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Choung

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

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(2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC H01L 27/3279
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An organic light-emitting display device includes a substrate including a display area and a peripheral area surrounding the display area. The display area includes a plurality of pixel regions including a plurality of pixels including pixel electrodes and non-pixel regions between the pixel regions. The pixel electrodes are spaced apart from each other, with a pixel-defining layer above the plurality of pixel electrodes and exposing the plurality of pixel electrodes. A plurality of intermediate layers respectively above the plurality of pixel electrodes include an emission layer. A plurality of opposite electrodes respectively face the plurality of pixel electrodes and are spaced apart from each other. A plurality of connection electrodes that connect the plurality of opposite electrodes are in the non-pixel regions. A power line electrically connected to at least one of the plurality of connection electrodes is in the peripheral area.

20 Claims, 17 Drawing Sheets

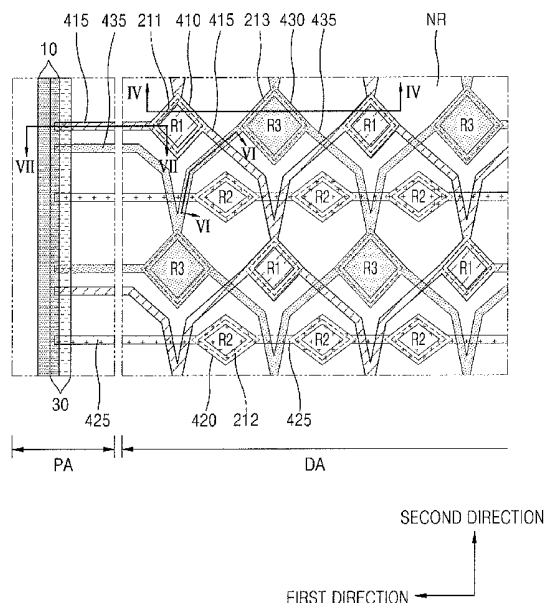


FIG. 1

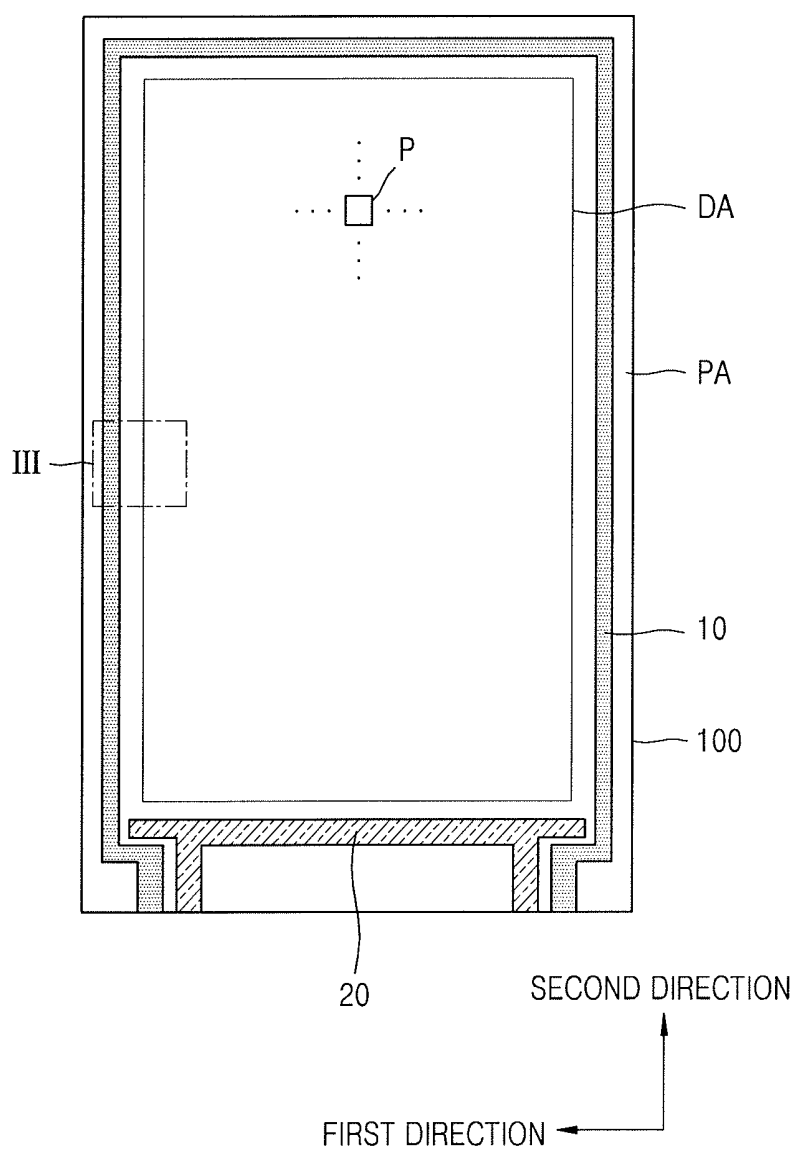


FIG. 2A

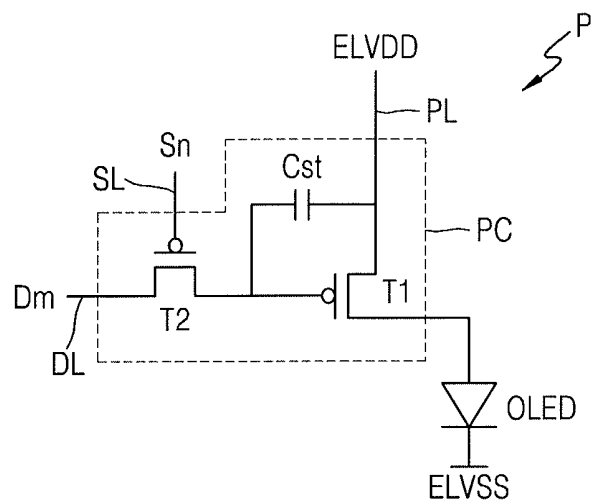


FIG. 2B

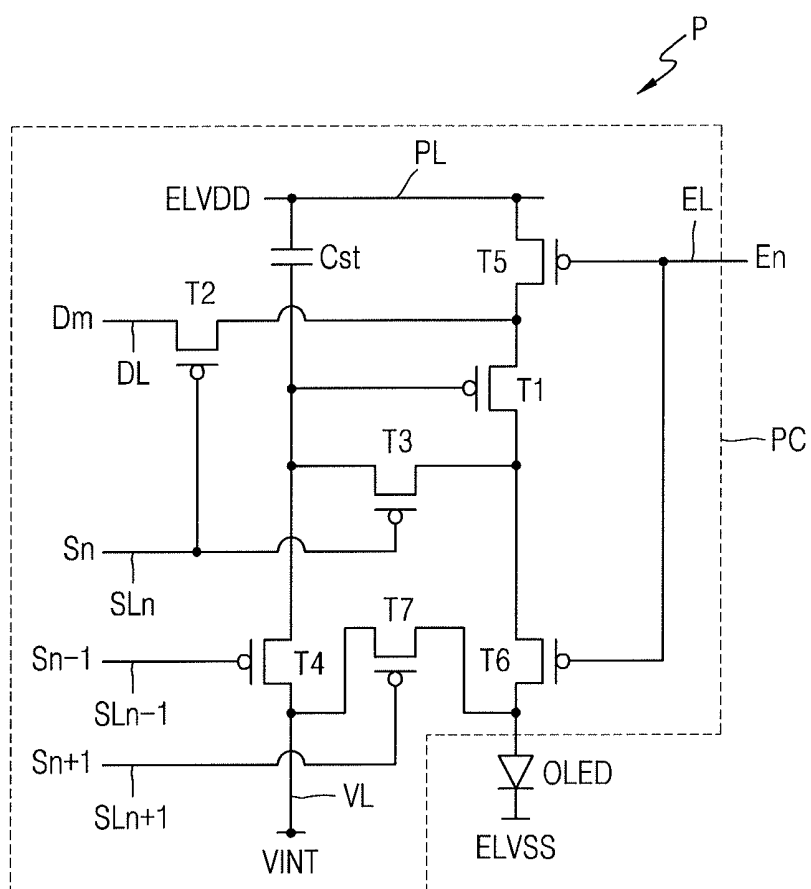


FIG. 3

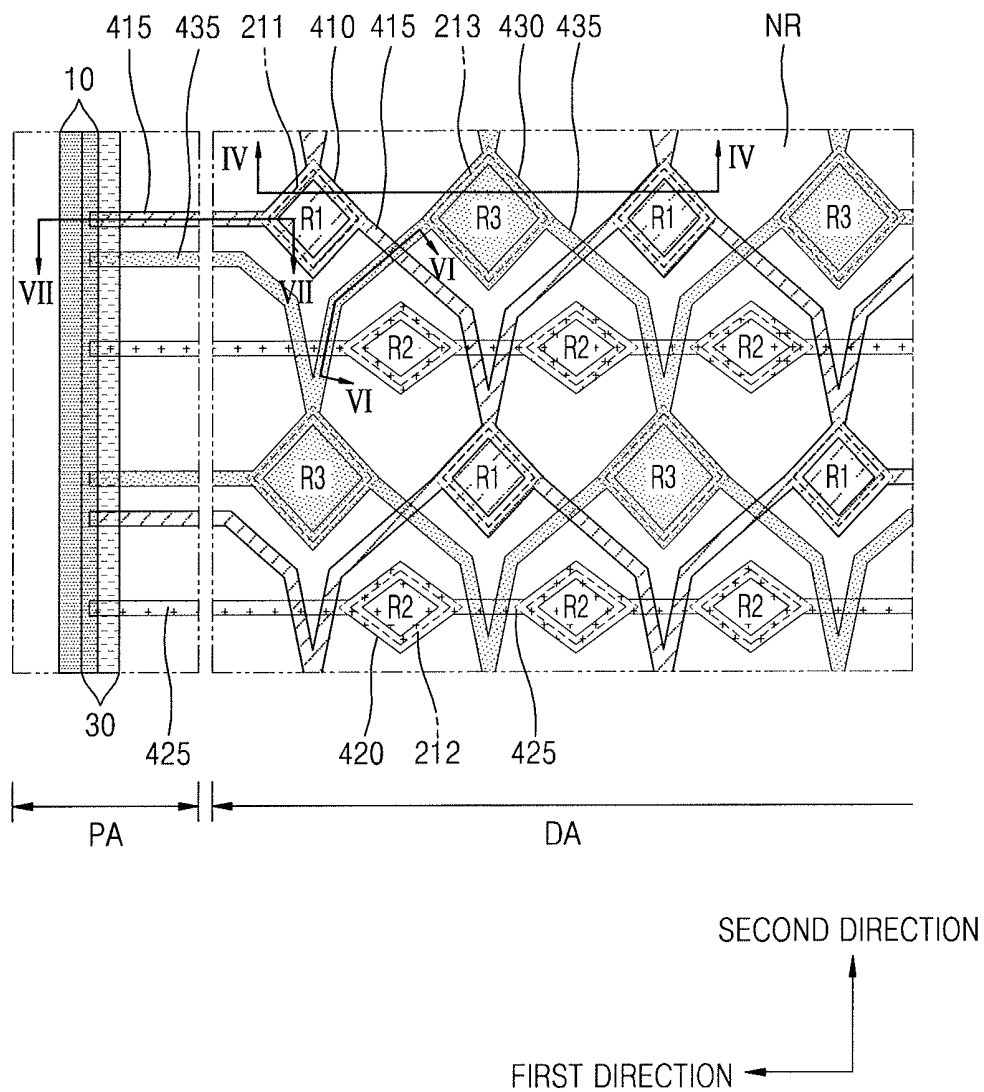
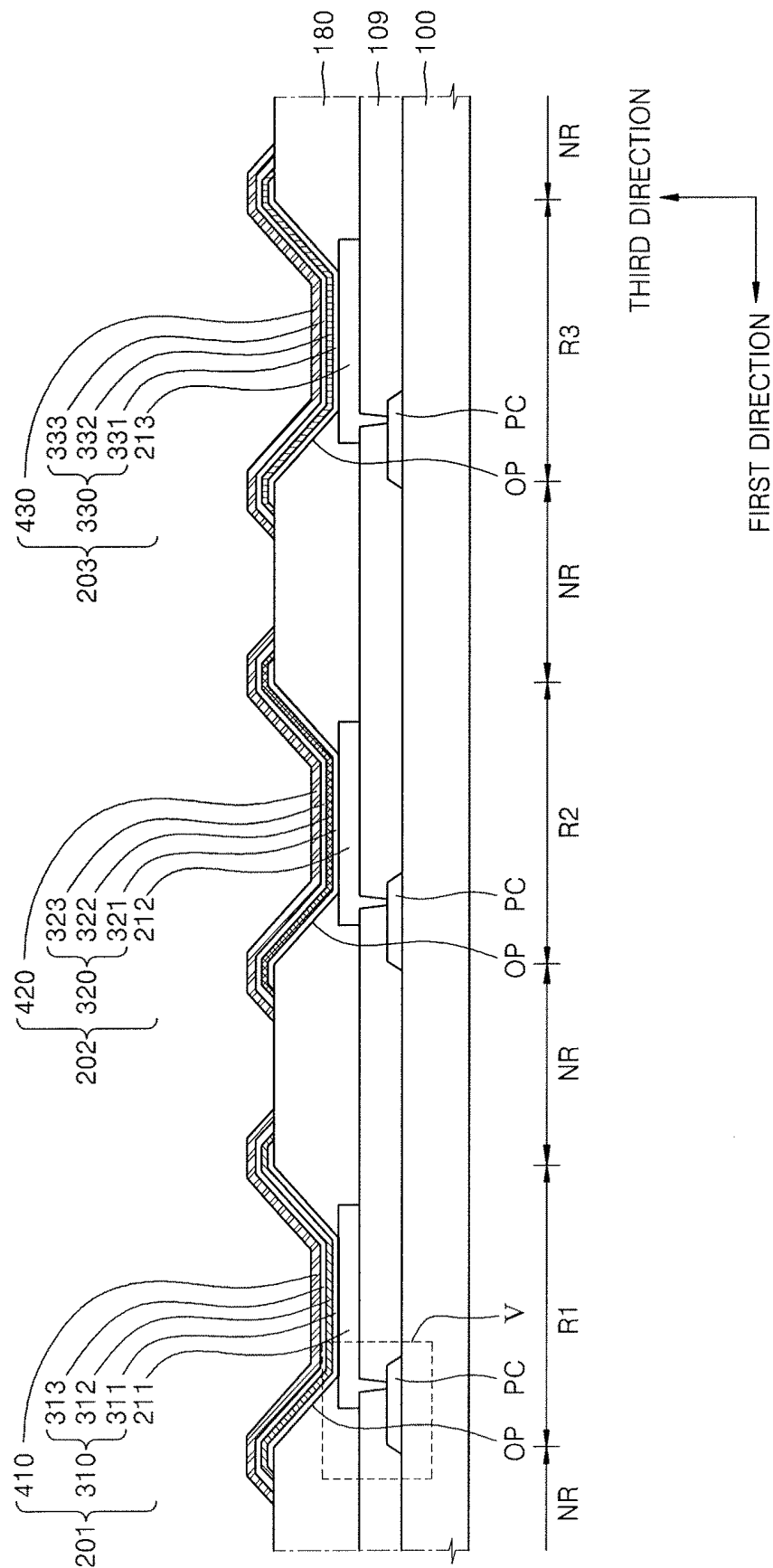


FIG. 4



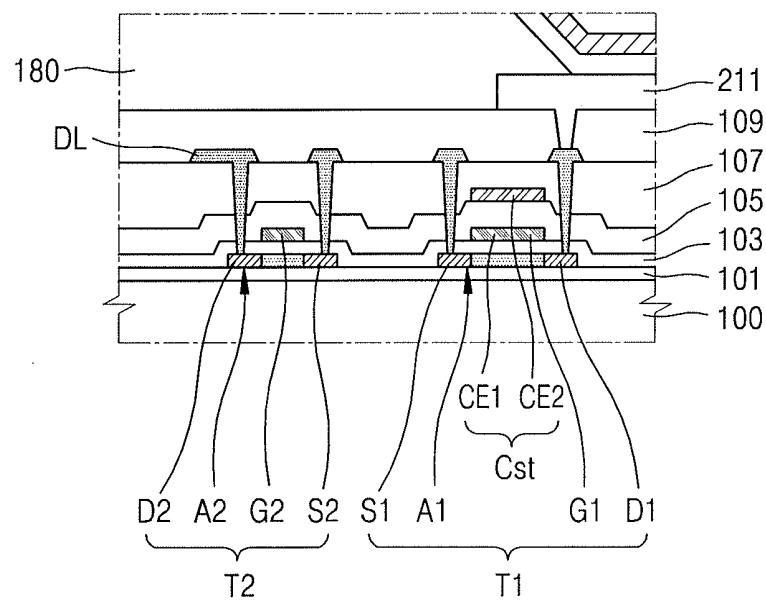


FIG. 5B

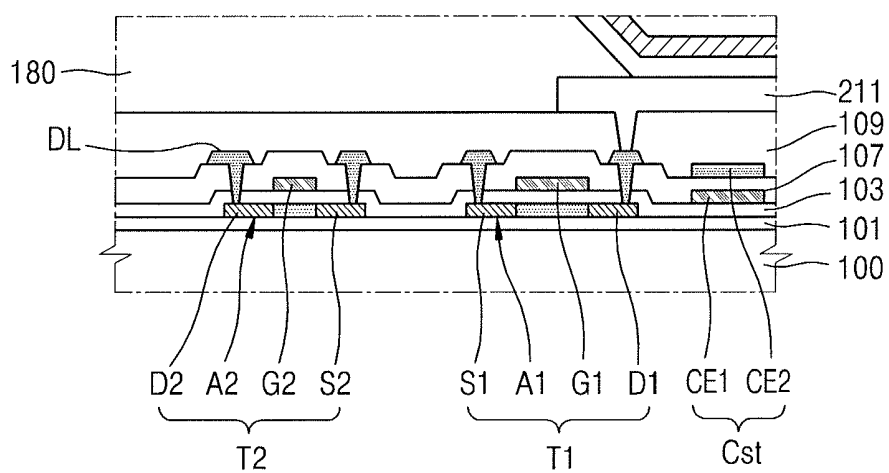


FIG. 6

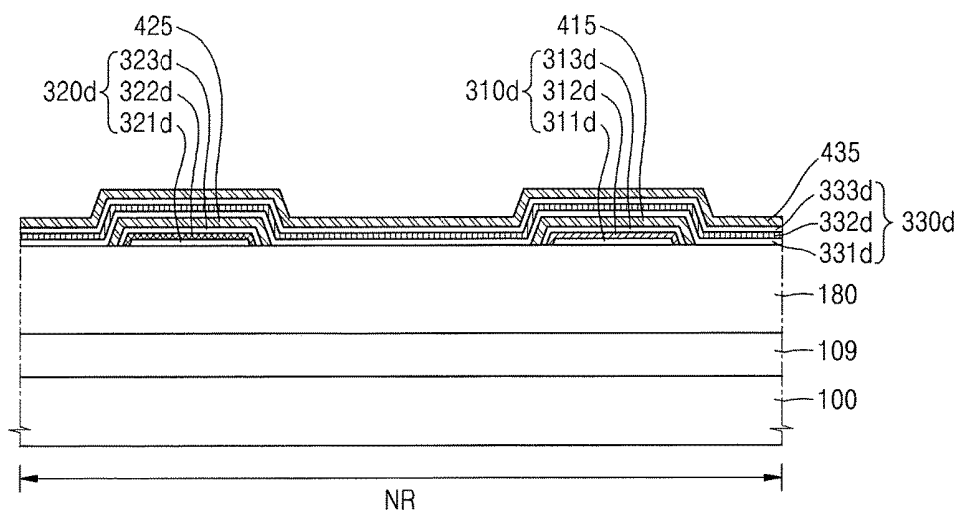
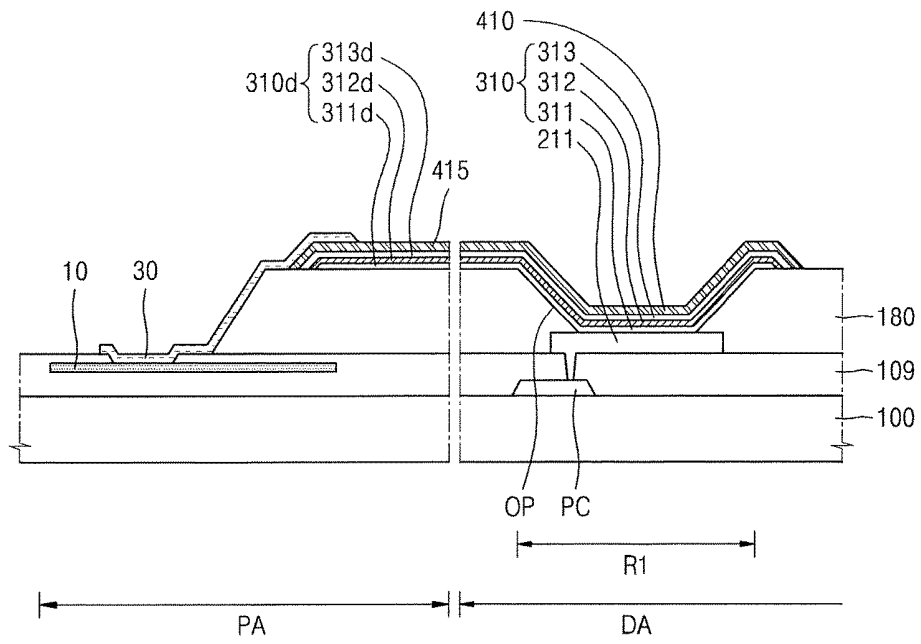


FIG. 7



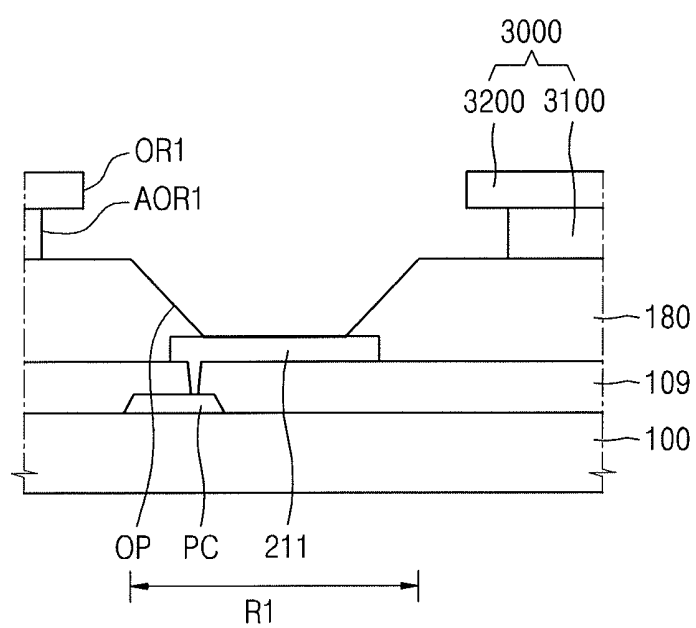


FIG. 8B

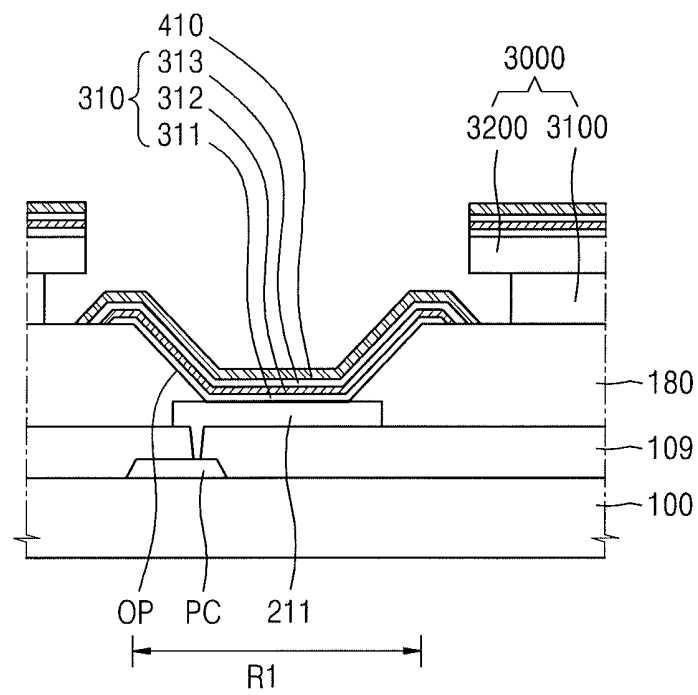
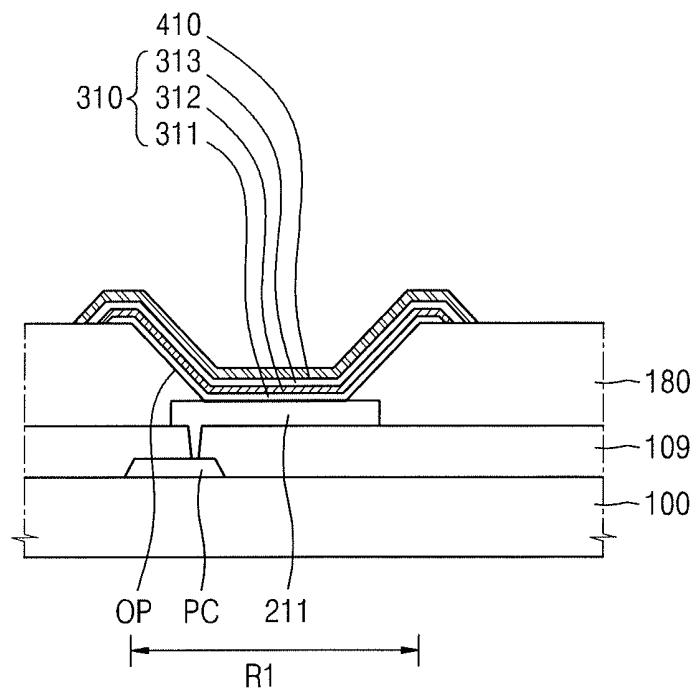


FIG. 8C



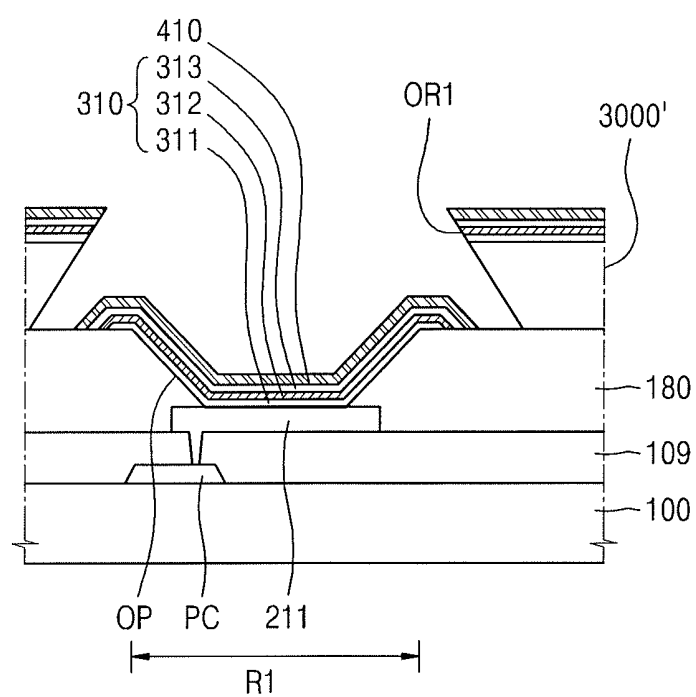


FIG. 9B

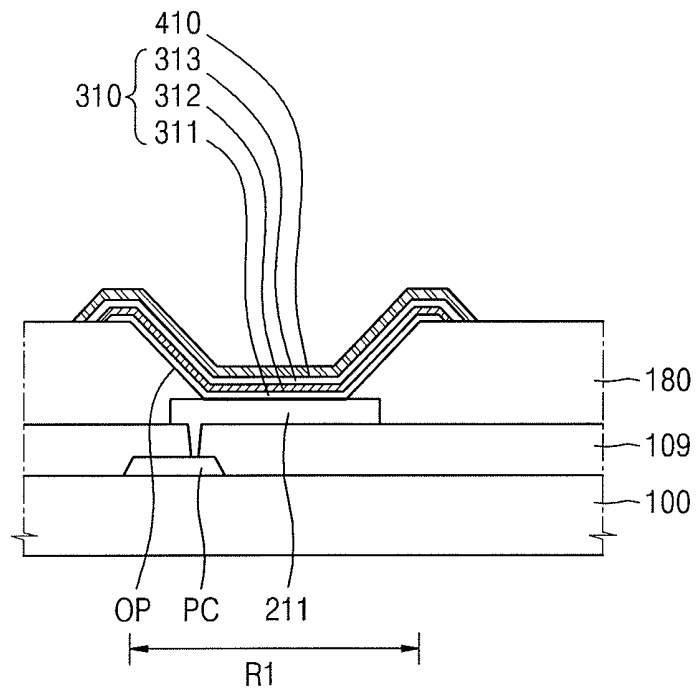
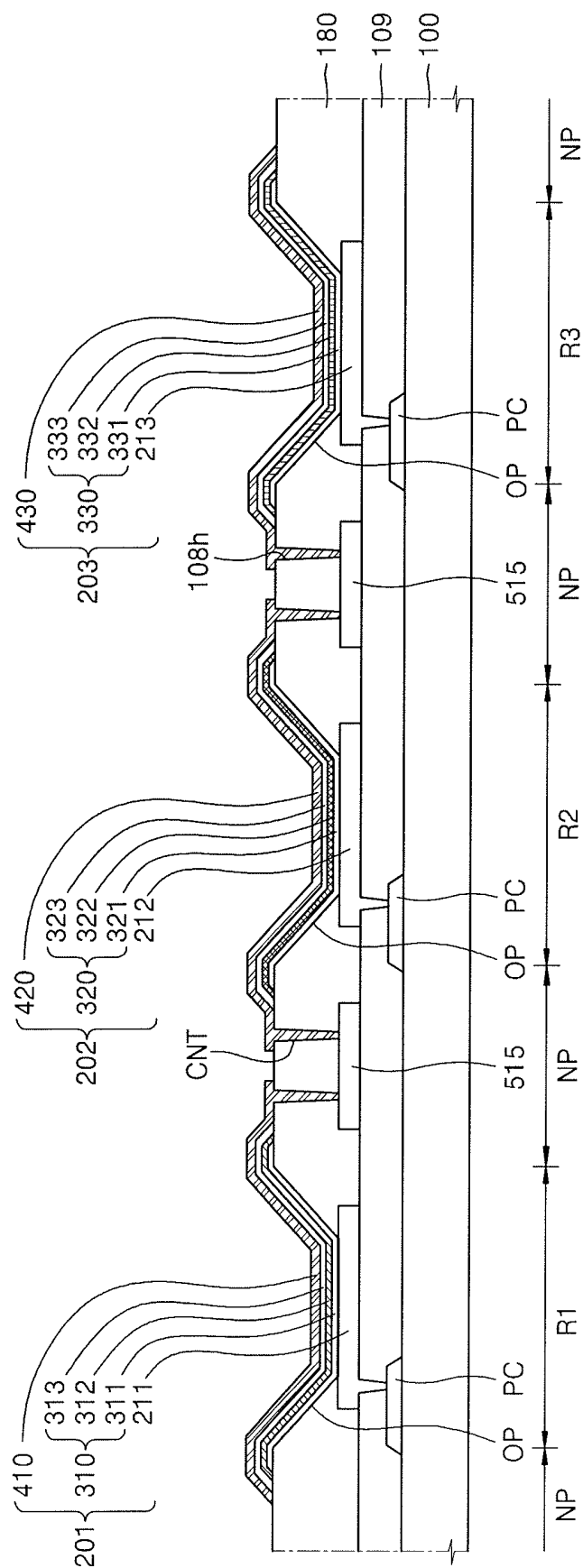


FIG. 11



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**ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DISPLAY
DEVICE****CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATION**

Korean Patent Application No. 10-2016-0080246, filed on Jun. 27, 2016, in the Korean Intellectual Property Office, and entitled: "Organic Light-Emitting Display Device," is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

BACKGROUND**1. Field**

One or more embodiments relate to an organic light-emitting display device.

2. Description of the Related Art

An organic light-emitting display device is a display device in which each of pixels includes an organic light-emitting diode (OLED). The OLED includes a pixel electrode, an opposite electrode facing the pixel electrode, and an emission layer between the pixel electrode and the opposite electrode.

SUMMARY

Embodiments are directed to an organic light-emitting display device including a substrate including a display area and a peripheral area, the display area including a plurality of pixel regions and non-pixel regions between the pixel regions, and the peripheral area surrounding the display area, a plurality of pixel electrodes respectively in the pixel regions, the pixel electrodes being spaced apart from each other, a pixel-defining layer above the plurality of pixel electrodes, the pixel-defining layer exposing the plurality of pixel electrodes, a plurality of intermediate layers respectively above the plurality of pixel electrodes, the intermediate layers including an emission layer, a plurality of opposite electrodes respectively facing the plurality of pixel electrodes and spaced apart from each other, a plurality of connection electrodes in the non-pixel regions, the connection electrodes connecting the plurality of opposite electrodes, and a power line in the peripheral area, the power line being electrically connected to at least one of the plurality of connection electrodes.

The plurality of connection electrodes may be above the pixel-defining layer.

The plurality of connection electrodes may include a same material as the plurality of opposite electrodes.

The organic light-emitting display device may further include a conductive layer connecting at least one connection electrode to the power line.

The conductive layer may be above the power line and the at least one connection electrode.

The organic light-emitting display device may further include a dummy intermediate layer below the at least one connection electrode. The dummy intermediate layer may include a same material as the intermediate layer.

The plurality of opposite electrodes may include a plurality of first opposite electrodes corresponding to a first pixel region and a plurality of second opposite electrodes corresponding to a second pixel region. The plurality of connection electrodes may include a first connection elec-

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trode connecting the plurality of first opposite electrodes and a second connection electrode connecting the plurality of second opposite electrodes.

The first connection electrode may cross the second connection electrode in the non-pixel region.

The organic light-emitting display device may further include an organic material between the first connection electrode and the second connection electrode.

The organic material may include a same material as one of a first intermediate layer corresponding to the first pixel region and a second intermediate layer corresponding to the second pixel region.

The plurality of connection electrodes may be below the pixel-defining layer.

The pixel-defining layer may include contact holes passing through the pixel-defining layer and respectively exposing the plurality of connection electrodes. The plurality of opposite electrodes may be connected to the plurality of connection electrodes via the contact holes.

The plurality of connection electrodes may include a same material as the plurality of pixel electrodes.

The plurality of opposite electrodes may include a plurality of first opposite electrodes corresponding to a first pixel region and a plurality of second opposite electrodes corresponding to a second pixel region. At least one of the plurality of connection electrodes may connect the first opposite electrodes to the second opposite electrodes.

The power line may be lower than the plurality of pixel electrodes in a direction toward the substrate.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Features will become apparent to those of skill in the art by describing in detail exemplary embodiments with reference to the attached drawings in which:

FIG. 1 illustrates a plan view of an organic light-emitting display device according to an embodiment;

FIGS. 2A and 2B illustrate equivalent circuit diagrams of one of pixels of an organic light-emitting display device according to an embodiment;

FIG. 3 illustrates an enlarged plan view of a portion III of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 illustrates a cross-sectional view of the pixel, taken along a line IV-IV of FIG. 3;

FIGS. 5A and 5B illustrate enlarged cross-sectional views of a portion V of FIG. 4;

FIG. 6 illustrates a cross-sectional view of the pixel, taken along a line VI-VI of FIG. 3;

FIG. 7 illustrates a cross-sectional view of the pixel, taken along a line VII-VII of FIG. 3;

FIGS. 8A to 8C, 9A and 9B illustrate stages of a process of manufacturing an intermediate layer and an opposite electrode according to an embodiment;

FIG. 10 illustrates a plan view of a portion of an organic light-emitting display device according to another embodiment;

FIG. 11 illustrates a cross-sectional view of a pixel, taken along a line XI-XI of FIG. 10; and

FIG. 12 illustrates a cross-sectional view of a pixel, taken along a line XII-XII of FIG. 10.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Example embodiments will now be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings; however, they may be embodied in different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set

forth herein. Rather, these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey exemplary implementations to those skilled in the art.

In the drawing figures, the dimensions of layers and regions may be exaggerated for clarity of illustration. It will also be understood that when a layer or element is referred to as being “on” another layer or substrate, it can be directly on the other layer or substrate, or intervening layers may also be present. Further, it will be understood that when a layer is referred to as being “between” two layers, it can be the only layer between the two layers, or one or more intervening layers may also be present. Like reference numerals refer to like elements throughout.

FIG. 1 illustrates a plan view of an organic light-emitting display device 1 according to an embodiment.

Referring to FIG. 1, the organic light-emitting display device 1 may include a substrate 100. The substrate 100 may include a display area DA and a peripheral area PA surrounding the display area DA.

Pixels including an organic light-emitting diode (OLED) may be in the display area DA of the substrate 100. In some implementations, pixels P may include a red pixel, a green pixel, and a blue pixel. In some implementations, the pixels P may include a red pixel, a green pixel, a blue pixel, and a white pixel. The pixels P may provide an image by emitting light having a predetermined brightness.

The peripheral area PA is an area in which an image is not produced. A driver and wirings transferring an electric signal to be applied to the display area DA may be in the peripheral area PA. For example, a first power line 10 for supplying a common power voltage ELVSS to an OLED, and a second power line 20 for supplying a driving voltage ELVDD may be in the peripheral area PA. Also, a scan driver that drives a pixel P and a data driver may be in the peripheral area PA.

FIGS. 2A and 2B illustrate equivalent circuit diagrams of one of pixels of an organic light-emitting display device according to an embodiment.

Referring to FIG. 2A, each pixel P may include a pixel circuit connected to a scan line SL and a data line DL, and an OLED connected to the pixel circuit PC.

The pixel circuit PC may include a driving thin film transistor (TFT) T1, a switching TFT T2, and a storage capacitor Cst. The switching TFT T2 may be connected to the scan line SL and the data line DL. The switching TFT T2 may transfer a data signal Dm input via the data line DL to the driving TFT T1.

The storage capacitor Cst may be connected to the switching TFT T2 and a driving voltage line PL. The storage capacitor Cst may store a voltage corresponding to a difference between a voltage transferred from the switching TFT T2 and a driving voltage ELVDD supplied to the driving voltage line PL.

The driving TFT T1 may be connected to the driving voltage line PL and the storage capacitor Cst. The driving TFT T1 may control a driving current flowing through the OLED from the driving voltage line PL in response to a voltage value stored in the storage capacitor Cst. The OLED may emit light having predetermined brightness by using the driving current.

Though FIG. 2A describes a case where a pixel P includes two TFTs and one storage capacitor, the number of these component may vary.

Referring to FIG. 2B, the pixel circuit PC may include the driving and switching TFTs T1 and T2, a compensation TFT

T3, a first initialization TFT T4, a first emission control TFT T5, a second emission control TFT T6, and a second initialization TFT T7.

A drain electrode of the driving TFT T1 may be electrically connected to the OLED via the second emission control TFT T6. The driving TFT T1 may receive a data signal Dm in response to a switching operation of the switching TFT T2 and may supply the driving current to the OLED.

A gate electrode of the switching TFT T2 may be connected to a first scan line SLn, and a source electrode of the switching TFT T2 may be connected to the data line DL. A drain electrode of the switching TFT T2 may be connected to a source electrode of the driving TFT T1 and connected to the driving voltage line PL via the first emission control TFT T5.

The switching TFT T2 may be turned-on in response to a first scan signal Sn transferred via the first scan line SLn and may perform a switching operation of transferring a data signal Dm transferred via the data line DL to the source electrode of the driving TFT T1.

A gate electrode of the compensation TFT T3 may be connected to the first scan line SLn. A source electrode of the compensation TFT T3 may be connected to the drain electrode of the driving TFT T1 and connected to a pixel electrode of the OLED via the second emission control TFT T6. A drain electrode of the compensation TFT T3 may be connected to one of electrodes of the storage capacitor Cst, a source electrode of the first initialization TFT T4, and a gate electrode of the driving TFT T1 together. The compensation TFT T3 may be turned on in response to a first scan signal Sn transferred via the first scan line SLn and may diode-connect the driving TFT T1 by connecting the gate electrode of the driving TFT T1 to the drain electrode of the driving TFT T1.

A gate electrode of the first initialization TFT T4 may be connected to a second scan line SLn-1. A drain electrode of the first initialization TFT T4 may be connected to an initialization voltage line VL. A source electrode of the first initialization TFT T4 may be connected to one of the electrodes of the storage capacitor Cst, the drain electrode of the compensation TFT T3, and the gate electrode of the driving TFT T1 together. The first initialization TFT T4 may be turned on in response to a second scan signal Sn-1 transferred via a second scan line SLn-1 and may perform an initialization operation of initializing a voltage of the gate electrode of the driving TFT T1 by transferring an initialization voltage VINT to the gate electrode of the driving TFT T1.

A gate electrode of the first emission control TFT T5 may be connected to an emission control line EL. A source electrode of the first emission control TFT T5 may be connected to the driving voltage line PL. A drain electrode of the first emission control TFT T5 may be connected to the source electrode of the driving TFT T1 and the drain electrode of the switching TFT T2.

A gate electrode of the second emission control TFT T6 may be connected to the emission control line EL. A source electrode of the second emission control TFT T6 may be connected to the drain electrode of the driving TFT T1 and the source electrode of the compensation TFT T3. A drain electrode of the second emission control TFT T6 may be electrically connected to the pixel electrode of the OLED. The first emission control TFT T5 and the second emission control TFT T6 may be simultaneously turned on in response to an emission control signal En transferred via the

emission control line EL such that a driving voltage ELVDD is transferred to the OLED, and the driving current flows through the OLED.

A gate electrode of the second initialization TFT T7 may be connected to a third scan line SLn+1. A source electrode of the second initialization TFT T7 may be connected to the pixel electrode of the OLED. A drain electrode of the second initialization TFT T7 may be connected to the initialization voltage line VL. The second initialization TFT T7 may be turned-on in response to a third scan signal Sn+1 transferred via the third scan line SLn+1 and may initialize the pixel electrode of the OLED.

The other of the electrodes of the storage capacitor Cst may be connected to the driving voltage line PL. One of the electrodes of the storage capacitor Cst may be connected to the gate electrode of the driving TFT T1, the drain electrode of the compensation TFT T3, and the source electrode of the first initialization TFT T4 together.

An opposite electrode of the OLED may be connected to a common power voltage ELVSS. The OLED may receive the driving current from the driving TFT T1 and may emit light.

The number of TFTs and storage capacitors and the circuit design of the pixel circuit PC described with reference to FIGS. 2A and 2B, and may be changed variously.

FIG. 3 illustrates an enlarged plan view of a portion III of FIG. 1, FIG. 4 illustrates a cross-sectional view of a pixel, taken along a line IV-IV of FIG. 3, FIGS. 5A and 5B illustrate enlarged cross-sectional views of a portion V of FIG. 4, FIG. 6 illustrates a cross-sectional view of the pixel, taken along a line VI-VI of FIG. 3, FIG. 7 illustrates a cross-sectional view of the pixel, taken along a line VII-VII of FIG. 3, and FIGS. 8A to 8C, 9A, and 9B illustrate a stages of processes of manufacturing an intermediate layer and an opposite electrode according to embodiments.

Referring to FIGS. 3 and 4, the display area DA may include pixel regions R1, R2, and R3 respectively corresponding to the pixels P described with reference to FIG. 1 and non-pixel regions NR between the pixel regions R1, R2, and R3. Hereinafter, for convenience of description, a case where the pixels P include a red pixel, a green pixel, and a blue pixel and thus, where the display area DA includes the first red pixel region R1, the second green pixel region R2, and the third blue pixel region R3, is described.

First to third OLEDs 201, 202, and 203 may respectively be in the first to third pixel regions R1, R2, and R3. The first to third OLEDs 201, 202, and 203 may be connected to pixel circuits PC respectively provided to the pixels P.

For example, as shown in FIG. 3, pixels R1 and R3 may alternate in first and second directions. Pixels R2 may be provided in rows in the first direction between the rows of pixels R1 and R3. Each pixel may have a rhombus shape. The pixels R3 may be bigger than the pixels R1 and the pixels R2.

As illustrated in FIG. 5A, the pixel circuit PC may include the driving TFT T1 including a driving semiconductor layer A1 including a driving source region S1 and a driving drain region D1, and a driving gate electrode G1, the switching TFT T2 including a switching semiconductor layer A2 including a switching source region S2 and a switching drain region D2, and a switching gate electrode G2, and the storage capacitor Cst including first and second storage plates CE1 and CE2. A buffer layer 101 may be between the substrate 100 and the driving and switching semiconductor layers A1 and A2, a gate insulating layer 103 may be between the driving and switching semiconductor layers A1 and A2 and the driving and switching gate electrodes G1 and

G2. A dielectric layer 105 may be between the first and second storage plates CE1 and CE2. An insulating layer 109 may be below a pixel electrode, for example, a first pixel electrode 211.

The substrate 100 may include various materials such as a glass material or a plastic material including polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polyethylene naphthalate (PEN), polyimide, etc. In the case where the substrate 100 includes a plastic material, flexibility of the substrate 100 may improve compared with a case where the substrate 100 includes a glass material. The buffer layer 101 and the gate insulating layer 103 may be a single layer or multiple layers including an inorganic material such as SiNx and/or SiOx. The dielectric layer 105 may be a single layer or multiple layers including an inorganic material such as SiOx, SiNx, and/or Al₂O₃. The insulating layer 109 may include an organic material including a general-purpose polymer such as polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA) or polystyrene (PS), a polymer derivative having a phenol-based group, an acryl-based polymer, an imide-based polymer, an aryl ether-based polymer, an amide-based polymer, a fluorine-based polymer, a p-xylylene-based polymer, a vinyl alcohol-based polymer, or a blend thereof, as examples.

In the pixel circuit PC, as illustrated in FIG. 5A, the first storage plate CE1 and the driving gate electrode G1 may be in the same layer and the storage capacitor Cst may overlap the driving TFT T1. In some implementations, as illustrated in FIG. 5B, the storage capacitor Cst may not overlap the driving TFT T1. Though FIGS. 5A and 5B illustrate the pixel circuit PC connected to the first pixel electrode 211, pixel circuits PC connected to second and third pixel electrodes 212 and 213 may have the same structure as understood by a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Referring to FIGS. 3 and 4 again, the first OLED 201 may include the first pixel electrode 211, a first intermediate layer 310, and a first opposite electrode 410. The second OLED 202 may include the second pixel electrode 212, a second intermediate layer 320, and a second opposite electrode 420. The third OLED 203 may include the third pixel electrode 213, a third intermediate layer 330, and a third opposite electrode 430.

The first to third pixel electrodes 211, 212, and 213 may be island-type electrodes respectively corresponding to the first to third pixel regions R1, R2, and R3 and may be spaced apart from each other.

The first to third pixel electrodes 211, 212, and 213 may be reflective electrodes or optically clear electrodes. In the case where the first to third pixel electrodes 211, 212, and 213 are reflective electrodes, the first to third pixel electrodes 211, 212, and 213 may include a reflective layer including Ag, Mg, Al, Pt, Pd, Au, Ni, Nd, Ir, Cr, or a compound thereof. In some implementations, the first to third pixel electrodes 211, 212, and 213 may include a reflective layer and a transparent conductive oxide (TCO) layer above and/or below the reflective layer.

In the case where the first to third pixel electrodes 211, 212, and 213 are optically clear electrodes, the first to third pixel electrodes 211, 212, and 213 may be TCO layers. In some implementations, the first to third pixel electrodes 211, 212, and 213 may be metallic thin films including Ag or an Ag alloy, or may be layers including TCO layers above the metallic thin films. In some implementations, the first to third pixel electrodes 211, 212, and 213 may be three layers of ITO/Ag/ITO sequentially having thicknesses of about 70 Å/850 Å/50 Å.

A pixel-defining layer 180 may be above the first to third pixel electrodes 211, 212, and 213. The pixel-defining layer

180 may expose the first to third pixel electrodes **211**, **212**, and **213** via openings **OP**. The pixel-defining layer **180** may include an organic insulating material and an inorganic insulating material, or include an inorganic insulating material.

The first to third intermediate layers **310**, **320**, and **330** may be above the first to third pixel electrodes **211**, **212**, and **213** exposed via the pixel-defining layer **180**. The first to third intermediate layers **310**, **320**, and **330** may respectively correspond to the first to third pixel regions **R1**, **R2**, and **R3** and may be spaced apart from each other.

The first intermediate layer **310** may include a first emission layer **312** that emits red light, the second intermediate layer **320** may include a second emission layer **322** that emits green light, and the third intermediate layer **330** may include a third emission layer **332** that emits blue light. The first to third emission layers **312** to **332** may include a low molecular organic material or a polymer organic material.

Each of the first to third intermediate layers **310**, **320**, and **330** may further include at least one of first functional layers **311**, **321**, **331** and second functional layers **313**, **323**, **333**. The first functional layers **311**, **321**, **331** may include a hole injection layer (HIL) and/or a hole transport layer (HTL). The second functional layers **313**, **323**, **333** may include an electron transport layer (ETL) and/or an electron injection layer (EIL).

The first to third opposite electrodes **410**, **420**, and **430** may respectively correspond to the first to third pixel regions **R1**, **R2**, and **R3** and may be spaced apart from each other. The first to third opposite electrodes **410**, **420**, and **430** may respectively face the first to third pixel electrodes **211**, **212**, and **213** with the first to third intermediate layers **310**, **320**, and **330** disposed therebetween in a thickness direction (a third direction).

The first to third opposite electrodes **410**, **420**, and **430** may be respectively formed during the same mask process as the first to third intermediate layers **310**, **320**, and **330**. The first intermediate layer **310** and the first opposite electrode **410** may be formed during the same mask process, the second intermediate layer **320** and the second opposite electrode **420** may be formed during the same mask process, and the third intermediate layer **330** and the third opposite electrode **430** may be formed during the same mask process.

As an embodiment, as illustrated in FIG. 8A, a first masking pattern **3000** including an opening region corresponding to the first pixel region **R1** may be formed above the pixel-defining layer **180**. Subsequently, when forming the first intermediate layer **310** and the first opposite electrode **410** by using a thermal evaporation method, etc. and removing the first masking pattern **3000** as illustrated in FIG. 8B, a stacked structure of patterned first intermediate layer **310** and first opposite electrode **410** may remain in the first pixel region **R1** as illustrated in FIG. 8C. The first masking pattern **3000** may include a first photoresist layer **3200** and a mediation layer **3100** below the photoresist layer **3200**. The mediation layer **3100** may include a resin material such as a fluorine-based resin, etc. An opening **AOR1** of the mediation layer **3100** may be greater than an opening region **OR1** of the first photoresist layer **3200**. The first opposite electrode **410** may extend and cover an end of the first intermediate layer **310** in an incident direction of a thermally evaporated material. As an embodiment, the first opposite electrode **410** may have a forward tapered shape and may contact the pixel-defining layer **180**.

A stacked structure of the patterned second intermediate layer **320** and second opposite electrode **420** may be formed in the second pixel region **R2** by using the same method

described above. For example, after forming a second masking pattern including an opening region corresponding to the second pixel region **R2** above the pixel-defining layer **180**, when forming the second intermediate layer **320** and the second opposite electrode **420** by using the thermal evaporation method, etc. and removing the second masking pattern, a stacked structure of patterned second intermediate layer **320** and second opposite electrode **420** may remain in the second pixel region **R2**. Similarly, a stacked structure of a patterned third intermediate layer **330** and third opposite electrode **430** may be formed in the third pixel region **R3** using a third masking pattern.

As another embodiment, a first masking pattern **3000'** may be a single layer including a negative photosensitive material as illustrated in FIG. 9A. After forming the first masking pattern **3000'** including an opening **OR1** corresponding to the first pixel region, when forming the first intermediate layer **310** and the first opposite electrode **410** by using the thermal evaporation method, etc. and removing the first masking pattern **3000'**, a stacked structure of patterned first intermediate layer **310** and first opposite electrode **410** may remain in the first pixel region **R1** as illustrated in FIG. 9B. Similarly, a stacked structure of the second intermediate layer **320** and the second opposite electrode **420** may be formed and a stacked structure of the third intermediate layer **330** and the third opposite electrode **430** may be formed.

The first to third opposite electrodes **410**, **420**, and **430** may include a material having a large work function. For example, the first to third opposite electrodes **410**, **420**, and **430** may include at least one of Ag, Mg, Al, Yb, Ca, Li, and Au. For example, the first to third opposite electrodes **410**, **420**, and **430** may include a single layer or multiple layers including at least one of Ag, Mg, Al, Yb, Ca, LiF/Ca, LiF/Al, Al, and Au. As an embodiment, the first to third opposite electrodes **410**, **420**, and **430** may include a metallic thin film including Ag and Mg. The Ag content may be greater than the Mg content.

The first to third opposite electrodes **410**, **420**, and **430** may be optically clear electrodes or reflective electrodes. The first to third opposite electrodes **410**, **420**, and **430** including the above materials may be formed as optically clear electrodes by making the thicknesses thereof to be thin, or may be formed as reflective electrodes by making the thicknesses thereof to be thick. For example, the first to third opposite electrodes **410**, **420**, and **430** may be formed as optically clear electrodes by forming metal including Ag and Mg to a thickness of about 10 to 15 Å, or may be formed as reflective electrodes by forming metal including Ag and Mg to a thickness to about 50 nm or more.

Referring to FIG. 3 again, the first to third opposite electrodes **410**, **420**, and **430** spaced apart from each other may be respectively connected by connection electrodes **415**, **425**, and **435**. For example, the first opposite electrodes **410** may be connected to each other by the first connection electrodes **415**, the second opposite electrodes **420** may be connected to each other by the second connection electrodes **425**, and the third opposite electrodes **430** may be connected to each other by the third connection electrodes **435**. For example, in the embodiment shown in FIG. 3, the opposite electrodes of pixels **R1** in one row of alternating **R1** and **R3** pixels may be connected to opposite electrodes of pixels **R1** in a next row of alternating **R1** and **R3** pixels by first connection electrodes **415**. The opposite electrodes of pixels **R3** in one row of alternating **R1** and **R3** pixels may be connected to opposite electrodes of pixels **R3** in a next row of alternating **R1** and **R3** pixels by second connection

electrodes **435**. The opposite electrodes of pixels **R2** in a row between rows of alternating **R1** and **R3** pixels may be connected to each other in the first direction by second connection electrodes **425**. The first to third connection electrodes **415**, **425**, and **435** may partially cross each other in the non-pixel region **NR**.

The first to third connection electrodes **415**, **425**, and **435** may be respectively in the same layers as the corresponding first to third opposite electrodes **410**, **420**, and **430** and may respectively include the same materials as the first to third opposite electrodes **410**, **420**, and **430**. The first connection electrode **415** may be in the same layer as the first opposite electrode **410** and may include the same material as the first opposite electrode **410**. The second connection electrode **425** may be in the same layer as the second opposite electrode **420** and may include the same material as the second opposite electrode **420**. The third connection electrode **435** may be in the same layer as the third opposite electrode **430** and may include the same material as the third opposite electrode **430**.

The first to third connection electrodes **415**, **425**, and **435** may be respectively formed during the same processes in which the first to third opposite electrodes **410**, **420**, and **430** are formed. For example, as described with reference to FIGS. **8A** to **9B**, during a process of forming the first intermediate layer **310** and the first opposite electrode **410**, the first masking pattern **3000** may further include an opening region corresponding to the first connection electrode **415**, and the first connection electrode **415** may be formed via the additional opening region. The first connection electrode **415** including the same material as the first opposite electrode **410** and formed during the same process as in which the first opposite electrode **410** is formed may be integrally connected to the first opposite electrode **410**. A dummy intermediate layer **310d** (see FIG. **6**) including the same material as the first intermediate layer **310** may be formed together below the first connection electrode **415**.

Referring to FIG. **6**, the first dummy intermediate layer **310d** may be located directly below the first connection electrode **415** and may include an organic material. For example, the first dummy intermediate layer **310d** may include a first dummy emission layer **312d** of the same material as the first emission layer **312**. The first dummy intermediate layer **310d** may further include first and second dummy functional layers **311d** and **313d** of the same materials as the first and second functional layers **311** and **313**.

Similarly, a second dummy intermediate layer **320d** including the same material as the second intermediate layer **320** may be located below the second connection electrode **425**, and a third dummy intermediate layer **330d** including the same material as the third intermediate layer **330** may be below the third connection electrode **435**. The second dummy intermediate layer **320d** and the third dummy intermediate layer **330d** may respectively include a second dummy emission layer **322d** and a third dummy emission layer **332d**, which include organic materials, and may respectively further include at least one of first and second dummy functional layers **321a**, **323d**, **331d**, and **333d**.

Referring to FIGS. **3** and **7**, at least one of the first to third connection electrodes **415**, **425**, and **435** may extend toward the peripheral area **PA** in which the first power line is located, and may be electrically connected to the first power line **10**.

The first power line **10** may be located lower than the first to third pixel electrodes **211**, **212**, and **213** in the organic light-emitting display device. The first to third pixel electrodes **211**, **212**, and **213** may be located above the first

power line **10** with an insulation layer(s) disposed therebetween. For example, the first power line **10** may include the same material as the data line **DL** described with reference to FIGS. **5A** and **5B**. In some implementations, the first power line **10** may include the same material as one of the gate electrode **G1** of the driving TFT **T1**, and the first and second storage plates **CE1** and **CE2** of the storage capacitor **Cst**.

At least one of the first to third connection electrodes **415**, **425**, and **435** may be electrically connected to the first power line **10** by a conductive layer **30**, which may include a portion above the first to third connection electrodes **415**, **425**, and **435**. When the first connection electrode **415** is formed during the above-described process of manufacturing the first intermediate layer **310** and the first opposite electrode **410**, the first dummy intermediate layer **310d** may be located below the first connection electrode **415**. The first dummy intermediate layer **310d** may have substantially the same pattern as the first connection electrode **415**. Accordingly, the first connection electrode **415** may be electrically connected to the first power line **10** by the conductive layer **30** above the first connection electrode **415**. Similarly, the second and third connection electrodes **425** and **435** may also be electrically connected to the first power line **10** by the conductive layer **30**.

FIG. **10** illustrates a plan view of a portion of an organic light-emitting display device according to another embodiment, FIG. **11** illustrates a cross-sectional view of a pixel, taken along a line XI-XI of FIG. **10**, and FIG. **12** illustrates a cross-sectional view of a pixel, taken along a line XII-XII of FIG. **10**.

Referring to FIGS. **10** and **11**, the display area **DA** may include the first to third pixel regions **R1**, **R2**, and **R3**. The first to third OLEDs **201**, **202**, and **203** may respectively be in the first to third pixel regions **R1**, **R2**, and **R3**. The first to third OLEDs **201**, **202**, and **203** are the same as those described with reference to FIGS. **3** and **4**. Accordingly, differences are mainly described below.

The first to third opposite electrodes **410**, **420**, and **430** may be island type electrodes that are spaced apart from each other in the display area **DA**. The first to third opposite electrodes **410**, **420**, and **430** spaced apart from each other may be electrically connected by connection electrodes **515**. The connection electrodes **515** may be below the pixel-defining layer **180** in the non-pixel region **NR**.

The first to third opposite electrodes **410**, **420**, and **430** may be respectively connected to the connection electrodes **515** via contact holes **180h** in the pixel-defining layer **180**. The connection electrodes **515** may include the same materials as the first to third pixel electrodes **211**, **212**, and **213**.

Referring to FIGS. **10** and **12**, at least one of the connection electrodes **515** may extend toward the peripheral area **PA** in which the first power line **10** is located, and may be electrically connected to the first power line **10**. The first power line **10** may be lower than the first to third pixel electrodes **211**, **212**, and **213** in the organic light-emitting display device. The first power line **10** may include the same material as one of the data line **DL**, the gate electrode **G1** of the driving TFT **T1**, and the first and second storage plates **CE1** and **CE2** of the storage capacitor **Cst** described with reference to FIGS. **5A** and **5B**. At least one connection electrode **515** may be electrically connected to the first power line **10** by directly contacting the upper surface of the first power line **10**.

Although FIGS. **3** and **10** illustrate a case where pixels are arranged with a triangular configuration, it is to be under-

stood that in other embodiments, the pixels may be arranged in a matrix configuration or other various other configurations.

By way of summation and review, in a general organic light-emitting display device, the pixel electrodes have an island shape patterned on a pixel basis but the opposite electrode has one body over a plurality of pixels. However, in such a configuration where an opposite electrode is provided as one body and covers a plurality of pixels, a brightness deviation may occur due to an IR drop by a resistance of the opposite electrode.

Embodiments provide an organic light-emitting display device that includes opposite electrodes patterned on a pixel basis and that facilitates electric connection to a power line providing a common voltage to the opposite electrodes. The occurrence of a brightness deviation may be suppressed by reducing an IR drop and electric connection between power lines may be easily performed.

Example embodiments have been disclosed herein, and although specific terms are employed, they are used and are to be interpreted in a generic and descriptive sense only and not for purpose of limitation. In some instances, as would be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art as of the filing of the present application, features, characteristics, and/or elements described in connection with a particular embodiment may be used singly or in combination with features, characteristics, and/or elements described in connection with other embodiments unless otherwise specifically indicated. Accordingly, it will be understood by those of skill in the art that various changes in form and details may be made without departing from the spirit and scope thereof as set forth in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An organic light-emitting display device, comprising:
 - a substrate including a display area and a peripheral area, the display area including a plurality of pixel regions and non-pixel regions between the pixel regions, and the peripheral area surrounding the display area;
 - a plurality of pixel electrodes respectively in the pixel regions, the pixel electrodes being spaced apart from each other in a plan view;
 - a pixel-defining layer above the plurality of pixel electrodes, the pixel-defining layer exposing the plurality of pixel electrodes;
 - a plurality of intermediate layers respectively above the plurality of pixel electrodes, the intermediate layers including an emission layer;
 - a plurality of opposite electrodes spaced apart from each other in a plan view and patterned on a pixel basis such that each opposite electrode of the plurality of opposite electrodes faces a respective one of the plurality of pixel electrodes;
 - a plurality of connection electrodes in the non-pixel regions, the connection electrodes connecting the plurality of opposite electrodes; and
 - a power line in the peripheral area, the power line being electrically connected to at least one of the plurality of connection electrodes, wherein each of the connection electrodes connects one opposite electrode of the plurality of opposite electrodes with another one of the plurality of opposite electrodes or with the power line, the connection electrodes overlapping only a portion of the pixel defining layer in a plan view.
2. The organic light-emitting display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of connection electrodes are above the pixel-defining layer.

3. The organic light-emitting display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of connection electrodes include a same material as the plurality of opposite electrodes.

4. The organic light-emitting display device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

- a conductive layer connecting at least one connection electrode to the power line, wherein the conductive layer is above the power line and the at least one connection electrode.

5. The organic light-emitting display device as claimed in claim 4, further comprising:

- a dummy intermediate layer below the at least one connection electrode, the dummy intermediate layer including a same material as the intermediate layer.

6. The organic light-emitting display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

- the plurality of opposite electrodes include a plurality of first opposite electrodes corresponding to a first pixel region and a plurality of second opposite electrodes corresponding to a second pixel region, and

- the plurality of connection electrodes include a first connection electrode connecting the plurality of first opposite electrodes and a second connection electrode connecting the plurality of second opposite electrodes.

7. The organic light-emitting display device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the first connection electrode crosses the second connection electrode in the non-pixel region.

8. The organic light-emitting display device as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

- an organic material between the first connection electrode and the second connection electrode.

9. The organic light-emitting display device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the organic material includes a same material as one of a first intermediate layer corresponding to the first pixel region and a second intermediate layer corresponding to the second pixel region.

10. The organic light-emitting display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of connection electrodes are below the pixel-defining layer.

11. The organic light-emitting display device as claimed in claim 10, wherein:

- the pixel-defining layer includes contact holes passing through the pixel-defining layer and respectively exposing the plurality of connection electrodes, and the plurality of opposite electrodes are connected to the plurality of connection electrodes via the contact holes.

12. The organic light-emitting display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of connection electrodes include a same material as the plurality of pixel electrodes.

13. The organic light-emitting display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

- the plurality of opposite electrodes include a plurality of first opposite electrodes corresponding to a first pixel region and a plurality of second opposite electrodes corresponding to a second pixel region, and at least one of the plurality of connection electrodes connect the first opposite electrodes to the second opposite electrodes.

14. An organic light-emitting display device, comprising:

- a substrate including a display area and a peripheral area, the display area including a plurality of pixel regions and non-pixel regions between the pixel regions, and the peripheral area surrounding the display area;
- a plurality of pixel electrodes respectively in the pixel regions, the pixel electrodes being spaced apart from each other;

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- a pixel-defining layer above the plurality of pixel electrodes, the pixel-defining layer exposing the plurality of pixel electrodes;
- a plurality of intermediate layers respectively above the plurality of pixel electrodes, the intermediate layers including an emission layer;
- a plurality of opposite electrodes respectively facing the plurality of pixel electrodes and spaced apart from each other;
- a plurality of connection electrodes in the non-pixel regions, the connection electrodes connecting the plurality of opposite electrodes; and
- a power line in the peripheral area, the power line being electrically connected to at least one of the plurality of connection electrodes, wherein:
- the plurality of opposite electrodes include a plurality of first opposite electrodes corresponding to a first pixel region and a plurality of second opposite electrodes corresponding to a second pixel region, the plurality of connection electrodes include a first connection electrode connecting the plurality of first opposite electrodes and a second connection electrode connecting the plurality of second opposite electrodes, and
- the first connection electrode crosses the second connection electrode in the non-pixel region.
15. The organic light-emitting display device as claimed in claim 14, further comprising:
- an organic material between the first connection electrode and the second connection electrode.
16. The organic light-emitting display device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the organic material includes a same material as one of a first intermediate layer corresponding to the first pixel region and a second intermediate layer corresponding to the second pixel region.
17. An organic light-emitting display device, comprising:
- a substrate including a display area and a peripheral area, the display area including a plurality of pixel regions and non-pixel regions between the pixel regions, and the peripheral area surrounding the display area;

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- a plurality of pixel electrodes respectively in the pixel regions, the pixel electrodes being spaced apart from each other;
- a pixel-defining layer above the plurality of pixel electrodes, the pixel-defining layer exposing the plurality of pixel electrodes;
- a plurality of intermediate layers respectively above the plurality of pixel electrodes, the intermediate layers including an emission layer;
- a plurality of opposite electrodes respectively facing the plurality of pixel electrodes and spaced apart from each other;
- a plurality of connection electrodes in the non-pixel regions, the connection electrodes connecting the plurality of opposite electrodes; and
- a power line in the peripheral area, the power line being electrically connected to at least one of the plurality of connection electrodes, wherein each of the connection electrodes is disposed under the pixel-defining layer and connects one opposite electrode of the plurality of opposite electrodes with another one of the plurality of opposite electrodes and with the power line.
18. The organic light-emitting display device as claimed in claim 17, wherein:
- the pixel-defining layer includes contact holes passing through the pixel-defining layer and respectively exposing the plurality of connection electrodes, and the plurality of opposite electrodes are connected to the plurality of connection electrodes via the contact holes.
19. The organic light-emitting display device as claimed in claim 17, wherein the plurality of connection electrodes include a same material as the plurality of pixel electrodes.
20. The organic light-emitting display device as claimed in claim 17, wherein:
- the plurality of opposite electrodes include a plurality of first opposite electrodes corresponding to a first pixel region and a plurality of second opposite electrodes corresponding to a second pixel region, and at least one of the plurality of connection electrodes connect the first opposite electrodes to the second opposite electrodes.

* * * * *

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摘要(译)

有机发光显示装置包括具有显示区域和围绕显示区域的外围区域的基板。显示区域包括多个像素区域，所述多个像素区域包括多个像素，所述多个像素包括像素电极和像素区域之间的非像素区域。像素电极彼此间隔开，在多个像素电极上方具有像素限定层并且暴露多个像素电极。分别在多个像素电极上方的多个中间层包括发射层。多个相对电极分别面对多个像素电极并且彼此间隔开。连接多个相对电极的多个连接电极位于非像素区域中。电连接到多个连接电极中的至少一个的电源线位于外围区域中。

