the drawings are schematic views, and the scale therein may be different from the actual dimensions.

[0245] FIG. 18 is a schematic plan view depicting a part of the display panel according to the present embodiment. Note that hereinafter the display panel **10** will be depicted as a display panel **2010**.

[0246] The display panel **2010** is an organic EL display panel utilizing an electroluminescence phenomenon of organic compounds, and has a top emission type configuration wherein a plurality of organic EL elements **2100** arranged in a matrix pattern on a substrate **2100_x** (TFT substrate) formed with thin film transistors (TFT) emit light from an upper surface of the organic EL display panel. Here, an X-direction, a Y-direction, and a Z-direction in FIG. 18 are herein a row direction, a column direction and a thickness direction in the display panel **2010**.

[0247] In a display region of the display panel **2010**, unit pixels **2100_e** each composed of a plurality of organic EL elements **2100** are arranged in a matrix pattern. In each unit pixel **2100_e**, there are formed three kinds of self-luminescence regions **2100_a** as emitting light by an organic compound, namely, **2100_{aR}** that emits light in red, **2100_{aG}** that

emits light in green, and **2100aB** that emits light in blue (where **2100aR**, **2100aG**, and **2100aB** are not distinguished from one another, they will hereafter be referred to simply as “**2100a**”). Specifically, three sub-pixels **2100se** (where they are distinguished from one another, they will hereafter be referred to as “red sub-pixel **2100seR**,” “green sub-pixel **2100seG**,” and “blue sub-pixel **2100seB**”) corresponding respectively to the self-luminescence regions **2100aR**, **2100aG**, and **2100aB** aligned in the row direction, in a set, constitute the unit pixel **2100e** in color display.

[0248] In the display panel **2010**, a plurality of pixel electrodes **2119** are arranged in a matrix pattern on the substrate **2100x**, in the state of being spaced from one another by predetermined distances in the row and column directions. The pixel electrodes **2119** are rectangular in plan-view shape, and are formed from a light reflecting material. The three pixel electrodes **2119** aligned in order in the row direction correspond to the three self-luminescence regions **2100aR**, **2100aG**, and **2100aB** aligned in order in the row direction.

[0249] In the display panel **2010**, a plurality of auxiliary electrode layers **2200** are arranged continuously in the column direction, between the unit pixels **2100e** on the substrate **2100x**. The auxiliary electrode layers **2200** are formed of the same light reflecting material as that of the pixel electrodes **2119**. An upper surface of the auxiliary electrode layer **2200** is formed with a plurality of connection recesses (contact holes) for connection between the auxiliary electrode layer **2200** and a common electrode layer **2125** which will be described later.

[0250] Banks of an insulating layer type extending in a liner form are provided between the pixel electrodes which are adjacent to each other and between the pixel electrode **2119** and the auxiliary electrode layer **2200** which are adjacent to each other. The pixel electrode **2119** and the pixel electrode **2119** adjacent thereto are insulated from each other, and the pixel electrode **2119** and the auxiliary electrode layer **2200** adjacent thereto are insulated from each other. A plurality of column banks **2522Y** each extending in the column direction (Y-direction in FIG. 18) are juxtaposedly provided over row-direction outer edges **2119a3** and **2119a4** of the two pixel electrodes **2119** adjacent in the row direction, over regions on the substrate **2100x** located between the outer edges **2119a3**, **2119a4**, and over regions on the substrate **2100x** located between the row-direction outer edges **2119a3**, **2119a4** of the pixel electrodes **2119** and outer edges **2200a1**, **2200a2** of the auxiliary electrode layers **2200** which are adjacent in the row direction. Therefore, the row-direction outer edges of the self-luminescence regions **2100a** are defined by the row-direction outer edges of the column banks **2522Y**.

[0251] On the other hand, a plurality of row banks **2122X** each extending in the row direction (X-direction in FIG. 18) are juxtaposedly provided over column-direction outer edges **2119a1** and **2119a2** of the two pixel electrodes **2119** adjacent in the column direction and over regions on the substrate **2100x** located between the outer edges **2119a1** and **2119a2**. The regions where the row banks **2122X** are formed constitute non-self-luminescence regions **2100b**, since organic electroluminescence is not generated in the light emitting layers **2123** over the pixel electrodes **2119**. Therefore, outer edges in the column direction of the self-luminescence regions **2100a** are defined by outer edges in the column direction of the row banks **2122X**.

[0252] Where a space between the adjacent column banks **2522Y** is defined as a gap **2522z**, the gaps **2522z** include a red gap **2522zR** corresponding to the self-luminescence region **2100aR**, a green gap **2522zG** corresponding to the self-luminescence region **2100aG**, a blue gap **2522zB** corresponding to the self-luminescence region **2100aB**, and an auxiliary gap **2522zA** corresponding to the region where the auxiliary electrode layer **2200** is disposed (where the gap **2522zR**, the gap **2522zG**, the gap **2522zB** and the gap **2522zA** are not distinguished from one another, they will hereafter be referred to as the “gaps **2522z**”), and the display panel **2010** has a configuration wherein a multiplicity of column banks **2522Y** and a multiplicity of gaps **2522z** are alternately aligned.

[0253] In the display panel **2010**, the plurality of self-luminescence regions **2100a** and the plurality of non-self-luminescence regions **2100b** are alternately aligned in the column direction along the gaps **2522zR**, the gaps **2522zG**, and the gaps **2522zB**. In the non-self-luminescence regions **2100b**, there are connection recesses (contact holes) for connection between the pixel electrode **2119** and the source **S1** of the TFT, and contact regions (contact windows) on the pixel electrodes **2119** for electrical connection to the pixel electrodes **2119** are provided.

[0254] In one sub-pixel **2100se**, the column bank **2522Y** provided in the column direction and the row bank **2122X** provided in the row direction are orthogonal to each other, and the self-luminescence region **2100a** is located between the row bank **2122X** and the row bank **2122X** in the column direction.

[0255] Each of the two column banks **2522Y** disposed on both sides of the auxiliary electrode layer **2200** has a side wall inclined toward the auxiliary electrode layer **2200** side at an acute angle against the surface of the substrate **2100x**. At a base portion of the side wall, an electron transport layer as a functional layer which will be described later undergoes disconnection, and the common electrode layer **2125** and the auxiliary electrode layer **2200** are connected directly to each other.

1.4 Configuration of Each Section of Display Panel **2010**

[0256] The configuration of an organic EL element **2100** in the display panel **2010** will be described referring to FIGS. 19 and 20. FIG. 19 is a schematic sectional view taken along line A1-A1 of FIG. 18. In addition, FIG. 19 is a schematic sectional view depicting a part of FIG. 18 in an enlarged form.

[0257] In the display panel **2010** according to the present embodiment, a substrate (TFT substrate) formed with thin transistors is provided on the lower side in the Z-axis direction, and organic EL element sections are configured thereon.

1.4.1 Substrate

(1) Substrate **2100x**

[0258] The substrate **2100x** is a support member of the display panel **2010**, and includes a base material (not illustrated) and a thin film transistor (TFT) layer (not illustrated) formed on the base material.

[0259] The base material is a support member of the display panel **2010**, and is flat plate-like in shape. As the material of the base material, there can be used electrically

insulating materials such as, for example, glass materials, resin materials, semiconductor materials, and metallic materials coated with an insulating layer.

[0260] The TFT layer includes a plurality of TFTs and a plurality of wirings inclusive of wirings **2110** which are formed at the upper surface of the base material. The TFT is for electrically connecting the pixel electrode **2119**, which corresponds to itself, and an external power supply according to a driving signal sent from an external circuit for the display panel **2010**. The TFT has a multilayer structure including electrodes, a semiconductor layer, an insulating layer and the like. The wirings electrically connect the TFTs, the pixel electrodes **2119**, the external power supply, the external circuit and the like. The wiring **2110** is connected to the source **S1** of the TFT.

(2) Interlayer Insulating Layer **2118**

[0261] An interlayer insulating layer **2118** is provided on the base material and on the upper surfaces of the TFTs. The interlayer insulating layer **2118** located on the upper surface of the substrate **2100x** is for planarizing the upper surface of the substrate **2100x** which has ruggedness (projections and recesses) due to the presence of the TFT layer. In addition, the interlayer insulating layer **2118** fills the spaces between the wirings and the TFTs, to electrically insulate the wiring and the TFTs from one another.

[0262] The interlayer insulating layer **2118** has contact holes (not illustrated) opened therein at parts over the wirings **2110**, and has contact holes (not illustrated) opened at parts under the auxiliary electrode layers **2200**. If an upper limit film thickness of the interlayer insulating layer **2118** is not less than 10 μm , variability in film thickness upon manufacture would be large, and it would be difficult to control the bottom line width. In addition, the upper limit film thickness is desirably not more than 7 μm , from the viewpoint of a lowering in productivity due to an increase in tact. Besides, as film thickness decreases, it may become necessary for film thickness and bottom line width to be comparable to each other, and, if a lower limit film thickness is not more than 1 μm , it would be difficult to obtain a desired bottom line width due to limitation as to resolution. In the case of a general exposure apparatus for flat panel displays, the limit is 2 μm . Therefore, the thickness of the interlayer insulating layer **2118** is preferably, for example, in the range of 1 to 10 μm , more preferably 2 to 7 μm .

1.4.2 Organic EL Element Section

(1) Pixel Electrode **2119**

[0263] As depicted in FIGS. **18** and **19**, on the interlayer insulating layer **2118** located on the upper surface of the substrate **2100x**, pixel electrodes **2119** are provided on a sub-pixel **2100se** basis. The pixel electrode **2119** is for supplying carriers; for example, where the pixel electrode **2119** functions as an anode, it supplies holes to the light emitting layer **2123**. In addition, since the display panel **2010** is of the top emission type, the pixel electrode **2119** has a light transmitting property. The pixel electrode **2119** is rectangular flat plate-like in shape. The pixel electrodes **2119** are disposed on the interlayer insulating layer **2118** at intervals δX in the row direction, and at intervals δY in the column direction in the gap **2522zR**, the gap **2522zG**, and the gap **2522zB** individually. Over the contact hole provided

in the interlayer insulating layer **2118**, a connection recess of the pixel electrode **2119** obtained by recessing a part of the pixel electrode **2119** in the direction of the substrate **2100x** is formed, and the pixel electrode **2119** and the wiring **2110** are connected together at the bottom of the connection recess.

(2) Auxiliary Electrode Layer **2200**

[0264] As depicted in FIGS. **18** and **19**, a plurality of auxiliary electrode layers **2200** extending in the column direction are provided at predetermined intervals on the interlayer insulating layer **2118** located on the upper surface of the substrate **2100x**, each located between the unit pixel **2100e** and the unit pixel **2100e**. A connection recess obtained by recessing a part of the auxiliary electrode layer **2200** in the direction of the substrate **2100x** is formed along the contact hole in the interlayer insulating layer **2118**. In the inside of the connection recess, a contact surface is formed as an inner wall. The connection recess is substantially circular in shape as viewed from the upper side, and is formed to have a radius r of preferably in the range of 2 to 10 μm . The connection recess is formed to have a depth h of preferably in the range of 1 to 7 μm . The contact surface is preferably formed to have an inclination angle in the range of 75 to 120 degrees against the upper surface of the substrate **2100x**.

(3) Hole Injection Layer **2120**

[0265] As depicted in FIG. **19**, a hole injection layer **2120** is stacked on the pixel electrode **2119**. The hole injection layer **2120** has a function of transporting holes, injected from the pixel electrode **2119**, to a hole transport layer **2121** which will be described later.

[0266] The hole injection layer **2120** includes a lower layer **2120A** formed of a metallic oxide and formed on the pixel electrode **2119**, and an upper layer **2120B** formed of an organic material and stacked at least on the lower layer **2120A**, in this order from the substrate **2100x** side. The lower layers **2120A** provided in the blue sub-pixel, the green sub-pixel, and the red sub-pixel are referred to as a lower layer **2120AB**, a lower layer **2120AG**, and a lower layer **2120AR**. In addition, the upper layers **2120B** provided in the blue sub-pixel, the green sub-pixel, and the red sub-pixel are referred to as an upper layer **2120BB**, an upper layer **2120BG**, and a lower layer **2120BR**, respectively.

[0267] In the present embodiment, the upper layers **2120B** are provided in a linear shape such as to extend in the column direction, in the gap **2522zR**, the gap **2522zG**, and the gap **2522zB** which will be described later. However, a configuration may be adopted wherein the upper layers **2120B** are formed only on the lower layers **2120A** formed on the pixel electrodes **2119**, and are provided intermittently in the column direction in the gaps **2522z**.

(4) Bank **2122**

[0268] As depicted in FIG. **19**, banks formed of an insulating material are formed so as to cover end edges of the pixel electrodes **2119**, the lower layers **2120A** of the hole injection layers **2120** and the auxiliary electrode layers **2200**. As depicted in FIG. **18**, the banks include a plurality of column banks **2522Y** extending in the column direction and juxtaposed in the row direction, and a plurality of row banks **2122X** extending in the row direction and juxtaposed

in the column direction. The column banks **2522Y** are orthogonal to the row banks **2122X**, and are provided in the state of being along the column direction. The column banks **2522Y** and the row banks **2122X** form a grid-like pattern (where the row banks **2122X** and the column banks **2522Y** are not distinguished from each other, they will hereafter be referred to as “banks **2122**”).

(Row Bank **2122X**)

[0269] The shape of the row bank **2122X** is a liner shape extending in the row direction, and its section parallel to the column direction is a normal tapered trapezoid tapered upward. The row banks **2122X** are provided in the state of being along the row direction orthogonal to the column direction in such a manner as to penetrate each column bank **2522Y**, and each have an upper surface at a lower position than an upper surface **2522Yb** of the column bank **2522Y**. Therefore, the row banks **2122X** and the column banks **2522Y** together define openings corresponding to self-luminescence regions **2100a**.

[0270] The row banks **2122X** are for controlling the flow of inks, each containing an organic compound as a material of the light emitting layer **2123**, in the column direction. Therefore, the row banks **2122X** should have an affinity for the inks of not less than a predetermined value. With such a configuration, variations in ink coating amount among the sub-pixels is restrained. Due to the row banks **2122X**, the pixel electrodes **2119** are not exposed, and light is not emitted in the regions where the row banks **2122X** are present, so that these regions do not contribute to luminance.

[0271] Specifically, the row banks **2122X** are present over the two outer edges **2119a1** and **2119a2** of the pixel electrode **2119**, and are formed in the state of overlapping with the contact region of the pixel electrode **2119**. The length in the column direction of the non-self-luminescence region **2100b** where the row bank **2122X** is formed is greater by a predetermined length than the distance δY between the two column-direction outer edges **2119a1** and **2119a2** of the pixel electrodes **2119**. By thus covering the column-direction outer edges **2119a1** and **2119a2** of the pixel electrodes **2119**, electric leak between the pixel electrode **2119** and the common electrode layer **2125** is prevented, and the outer edges of the self-luminescence region **2100a** of each sub-pixel **2100se** are defined.

(Column Bank **2522Y**)

[0272] As depicted in FIGS. **18** and **19**, the column banks **2522Y** include two kinds of banks, namely, first column banks **2522YA** and second column banks **2522YB**.

[0273] The shape of the first column bank **2522YA** is a linear shape extending in the column direction, and, as depicted in FIG. **19**, its section parallel to the row direction is a normal tapered trapezoid tapered upward. On the other hand, the shape of the second column bank **2522YB** is a linear shape extending in the column direction, and, as depicted in FIG. **19**, its section parallel to the row direction is a parallelogram.

[0274] Between a first pixel electrode **2119** and a second pixel electrode **2119** adjacent thereto, the first column bank **2522YA** is present over an outer edge **2119a3** in the row direction of the first pixel electrode **2119** and over an outer edge **2119a4** in the row direction of the second pixel electrode **2119**, and is formed in the state of overlapping

with a part of each of the first pixel electrode **2119** and the second pixel electrode **2119**. The width in the row direction of the region where the first column bank **2522YA** is formed is greater by a predetermined width than the distance δX between the column-direction outer edge **2119a3** of the first pixel electrode **2119** and the column-direction outer edge **2119a4** of the second pixel electrode **2119**.

[0275] On the other hand, between the pixel electrode **2119** and the auxiliary electrode layer **2200** adjacent thereto, the second column bank **2522YB** is present over the outer edge **2119a3** (or the outer edge **2119a4**) in the row direction of the pixel electrode **2119** and the outer edge **2200a2** (or the outer edge **2200a1**) in the row direction of the auxiliary electrode layer **2200**, and is formed in the state of overlapping with a part of each of the pixel electrode **2119** and the auxiliary electrode layer **2200**. The width in the row direction of the region where the second column bank **YB** is formed is greater by a predetermined width than the distance δX between the outer edge **2119a3** and the outer edge **2200a2** (or the distance δX between the outer edge **2119a4** and the outer edge **2200a1**).

[0276] As illustrated in FIGS. **19** and **20**, the second column bank **2522YB** has a side wall **2301** inclined toward the auxiliary electrode **2200** side at an acute angle θ against the surface of the substrate **2100x**. At a base portion **2302** of the side wall and in the vicinity thereof, an electron transport layer **2124** undergoes disconnection, and the common electrode layer **2125** and the auxiliary electrode layer **2200** are directly connected to each other.

[0277] The column banks **2522Y** dam up the flow of inks, each containing an organic compound as material for the light emitting layer **2123**, in the row direction to thereby define the row-direction outer edges of the light emitting layers **2123** formed.

[0278] Thus, by covering the outer edges **2119a3** and **2119a4** in the row direction of the pixel electrodes **2119** and by covering the outer edges **2200a1** and **2200a2** in the row direction of the auxiliary electrode layers **2200**, electric leak between the electrode or electrode layer and the common electrode layer **2125** is prevented, and outer edges of the self-luminescence region **2100a** of each sub-pixel **2100se** in the row direction are defined. The column banks **2522Y** define the outer edges of the self-luminescence region of each pixel in the column direction, as aforementioned. Therefore, the column banks **2522Y** should have a repelling to inks of not less than a predetermined value.

(5) Hole Transport Layer **2121**

[0279] As illustrated in FIGS. **18** and **19**, hole transport layers **2121** are stacked on the column banks **2122X** and on the hole injection layers **2120** in the gaps **2522zR**, **2522zG**, and **2522zB**. The hole transport layer **2121** is in contact with the upper layer **2120B** of the hole injection layer **2120**. The hole transport layer **2121** has a function of transporting holes, injected from the hole injection layer **2120**, to the light emitting layer **2123**. The hole transport layers **2121** provided in the gaps **2522zR**, **2522zG**, and **2522zB** are referred to as a hole transport layer **2121R**, a hole transport layer **2121G**, and a hole transport layer **2121B**.

[0280] In the present embodiment, the hole transport layers **2121** are provided in a linear shape extending in the column direction in the gaps **2522z** which will be described later, like the upper layers **2120B**. However, the hole trans-

port layers **2121** may be provided intermittently in the column direction in the gaps **2522z**.

(6) Light Emitting Layer **2123**

[0281] As depicted in FIG. 19, the light emitting layers **2123** are stacked on the hole transport layers **2121**. The light emitting layers **2123** are each a layer formed of an organic compound, and each have a function of emitting light through recombination between holes and electrons in the inside thereof. The light emitting layers **2123** are provided in a linear shape extending in the column direction, in the gaps **2522zR**, the gaps **2522zG**, and the gaps **2522zB**. The light emitting layers **2123** are formed to extend in the column direction, in the gaps **2522zR**, the gaps **2522zG**, and the gaps **2522zB** defined by the column banks **2522Y**. Light emitting layers **2123R**, **2123G**, and **2123B** that emit light in respective colors are formed in a red gap **2522zR** corresponding to the self-luminescence region **2100aR** in the red sub-pixel **2100seR**, a green gap **2522zG** corresponding to the self-luminescence region **2100aG** in the green sub-pixel **2100seG**, and a blue gap **2522zB** corresponding to the self-luminescence region **2100aB** in the blue sub-pixel **2100seB**.

[0282] Since the light emitting layer **2123** emit light only at a part supplied with carriers from the pixel electrode **2119**, the electroluminescence phenomenon of an organic compound is not generated in the range where the row bank **2122X** as an insulator is present between the layers. Therefore, the light emitting layer **2123** emit light only at a part where the row bank **2122X** is absent, and this part constitutes the self-luminescence region **2100a**. Outer edges in the column direction of the self-luminescence region **2100a** are defined by column-direction outer edges of the row banks **2122X**.

[0283] Of the light emitting layer **2123**, a part **2119b** located over side surfaces and an upper surface **2122Xb** of the row bank **2122X** does not emit light, and this part constitutes a non-self-luminescence region **2100b**. The light emitting layer **2123** is, in its self-luminescence region **2100a**, located on the upper surface of the hole transport layer **2121**, and is, in its non-self-luminescence region **2100b**, located on the upper surface of the hole transport layer **2121** over the upper and side surfaces of the row bank **2122X**.

[0284] Note that the light emitting layer **2123** extends continuously, not only in the self-luminescence region **2100a** but also in the non-self-luminescence region **2100b** adjacent thereto. This configuration ensures that at the time of forming the light emitting layer **2123**, the ink applied to the self-luminescence region **2100a** can flow in the column direction through the ink applied to the non-self-luminescence region **2100b**, so that the film thickness can be leveled off among the pixels in the column direction. It is to be noted, however, that in the non-self-luminescence region **2100b**, the flow of ink is moderately restrained by the row bank **2122X**. Therefore, variability in film thickness is not liable to be generated in the column direction, and variability in luminance on a pixel basis is improved.

(7) Electron Transport Layer **2124**

[0285] As illustrated in FIG. 19, an electron transport layer **2124** is stackedly formed in such a manner as to cover the column banks **2522Y** and the gaps **2522z** defined by the

column banks **2522Y**. The electron transport layer **2124** is formed in the state of being continuous over the whole part of the display panel **2010**.

[0286] As depicted in FIG. 19, the electron transport layer **2124** is formed on the light emitting layers **2123**. The electron transport layer **2124** has a function of transporting electrons from the common electrode layer **2125** to the light emitting layers **2123**, and restricting the injection of electrons into the light emitting layers **2123**.

[0287] As depicted in FIGS. 19 and 20, the electron transport layer **2124** is formed also on the wall surfaces **2301** of the column banks **2522Y** and on the auxiliary electrode layers **2200**.

[0288] It is to be noted, however, that the electron transport layer **2124** undergoes disconnection at base portions **2302** of the wall surfaces **2301** of the column banks **2522Y**. In other words, the electron transport layer **2124** formed on the wall surface **2301** and the electron transport layer **2124** formed on the auxiliary electrode layer **2200** are not connected with each other.

[0289] At the base portions **2302**, the auxiliary electrode layer **2200** and the common electrode layer **2125** are directly connected with each other.

(8) Common Electrode Layer **2125**

[0290] As illustrated in FIG. 19, the common electrode layer **2125** is formed on the electron transport layer **2124**. The common electrode layer **2125** is formed over the whole surface of the display panel **2010**, and serves as a common electrode for the light emitting layers **2123**.

[0291] As depicted in FIG. 19, the common electrode layer **2125** is formed also in the regions on the electron transport layer **2124** which are located over the pixel electrodes **2119**. The common electrode layer **2125**, forming a pair with the pixel electrode **2119**, sandwiches the light emitting layer **2123** to form a current passing passage, thereby supplying carriers to the light emitting layer **2123**; for example, where it functions as a cathode, it supplies electrons to the light emitting layer **2123**.

[0292] As depicted in FIGS. 19 and 20, the common electrode layer **2125** is formed also in regions over the auxiliary electrode layers **2200** and the electron transport layer **2124**. The common electrode layer **2125** is in direct contact with the auxiliary electrode layers **2200** at the base portions **2302** of the wall surfaces **2301** of the column banks **2522Y**.

(9) Sealing Layer **2126**

[0293] As illustrated in FIG. 19, a sealing layer **2126** is stackedly formed in such a manner as to cover the common electrode layer **2125**. The sealing layer **2126** is for restraining the light emitting layers **2123** from being deteriorated by contact with moisture or air. The sealing layer **2126** is provided over the whole surface of the display panel **2010** so as to cover the upper surface of the common electrode layer **2125**.

(10) Bonding Layer **2127**

[0294] A CF substrate **2131** having color filter layers **2128** formed on a major surface on the lower side in the Z-axis direction of an upper substrate **2130** is disposed on the upper side in the Z-axis direction of the sealing layer **2126**, and is bonded to the sealing layer **2126** by a bonding layer **2127**.

The bonding layer **2127** has a function of laminating the back panel, including the layers ranging from the substrate **2100x** to the sealing layer **2126**, and the CF substrate **2131** on each other, and preventing the layers from being exposed to moisture or air.

(11) Upper Substrate **2130**

[0295] The CF substrate **2131** having the upper substrate **2130** formed with the color filter layers **2128** is disposed on and bonded to the bonding layer **2127**. For the upper substrate **2130**, a light transmitting material such as, for example, a cover glass or a transparent resin film is used, since the display panel **2010** is of the top emission type. In addition, enhancement of rigidity of the display panel **2010** and prevention of penetration of moisture, air or the like can be attained by the upper substrate **2130**.

(12) Color Filter Layer **2128**

[0296] The upper substrate **2130** is formed with the color filter layers **2128** at positions corresponding to the color self-luminescence regions **2100a** of the pixels. The color filter layers **2128** are transparent layers provided for permitting transmission therethrough of visible lights of wavelength corresponding to R, G, and B, and each have a function of permitting therethrough of the light emitted from each color pixel to correct the chromaticity of the light. For instance, in the present example, red, green, and blue filter layers **2128R**, **2128G**, and **2128B** are formed, respectively, over the self-luminescence region **2100aR** in the red gap **2522zR**, the self-luminescence region **2100aG** in the green gap **2522zG**, and the self-luminescence region **2100aB** in the blue gap **2522zB**.

(13) Light Shielding Layer **2129**

[0297] The upper substrate **2130** is formed with light shielding layers **2129** at positions corresponding to boundaries between the self-luminescence regions **2100a** of the pixels. The light shielding layers **2129** are black resin layers provided for preventing visible lights of wavelengths corresponding to R, G, and B from being transmitted therethrough, and are formed from, for example, a resin material containing a black pigment that is excellent in light-absorbing and light-shielding properties.

1.4.3 Constituent Material of Each Section

[0298] An example of constituent materials of the sections depicted in FIGS. **19** and **20** will be described below.

(1) Substrate **2100x** (TFT Substrate)

[0299] As the base material, there can be adopted, for example, glass substrates, quartz substrate, silicon substrate, metallic substrates of molybdenum sulfide, copper, zinc, aluminum, stainless steel, magnesium, iron, nickel, gold, silver, etc., semiconductor substrates such as gallium arsenide substrate, plastic substrates, and the like. In addition, as a flexible plastic material, both thermoplastic resins and thermosetting resins may be used. As the material, there can be used electrically insulating materials, for example, resin materials. For a gate electrode, a gate insulating layer, a channel layer, a channel protecting layer, a source electrode, a drain electrode and the like, known materials can be used. As the gate electrode, for example, a stacked body of

copper (Cu) and molybdenum (Mo) is adopted. For the gate insulating layer, known organic materials and known inorganic materials, such as silicon oxide (SiO₂) and silicon nitride (SiN_x), can both be used, so long as they are electrically insulating materials. For the channel layer, oxide semiconductors containing at least one selected from among indium (In), gallium (Ga), and zinc (Zn) can be adopted. For the channel protecting layer, for example, silicon oxide (SiO₂), silicon nitride (SiN) or aluminum oxide (AlO_x) can be used. As the source electrode and the drain electrode, for example, a stacked body of copper-manganese (CuMn) and copper (Cu) and molybdenum (Mo) can be adopted.

[0300] For an insulating layer at an upper portion of the TFT, there can also be used, for example, silicon oxide (SiO₂), silicon nitride (SiN), and silicon oxynitride (SiON). As a connection electrode layer of the TFT, there can be adopted, for example, a stacked body of molybdenum (Mo) and copper (Cu) and copper-manganese (CuMn). Note that the material to be used to constitute the connection electrode layer is not limited to this, and can be selected from conductive materials, as required.

[0301] As the material of the interlayer insulating layer located on the upper surface of the substrate **2100x**, there can be used organic compounds, for example, polyimide resins, acrylic resins, siloxane resins, and novolak type phenolic resins.

(2) Pixel Electrode **2119** and Auxiliary Electrode Layer **2200**

[0302] The pixel electrodes **2119** are formed from a metallic material. In the case of the display panel **2010** according to the present embodiment that is of the top emission type, an optical resonator structure is adopted by optimally setting the thicknesses, whereby the chromaticity of the light emitted is adjusted and the luminance is enhanced. For this reason, a surface part of the pixel electrode **2119** should have a high reflecting property. In the display panel **2010** according to the present embodiment, the pixel electrodes **2119** may have a structure wherein a plurality of films selected from among metallic layers, alloy layers and transparent conductive films are stacked. The metallic layers can each be formed from a metallic material containing silver (Ag) or aluminum (Al). For the alloy layers, there can be used, for example, APC (an alloy of silver, palladium, and copper), ARA (an alloy of silver, rubidium, and gold), MoCr (an alloy of molybdenum and chromium), NiCr (an alloy of nickel and chromium) and the like. As the constituent material of the transparent conductive layer, there can be used, for example, indium tin oxide (ITO), indium zinc oxide (IZO) and the like.

[0303] The auxiliary electrode layers **2200** are formed of the same material as the material of the pixel electrodes **2119**.

(3) Hole Injection Layer **2120**

[0304] The lower layer **2120A** of the hole injection layer **2120** is a layer formed of an oxide of, for example, silver (Ag), molybdenum (Mo), chromium (Cr), vanadium (Va), tungsten (W), nickel (Ni), iridium (Ir) or the like. In the case where the lower layer **2120A** is formed of an oxide of a transition metal, the transition metal takes a plurality of oxidation numbers and can thereby take a plurality of levels, so that hole injection is facilitated and the driving voltage can be lowered. In the present embodiment, the lower layer

2120A included an oxide of tungsten (W). In the case of an oxide of tungsten (W), as the ratio (W5-/W6+) of pentavalent tungsten atoms to hexavalent tungsten atoms is higher, the driving voltage for the organic EL element is lower; therefore, it is preferable that the tungsten oxide contains pentavalent tungsten atoms in a large amount of not less than a predetermined value.

[0305] As the upper layer **2120B** of the hole injection layer **2120**, there can be used, for example, a coating film formed from an organic polymer solution of a conductive polymer material such as PEDOT (a mixture of polythiophene and polystyrenesulfonic acid), as aforementioned.

(4) Bank **2122**

[0306] The banks **2122** are formed by use of an organic material such as a resin, and has an insulating property. Examples of the material to be used for forming the banks **2122** include acrylic resins, polyimide resins, and novolak type phenolic resins. The banks **2122** preferably have organic solvent resistance. More preferably, it is desirable to use an acrylic resin, since it is low has a low refractive index and is suitable for use as reflector.

[0307] Alternatively, the banks **2122** may be formed by use of an inorganic material, and in this case, for example, silicon oxide (SiO₂) is preferably used, from the viewpoint of refractive index. Alternatively, the banks **2122** are formed by use of such an inorganic material as silicon nitride (SiN) or silicon oxynitride (SiON).

[0308] Further, an etching treatment, a braking treatment and the like may be conducted during the manufacturing process, and, therefore, the banks **2122** are preferably formed from a material high in resistance to the treatments so that they would not be excessively deformed or denatured by the treatments.

[0309] In addition, the banks **2122** may have their surfaces subjected to a fluorine treatment for imparting water repellency to the surfaces. Besides, a fluorine-containing material may be used for forming the banks **2122**. In addition, the banks **2122** may be subjected to irradiation with UV rays or a baking treatment at a low temperature, for lowering water repellency of the surfaces of the banks **2122**.

[0310] Note that a positive type photosensitive material, for example, is used for the first column banks **2522YA** so that their section parallel to the row direction will be a normal tapered trapezoid tapered upward.

[0311] On the other hand, a negative type photosensitive material, for example, is used for the second column banks **2522YB** so that their section parallel to the row direction will be a reverse tapered trapezoid tapered downward, during the manufacturing process.

[0312] Here, a positive type photosensitive material and a negative type photosensitive material are both resins which undergo a chemical reaction only at parts exposed to light. The positive type photosensitive material is dissolved in a developing liquid only at the parts exposed to light. On the other hand, the negative type photosensitive material becomes insoluble in the developing liquid at the parts exposed to light.

[0313] When a negative type photosensitive material is used, central portions of the parts to be banks are exposed to a sufficient amount of light, and become insoluble in the developing liquid. However, a peripheral portion is exposed to an insufficient amount of light, and, at a depth portion of the peripheral portion, the intensity of light is attenuated.

Therefore, the depth portion of the peripheral portion is dissolved in the developing liquid. As a result, the banks in a reverse tapered trapezoidal shape are formed during the manufacturing process, as aforementioned.

[0314] When a positive type photosensitive material is used, on the other hand, banks in a reverse tapered trapezoidal shape are formed, conversely to the above case.

(5) Hole Transport Layer **2121**

[0315] For the hole transport layers **2121**, there can be used, for example, high-molecular compounds such as polyfluorene and derivatives thereof, polyarylamines, which are amine-based organic polymers, or TFB (poly(9,9-di-n-octylfluorene-alt-(1,4-phenylene-((4-sec-butylphenyl)imino)-1,4-phenylene))).

(6) Light Emitting Layer **2123**

[0316] The light emitting layers **2123** have a function of emitting light by generation of an excited state through recombination of holes and electrons injected therein, as aforementioned. As the material for forming the light emitting layers **2123**, there should be used a light-emitting organic material which can be formed into a film by use of a wet printing method.

[0317] Specifically, the light emitting layers **2123** are preferably formed from a fluorescent material, examples of which include oxinoid compounds, perylene compounds, coumarin compounds, azacoumarin compounds, oxazole compounds, oxadiazole compounds, perynone compounds, pyrrolopyrrole compounds, naphthalene compounds, anthracene compounds, fluorenone compounds, fluoranthene compounds, tetracene compounds, pyrene compounds, coronene compounds, quinolone compounds and azaquinolone compounds, pyrazoline derivatives and pyrazolone derivatives, rhodamine compounds, chrysene compounds, phenanthrene compounds, cyclopentadiene compounds, stilbene compounds, diphenylquinone compounds, styryl compounds, butadiene compounds, dicyanomethylenepyran compounds, dicyanomethylenethiopyran compounds, fluorescein compounds, pyrylium compounds, thiapyrylium compounds, selenapyrylium compounds, telluropirylium compounds, aromatic aldadiene compounds, oligophenylene compounds, thioxanthene compounds, anthracene compounds, cyanine compounds, acridine compounds, metal complexes of 8-hydroxyquinoline compounds, metal complexes of 2-bipyridine compounds, complexes of Schiff base and Group III metal, oxine metal complexes, and rare earth complexes, which are described in patent publication (Japanese Patent Laid-open No. Hei 5-163488).

(7) Electron Transport Layer **2124**

[0318] For the electron transport layer **2124**, an organic material having a high electron transporting property is used. Examples of the organic material to be used for the electron transport layer **2124** include 7-electron low-molecular-weight organic materials such as oxadiazole derivatives (OXD), triazole derivatives (TAZ), and phenanthroline derivatives (BCP, Bphen). In addition, the electron transport layer **2124** may include a layer formed by doping an organic material having a high electron transporting property with a dopant metal selected from among alkali metals and alkaline

earth metals. Besides, the electron transport layer **2124** may include a layer formed by use of sodium fluoride.

(8) Common Electrode Layer **2125**

[0319] For the common electrode layer **2125**, a conductive material having a light transmitting property is used. For example, indium tin oxide (ITO) or indium zinc oxide (IZO) or the like is used to form the common electrode layer **2125**. In addition, an electrode obtained by forming silver (Ag) or aluminum (Al) or the like into a thin film may also be used.

(9) Sealing Layer **2126**

[0320] The sealing layer **2126** has a function of restraining the organic layers such as the light emitting layers **2123** from being exposed to moisture or air, and is formed by use of a light transmitting material such as, for example, silicon nitride (SiN) or silicon oxynitride (SiON). In addition, a sealing resin layer formed of a resin material such as acrylic resin or silicone resin may be provided on the layer formed by use of such material as silicon nitride (SiN) or silicon oxynitride (SiON).

[0321] The sealing layer **2126** should be formed from a light transmitting material, in the case of the display panel **2010** according to the present embodiment that is of the top emission type.

(10) Bonding Layer **2127**

[0322] The material of the bonding layer **2127** is, for example, a resin adhesive or the like. For the bonding layer **2127**, there can be adopted a light transmitting resin material such as acrylic resins, silicone resins, and epoxy resins.

(11) Upper Substrate **2130**

[0323] As the upper substrate **2130**, there can be adopted substrates formed of a light transmitting material, such as, for example, glass substrates, quartz substrate, and plastic substrates.

(12) Color Filter Layer **2128**

[0324] For the color filter layers **2128**, there can be adopted, for example, known resin materials (e.g., such commercially available materials as Color Resists produced by JSR corporation).

(13) Light Shielding Layer **2129**

[0325] The light shielding layers **2129** are formed from a resin material containing a UV-curing resin (e.g., UV-curing acrylic resin) material as a main constituent, with a black pigment added thereto. As the black pigment, there can be adopted light shielding materials such as, for example, carbon black pigments, titanium black pigments, metallic oxide pigments, and organic pigments.

1.5 Method of Manufacturing Display Panel **2010**

[0326] A method of manufacturing the display panel **2010** will be described referring to FIGS. **21A**, **21B**, **21C**, **21D**, **22A**, **22B**, **22C**, **23A**, **23B**, **23C**, **23D**, **24A**, **24B**, **24C**, **24D**, **24E**, **24F**, **24G**, **25A** and **25B**.

(1) Preparation of Substrate **2100x**

[0327] The substrate **2100x** formed with pluralities of TFTs and wirings inclusive of the wirings **2110** is prepared. The substrate **2100x** can be produced by a known TFT production method (FIG. **21A**).

(2) Formation of Interlayer Insulating Layer **2118**

[0328] The aforementioned constituent material (photo-sensitive resin material) of the interlayer insulating layer **2118** is applied as a photoresist in such a manner as to cover the substrate **2100x**, and the surface is planarized, to form the interlayer insulating layer **2118** (FIG. **21B**).

(3) Formation of Pixel Electrode **2119** and Auxiliary Electrode Layer **2200**

[0329] After the interlayer insulating layer **2118** is formed, the pixel electrodes **2119** and the auxiliary electrode layers **2200** are formed (FIG. **21C**).

[0330] The formation of the pixel electrodes **2119** and the auxiliary electrode layers **2200** is conducted by forming a metallic film by use of a sputtering process or the like, followed by patterning by use of a photolithography process and an etching process.

(4) Formation of Lower Layer **2120A** of Hole Injection Layer **2120**

[0331] After the pixel electrodes **2119** and the auxiliary electrode layers **2200** are formed, the lower layers **2120A** of the hole injection layers **2120** are formed on the pixel electrodes **2119** (FIG. **21D**).

[0332] The lower layers **2120A** are formed by forming a film of a metal (e.g., tungsten) by use of a sputtering process or a vapor deposition process such as a vacuum deposition process, followed by baking to oxidize the metal, and patterning on a pixel basis by use of a photolithography process and an etching process.

(5) Formation of Bank **2122**

(a) Formation of Column Bank **2122X**

[0333] After the lower layers **2120A** of the hole injection layers **2120** are formed, row banks **2122X** are formed so as to cover edge portions of the lower layers **2120A**, the pixel electrodes **2119**, and the auxiliary electrode layers **2200**.

[0334] The row banks **2122X** are so provided that the surfaces of the lower layer **2120A** of the hole injection layer **2120**, the pixel electrode **2119**, and the auxiliary electrode layer **2200** are exposed, between the row bank **2122X** and the row bank **2122X** in the gap **2522Z**.

[0335] The formation of the row banks **2122X** is conducted by first stackingly forming a film of the constituent material (e.g., a positive type photosensitive resin material) of the row banks **2122X** on the lower layers **2120A** of the hole injection layers **2120** by use of a spin coating process or the like. Then, the resin film is patterned, to form the row banks **2122X**. The patterning of the row banks **2122X** is conducted by performing exposure utilizing a photomask over the resin film, and performing development.

[0336] Specifically, in the step of forming the row banks **2122X**, first, a photosensitive resin film of an organic photosensitive resin material such as an acrylic resin, a polyimide resin or a novolak type phenolic resin is formed,

it is dried, the solvent is volatilized to some extent, then a photomask formed with predetermined openings is placed thereon, and irradiation with UV rays is conducted from above the photomask to expose the photoresist formed of the photosensitive resin or the like, thereby transferring the pattern possessed by the photomask to the photoresist. Next, the photosensitive resin is developed, to form insulating layers in which the row banks **2122X** are patterned. In general, a photoresist called a positive type is used. A positive type photoresist has its exposed parts removed by development. The parts not exposed to light are left without being developed.

(b) Formation of Second Column Bank **2522YB**

[0337] After the row banks **2122X** are formed, column banks **2522YB1** in a reverse tapered trapezoidal shape are formed so as to cover edge portions of the lower layers **2120A**, the pixel electrodes **2119**, and the auxiliary electrode layers **2200** (FIG. 22A).

[0338] The column banks **2522YB1** are each provided between the pixel electrode **2119** and the auxiliary electrode layer **2200** adjacent thereto.

[0339] Here, a negative type photosensitive material, for example, is used so that the section parallel to the row direction, of the column bank **2522YB1**, will be a reverse tapered trapezoidal shape tapered downward.

[0340] The step of forming the column banks **2522YB1** in the reverse tapered trapezoidal shape is the same as the step of forming the row banks **2122X**, and, therefore, description thereof is omitted.

[0341] Next, an upper end portion **2523** (FIG. 22A) on the pixel electrode **2119** side, of each of the column banks **2522YB1**, is removed by etching. The sectional shape of the upper end portion **2523** is a triangle smaller on the lower side than on the upper side.

[0342] In this way, the second column banks **2522YB** whose sectional shape is a parallelogram are formed (FIG. 22B).

(c) Formation of First Column Bank **2522YA**

[0343] After the second column banks **2522YB** are formed, first column banks **2522YA** in a normal tapered trapezoidal shape are formed so as to cover edge portions of the lower layers **2120A**, the pixel electrodes **2119**, and the auxiliary electrode layers **2200** (FIG. 22C).

[0344] As the material of the first column banks **2522YA**, a positive type photosensitive material, for example, is used so that the section parallel to the row direction, of each of the first column banks **2522YA**, will be a normal tapered trapezoid tapered upward.

[0345] The step of forming the first column banks **2522YA** in the normal tapered trapezoidal shape is the same as the step of forming the row banks **2122X**, and, therefore, description thereof is omitted.

(6) Formation of Organic Functional Layer

[0346] The upper layers **21208** of the hole injection layers **2120**, the hole transport layers **2121** and the light emitting layers **2123** are sequentially stackedly formed on the lower layers **2120A** of the hole injection layers **2120** formed in the gaps **2522z** defined by the column banks **2522Y** inclusive of the areas over the row banks **2122X** (FIG. 23A).

[0347] In forming the upper layers **21208**, an ink containing a conductive polymer material such as PEDOT (a mixture of polythiophene and polystyrenesulfonic acid) is applied to the inside of the gaps **2522z** defined by the column banks **2522Y** by an ink jet process, after which the solvent is removed by volatilization. Alternatively, baking is conducted. Thereafter, patterning may be conducted on a pixel basis by use of a photolithography process and an etching process.

[0348] In forming the hole transport layer **2121**, an ink containing the constituent material is applied to the inside of the gaps **2522z** defined by the column banks **2522Y** by use of a wet process such as an ink jet process or a gravure printing process, after which the solvent is removed by volatilization. Alternatively, baking is conducted. The method for applying the ink for forming the hole transport layers **2121** to the inside of the gaps **2522z** is the same as the method for the upper layers **2120B** described above. Alternatively, the hole transport layers **2121** are formed by depositing a film of a metal (e.g., tungsten) by a sputtering process, followed by baking to oxidize the metal. Thereafter, patterning on a pixel basis may be conducted by use of a photolithography process and an etching process.

[0349] Formation of the light emitting layers **2123** is conducted by applying inks containing the constituent materials to the inside of the gaps **2522z** defined by the column banks **2522Y** by an ink jet process, after which baking is conducted. Specifically, in this step, inks **2123R1**, **2123G1**, and **2123B1** each containing the material for forming the organic light emitting layer for one of R, G, and B are applied to fill the gaps **2522z** as sub-pixel forming regions by an ink jet process, then the applied inks are dried under a reduced pressure, followed by a baking treatment, to form the light emitting layers **2123R**, **2123G**, and **2123B**. In this instance, in applying the inks for the light emitting layers **2123**, first, the solutions for forming the light emitting layers **2123** are applied by a droplet jetting apparatus. After the application of the ink for forming one of the red light emitting layer, the green light emitting layer and the blue light emitting layer to the substrate **2100x** is finished, next an ink of another color is applied to the substrate, then an ink of a third color is applied to the substrate, and these steps are performed repeatedly, whereby the inks of three colors are sequentially applied. In this way, the red light emitting layers, the green light emitting layers and the blue light emitting layers are formed juxtaposedly and repeatedly, in the horizontal direction on the paper surface of the drawing, on the substrate **2100x**. The details of the method for applying the inks of the light emitting layers **2123** to the inside of the gaps **2522z** are the same as the details of the method for the upper layers **2120B** described above.

[0350] The method for forming the upper layers **2120B** of the hole injection layers **2120**, the hole transport layers **2121**, and the light emitting layers **2123** is not limited to the above-mentioned, and other methods than the ink jet method and the gravure printing method may be used to drop or apply the inks, such as a dispenser method, a nozzle coating method, a spin coating method, an intaglio printing method, or a relief printing method.

(7) Formation of Electron Transport Layer **2124**

[0351] After the light emitting layers **2123** are formed, the electron transport layer **2124** is formed over the whole surface of the display panel **2010** by a vacuum deposition

process or the like (FIG. 23B). The electron transport layer 2124 is formed also on the auxiliary electrode layers 2200. In this instance, as depicted in FIGS. 20 and 23B, at a base portion 2302 of a wall surface 2301 of each of the column banks 2522Y, lacking (stepping, disconnection) is intentionally generated in the electron transport layer 2124, so that the auxiliary electrode layer 2200 is exposed at the lacking part.

(8) Formation of Common Electrode Layer 2125

[0352] After the electron transport layer 2124 is formed, the common electrode layer 2125 is formed so as to cover the electron transport layer 2124 by a CVD process, a sputtering process or the like (FIG. 23C). The common electrode layer 2125 is formed also in the regions on the electron transport layer 2124 which are located over the auxiliary electrode layers 2200. In this instance, the common electrode layer 2125 is formed in such a manner that the common electrode layer 2125 comes around into the lacking parts of the electron transport layer 2124, to make direct contact with the auxiliary electrode layers 2200 exposed at the lacking parts.

[0353] Here, the method of forming the common electrode layer 2125 will be described further.

[0354] First, referring to FIG. 26, general configuration of a sputtering system 600 will be described. The sputtering system 600 includes a substrate transfer chamber 610, a film forming chamber 620, and a load lock chamber 630, and sputtering is conducted in the film forming chamber 620 by a magnetron sputtering process. A sputtering gas is introduced into the film forming chamber 620. As the sputtering gas, an inert gas such as Ar (argon) is used. In the present embodiment, Ar is used.

[0355] On a carrier 621 in the sputtering system 600, a substrate 622 on which to form a film is disposed. In the substrate transfer chamber 610, the substrate 622 is mounted to the carrier 621 by a substrate pushing-up mechanism 611. The carrier 621 with the substrate 622 mounted thereto is moved from the substrate transfer chamber 610 to the load lock chamber 630 through the film forming chamber 620 rectilinearly at a constant speed on a carrying passage 601. In the present embodiment, the moving speed of the carrier 621 is 30 mm/second. Note that the substrate 622 is not heated, and the sputtering is conducted at normal temperature.

[0356] In the film forming chamber 620, a rod-shaped target 623 extending in a direction orthogonal to the carrying passage 601 is disposed. In the present embodiment, the target 623 is ITO. Note that the target 623 may not necessarily be rod-shaped, and may be, for example, in a powdery form.

[0357] A power supply 624 impresses a voltage on the target 623. Note that while the power supply 624 in FIG. 26 is an AC power supply, it may be a DC supply or a DC/AC hybrid power supply.

[0358] The inside of the sputtering system 600 is evacuated by an evacuation system 631, and the sputtering gas is introduced into the film forming chamber 620 by a gas supply system 632. When a voltage is impressed on the target 623 by the power supply 624, a plasma of the sputtering gas is generated, and the surface of the target 623 is sputtered. Then, the sputtered atoms of the target 623 are deposited on the substrate 622, whereby a film is formed.

[0359] Note that the gas pressure of Ar as the sputtering gas is, for example, 0.6 Pa, and its flow rate is 100 sccm.

(9) Formation of Sealing Layer 2126

[0360] After the common electrode layer 2125 is formed, the sealing layer 2126 is formed so as to cover the common electrode layer 2125 (FIG. 23D). The sealing layer 2126 can be formed by a CVD process, a sputtering process or the like.

(10) Formation of Color Filter Substrate 2131

[0361] Next, a step of producing the color filter substrate 2131 will be exemplified.

[0362] The transparent upper substrate 2130 is prepared, and a material for the light-shielding layer 2129, which contains a UV-curing resin (e.g., UV-curing acrylic resin) material as a main constituent with a black pigment added thereto, is applied to a surface on one side of the transparent upper substrate 2130 (FIG. 24A).

[0363] A pattern mask PM provided with predetermined openings is placed on the upper surface of the applied light-shielding layer 2129, and irradiation with UV rays is conducted from above (FIG. 24B).

[0364] Thereafter, development is conducted by removing the pattern mask PM and uncured portions of the light-shielding layer 2129, and curing is performed, whereon the light-shielding layers 2129 in a rectangular sectional shape are completed (FIG. 24C).

[0365] Next, a material 2128G for a color filter layer 2128 (e.g., 2128(G)), which contains a UV-curing resin component as a main constituent, is applied to the surface of the upper substrate 2130 formed with the light-shielding layer 2129 (FIG. 24D), a predetermined pattern mask PM is placed thereon, and irradiation with UV rays is conducted (FIG. 24E).

[0366] Thereafter, curing is performed, and development is conducted by removing the pattern mask PM and uncured portions of the paste 2128R, wherein color filter layers 2128(G) are formed (FIG. 24F).

[0367] The steps of FIGS. 24D, 24E, and 24F are similarly repeated for each of color filter materials, whereby color filter layers 2128(R) and 2128(B) are formed (FIG. 24G). Note that the commercially available color filter products may be utilized, instead of using the pastes 2128G, 2128R, and 2128B.

[0368] In this way, the color filter substrate 2131 is formed.

(11) Lamination of Color Filter Substrate 2131 and Back Panel

[0369] Next, a material for the bonding layer 2127, which contains a UV-curing resin such as acrylic resin, silicone resin, and epoxy resin as a main constituent, is applied to the back panel including the layers ranging from the substrate 2100x to the sealing layer 2126 (FIG. 25A).

[0370] Subsequently, the applied material is irradiated with UV rays, to laminate the back panel and the color filter substrate 2131 in the state in which they are relatively positioned (aligned). In this instance, care should be taken to prevent gas from entering between both substrates. Thereafter, both the substrates are baked to complete the sealing step, whereon the display panel 2010 is completed (FIG. 25B).

1.6 Configuration in Which Auxiliary Electrode Layer 2200 and Common Electrode Layer 2125 are in Direct Contact with Each Other

[0371] FIG. 20 depicts, in an enlarged form, the configuration of the vicinity of the auxiliary electrode layer 2200 in FIG. 19.

[0372] The angle θ which the side wall 2301 inclined toward the auxiliary electrode layer 2200 side, of the second column bank 2522Y, forms with the surface of the substrate 2100x is desirably 45 to 80 degrees. If the angle θ exceeds 80 degrees, cutting of the electron transport layer 2124 would not occur, so that it would be difficult to secure electrical connection with the common electrode layer 2125. If the angle θ is less than 45 degrees, on the other hand, cutting of the common electrode layer 2125 would occur at the side wall 2301, so that it is difficult for the auxiliary electrode layer 2200 to make contact with the common electrode layer 2125.

[0373] This angle θ can be controlled by the exposure amount at the time of forming the second column banks 2522YB.

[0374] Such a shape ensures that the electron transport layer 2124 formed on the auxiliary electrode layer 2200 is formed in the state of breaking off (undergoing cutting) at the base portion 2302 of the side wall 2301. Therefore, the common electrode layer 2125 is formed in contact with the auxiliary electrode layer 2200 in the manner of coming around into the stepped part of the electron transport layer 2124.

[0375] Note that this is not restrictive. The electron transport layer 2124 formed on the auxiliary electrode layer 2200 may be thinned at the base portion 2302 of the side wall 2301. As a result, the common electrode layer 2125 is electrically connected to the auxiliary electrode layer 2200 at a lower resistance at the thinned part of the electron transport layer 2124 than at other parts of the electron transport layer 2124.

[0376] The electron transport layer 2124 is desirably formed by a film forming process comparatively poor in step coverage (for example, a vacuum deposition process), such that stepping thereof occurs at the base portion 2302 of the side wall 2301 and the auxiliary electrode layer 2200 is exposed there.

[0377] In addition, if the film thickness of the electron transport layer 2124 is excessively small, electrons would migrate directly from the common electrode layer 2125 into the light emitting layer 2123, so that the function of restricting the injection of electrons into the light emitting layer 2123 cannot be displayed. Therefore, the electron transport layer 2124 is desirably formed in a film thickness of not less than 10 nm. On the other hand, thickening of the electron transport layer 2124 lowers the transmittance of the electron transport layer 2124, and inhibits generation of the stepping. In order to prevent the light transmitted through the electron transport layer 2124 from being attenuated excessively and in order to intentionally generate the stepping at the base portion 2302 of the side wall 2301, the electron transport layer 2124 is preferably formed in a film thickness of not more than 40 nm.

[0378] The common electrode layer 2125 is desirably formed by a film forming process excellent in step coverage (for example, a sputtering process or a CVD process), such that the common electrode layer 2125 is formed in the manner of coming around into the stepped part of the

electron transport layer 2124 (the base portion 2302 of the side wall 2301). If the common electrode layer 2125 is excessively thin, it would cause stepping; therefore, the common electrode layer 2125 is desirably formed in a film thickness of not less than 25 nm. On the other hand, thickening of the common electrode layer 2125 lowers the transmittance of the common electrode layer 2125; therefore, the common electrode layer 2125 is desirably formed in a film thickness of not more than 300 nm.

1.7 In Regard of Effect of Display Panel 2010

[0379] The effects produced by the display panel 2010 will be described below.

[0380] The display panel 2010 includes the pixel electrodes 2119 provided in pixel regions on the substrate 2100x, the auxiliary electrode layers 2200 provided in auxiliary regions on the substrate 2100x, the light emitting layers 2123 provided on the pixel electrodes 2119, the electron transport layer 2124 provided over the light emitting layers 2123 and the auxiliary electrode layers 2200, the common electrode layer 2125 provided on the electron transport layer 2124, and the plurality of column banks 2522Y extending in the column direction and each provided on the gap between the pixel electrode 2119 and the auxiliary electrode layer 2200 that are adjacent in the row direction.

[0381] The column bank provided on the gap between the pixel electrode 2119 and the auxiliary electrode layer 2200 that are adjacent in the row direction has the side wall inclined toward the auxiliary electrode layer 2200 side at an acute angle against the surface of the substrate 2100x.

[0382] Of the electron transport layer 2124, the parts located at the base portions of the side walls are lacking or thinned. The common electrode layer 2125 is in direct contact with the auxiliary electrode layer 2200 exposed to the lacking of the electron transport layer 2124, or the common electrode layer 2125 is electrically connected to the auxiliary electrode layer 2200 at a lower resistance at the thinned parts of the electron transport layer 2124 than at other parts of the electron transport layer 2124.

[0383] According to such a configuration, the auxiliary electrode layer 2200 makes direct contact with the common electrode layer 2125, without being intermediated by the electron transport layer 2124, at the base portions of the side walls. Therefore, voltage drop due to the common electrode layer 2125 is restrained, light emission efficiency is enhanced, a lowering in luminance at a central portion of the screen is restrained, and variability in luminance can be reduced.

[0384] Thus, as has been described above, in the organic EL display panel of Embodiment 2, a lowering in the electric resistance in electrical connection between the common electrode and the auxiliary electrode can be realized, light emission efficiency can be enhanced, and variability in luminance can be restrained.

1.8 Modifications

[0385] While the display panel 2010 according to Embodiment 2 has been described above, the present disclosure is not limited to the above embodiment, except for essential and characteristic constituent elements thereof. For instance, modes obtained by subjecting the embodiments to various modifications conceived by those skilled in the art and modes realized by arbitrary combinations of the constituent

elements and functions in each of the embodiments without departing from the gist of the present disclosure are also embraced in the present disclosure. As examples of such modes, modifications of the display panel **2010** will be described below.

[0386] In the display panel **2010**, the light emitting layers **2123** extend in the column direction on the row insulating layers. However, in the above embodiment, the light emitting layers **2123** may be intermittent on a pixel basis on the row insulating layers.

[0387] In the display panel **2010**, the colors of lights emitted by the light emitting layers **2123** of the sub-pixels **2100se** arranged in the gaps **2522z** each located between the column banks **2522Y** adjacent in the row direction are different from one another, whereas the colors of lights emitted by the light emitting layers **2123** of the sub-pixels **2100se** arranged in the gaps each located between the row insulating layers **2122X** adjacent in the column direction are the same. However, in the above embodiment, the colors of the lights emitted by the light emitting layers **2123** of the sub-pixels **2100se** adjacent in the row direction may be the same, and the colors of the lights emitted by the light emitting layers **2123** of the sub-pixels **2100se** adjacent in the column direction may be different from one another. Besides, the colors of the lights emitted by the light emitting layers **2123** of the sub-pixels **2100se** adjacent in the row direction, and those adjacent in the column direction, may both be different from one another.

[0388] In the display panel **2010** according to the above embodiment, the unit pixels **2100e** have includes three kinds of unit pixels, namely, red pixels, green pixels and blue pixels, but this is not restrictive of the present disclosure. For instance, the light emitting layers may be of one kind, or the light emitting layers include four kinds of light emitting layers that emit light in red, green, blue, and yellow.

[0389] In addition, while the pixels **2100e** are arranged in a matrix pattern in the above embodiment, this is not limitative of the present disclosure. For example, the present disclosure has an effect also on a configuration wherein when the interval between the pixel regions is one pitch, the pixel regions are shifted (deviated) by half pitch in the column direction, between the adjacent gaps. In the display panel with a trend toward higher precision, some shifts (deviations) in the column direction are difficult to visually distinguish, and, even if irregularities in film thickness are aligned on a straight line (or zigzag line) having a certain degree of width, they appear in a belt-like form on a visual basis. Therefore, even in such a case, irregularities in luminance are restrained from being aligned in a zigzag pattern, whereby display quality of the display panel can be enhanced.

[0390] Besides, in the above embodiment, the hole injection layer **2120**, the hole transport layer **2121**, the light emitting layer **2123**, and the electron transport layer **2124** have been present between the pixel electrode **2119** and the common electrode layer **2125**, but this is not restrictive of the present disclosure. For example, a configuration may be adopted wherein the hole injection layer **2120**, the hole transport layer **2121**, and the electron transport layer **2124** are not used, and only the light emitting layer **2123** is present between the pixel electrode **2119** and the common electrode layer **2125**. In addition, for example, a configuration including the hole injection layer, the hole transport layer, the electron transport layer, the electron injection layer and the

like, or configurations including some or all of these layers simultaneously may also be adopted. Besides, these layers may not necessarily be all formed from organic compounds, but may be formed from inorganic materials or the like.

[0391] In addition, in the above embodiment, a wet film forming process such as a printing process, a spin coating process and an ink jet process has been used as the method for forming the light emitting layers **2123**, but this is not limitative of the present disclosure. For example, a dry film forming process such as a vacuum deposition process, an electron beam deposition process, a sputtering process, a reactive sputtering process, an ion plating process, and a vapor deposition process can also be used. Further, as the material for each of the constituent parts, known materials can be adopted as required.

[0392] In the above embodiment, the pixel electrode **2119** as anode has been disposed at a lower portion of the EL element section, and the pixel electrode **2119** has been connected to the wiring **2110** connected to the source electrode of the TFT. However, a configuration may be adopted wherein the common electrode layer is disposed at a lower portion of the EL element section, and the anode is disposed at an upper portion of the EL element section. In that case, the cathode disposed at a lower portion is connected to the drain of the TFT.

[0393] Besides, in the above embodiment, the two transistors **Tr1** and **Tr2** have been provided for one sub-pixel **2100se**, but this is not restrictive of the present disclosure. For instance, one transistor may be provided for one sub-pixel, or three or more transistors may be provided for one sub-pixel.

[0394] Furthermore, while a top emission type EL display panel has been taken as an example in the above embodiment, this is not limitative of the present disclosure. For example, the present disclosure is applicable also to a bottom emission type display panel and the like. In that case, appropriate modifications in regard of each component are possible.

Supplement

[0395] The above-described embodiments are merely to show preferable specific examples of the present disclosure, and the numerical values, shapes, materials, constituent elements, layout positions and connection forms of the constituent elements, steps, the order of the steps and the like are mere examples, and are not to be construed as limitative of the present disclosure. In addition, of the constituent elements of the embodiments, those steps not described in independent claims defining the most generic concept of the present disclosure are described as arbitrary constituent elements constituting more preferable modes.

[0396] Besides, the order in which to carry out the steps described above is merely an example for explaining specifically the present disclosure, and other orders than the above-described may be adopted. In addition, part of the above-mentioned steps may be carried out simultaneously (concurrently) with other steps.

[0397] Besides, for easy understanding of the disclosure, the scale of the constituent elements in the drawings referred to in the above embodiments may be different from actual dimensions. In addition, the present disclosure is not restricted by the descriptions of the above embodiments, and modifications can be made, as required, without departing from the gist of the present disclosure.

[0398] Besides, at least parts of the functions of the above embodiments and modifications may be combined with one another.

[0399] Further, various modifications obtained by subjecting the above embodiments to changes or modifications conceived by those skilled in the art are also embraced in the present disclosure.

[0400] Although the present invention has been fully described by way of examples with reference to the accompanying drawings, it is to be noted that various changes and modifications will be apparent to those skilled in the art. Therefore, unless such changes and modifications depart from the scope of the present invention, they should be construed as being included therein.

What is claimed is:

1. An organic electro luminescence display panel having a plurality of pixel electrodes arranged in a matrix pattern over a substrate and having a light emitting layer over each of the pixel electrodes, the organic electro luminescence display panel comprising:

the substrate;

the plurality of pixel electrodes arranged in a matrix pattern with gaps therebetween over the substrate;

a current feeding auxiliary electrode layer provided in the state of being not in contact with the pixel electrodes adjacent to an electrode forming region that is secured to extend in a column direction over at least one of the gaps between the pixel electrodes adjacent in a row direction over the substrate;

a plurality of the light emitting layers that each contain an organic light emitting material and are disposed over the plurality of pixel electrodes;

a functional layer provided ranging over the plurality of light emitting layers and over the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer; and

a common electrode layer provided in the state of extending continuously over the functional layer,

wherein a part of the functional layer is lacking or thinned, and

the common electrode layer is in direct contact with the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer exposed due to the lacking of the functional layer, or is electrically connected to the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer at a lower resistance at the thinned part of the functional layer than at other parts of the functional layer.

2. The organic electro luminescence display panel according to claim 1, further comprising:

an insulating layer that is provided at least over the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer and extends in the column direction,

wherein the insulating layer is provided with a plurality of through-holes, and

one part of the functional layer is lacking or thinned, the one part being inside the through-hole and located in the vicinity of an inner wall of the through-hole over the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer.

3. The organic electro luminescence display panel according to claim 2, wherein a ratio of a thickness of the insulating layer to an opening width of the through-hole is from 0.1 to 0.8.

4. The organic electro luminescence display panel according to claim 2, wherein the functional layer is present on an upper surface of the insulating layer and at other parts of the

inside of the through-hole over the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer than the one part, but is lacking or thinned at the part located on the inner wall of the through-hole.

5. The organic electro luminescence display panel according to claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of column banks that are provided over gaps each located between the pixel electrodes adjacent in the row direction and over gaps each located between the pixel electrode and the current feeding auxiliary electrode adjacent in the row direction and that extend in the column direction,

wherein those of the column banks which are provided over the gaps each located between the pixel electrode and the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer adjacent in the row direction have a side wall inclined toward the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer side at an acute angle against a surface of the substrate, and

a part of the functional layer is lacking or thinned, the part being located at a base portion of the side wall.

6. The organic electro luminescence display panel according to claim 5, wherein the column banks provided over the gaps each located between the pixel electrode and the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer adjacent in the row direction are formed from a negative type photosensitive material.

7. The organic electro luminescence display panel according to claim 5, wherein an inclination angle of the side wall against the substrate surface is 45 to 80 degrees.

8. A method of manufacturing an organic electro luminescence display panel, the method comprising:

preparing a substrate;

arranging a plurality of pixel electrodes in a matrix pattern over the substrate;

securing an electrode forming region that extends in a column direction over at least one of gaps between the pixel electrodes adjacent in a row direction over the substrate, and forming by a vapor deposition process a current feeding auxiliary electrode layer in the state of being not in contact with the pixel electrodes adjacent to the electrode forming region;

forming a light emitting layer containing an organic light emitting material over each of the pixel electrodes;

forming by a vacuum deposition process a functional layer ranging over the light emitting layers and over the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer, in such a manner that one part of the functional layer is lacking or thinned;

forming by a sputtering process or a chemical vapor deposition process a common electrode layer such as to extend continuously over the functional layer, and to make direct contact with the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer exposed due to the lacking of the functional layer, or to be electrically connected to the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer at a lower resistance at the thinned part of the functional layer than at other parts of the functional layer.

9. The method of manufacturing the organic electro luminescence display panel according to claim 8, further comprising:

forming an insulating layer to extend in the column direction at least over the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer after the formation of the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer; and

opening a plurality of through-holes in the insulating layer.

10. The method of manufacturing the organic electro luminescence display panel according to claim **9**,

wherein in the forming the functional layer, the functional layer is formed in such a manner that the one part of the functional layer is lacking or thinned, the one part being inside the through-hole and located in the vicinity of an inner wall of the through-hole over the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer, and

in the forming the common electrode layer, the common electrode layer is formed in such a manner that the common electrode layer makes direct contact with the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer exposed due to the lacking of the functional layer or that the common electrode layer is electrically connected to the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer at a lower resistance at the thinned part of the functional layer than at other parts of the functional layer.

11. The method of manufacturing the organic electro luminescence display panel according to claim **10**, wherein a ratio of a thickness of the insulating layer to an opening width of the through-hole is from 0.1 to 0.8.

12. The method of manufacturing the organic electro luminescence display panel according to claim **9**, wherein let a thickness of the insulating layer be h , let a resistivity of the functional layer be R_1 , let a resistivity of the common electrode layer be R_0 , and let an average incidence angle on the substrate from a vapor source used in the forming the functional layer be θ , then an opening width w of the through hole is defined by the following expression.

$$W_0 < \frac{R_1}{R_0} \cdot h \cdot \tan \theta$$

13. The method of manufacturing the organic electro luminescence display panel according to claim **8**, further comprising:

forming a plurality of column banks extending in the column direction over gaps between the adjacent pixel electrodes and over gaps each located between the pixel electrode and the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer adjacent in the row direction,

wherein in the forming the column banks, for those of the plurality of column banks which are provided over gaps each located between the pixel electrode and the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer adjacent in the row direction, a side wall inclined toward the current feeding auxiliary electrode layer at an acute angle against the substrate is formed, by use of a negative type photosensitive material, and

in the forming the functional layer, the functional layer is formed in such a manner that the one part of the functional layer is lacking or thinned, the one part being located at a base portion of the side wall.

14. The method of manufacturing the organic electro luminescence display panel according to claim **13**, wherein in the forming the column banks, a side wall having an angle against a surface of the substrate of 45 to 80 degrees is formed.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	有机EL显示面板和制造有机EL显示面板的方法		
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摘要(译)

有机EL显示面板包括基板，像素电极，设置为在行方向上相邻的像素电极之间的间隙上沿列方向延伸的电流馈送辅助电极层，每个发光层包含有机发光材料并且是设置在像素电极上方的功能层，设置在发光层上方和电流馈送辅助电极层上方的功能层，以及在功能层上连续设置的公共电极层。功能层的一部分缺少或变薄。公共电极层与由于缺少功能层而暴露的电流馈送辅助电极层直接接触，或者在功能层的变薄部分处以比电阻层更低的电阻电连接到电流馈送辅助电极层。功能层的其他部分。

