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(Continued)

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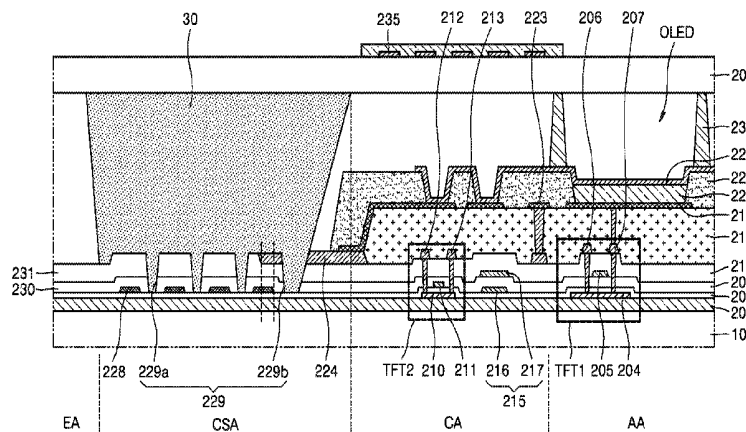
Related U.S. Application Data

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An organic light-emitting display apparatus including a first substrate including a display area and a peripheral area; a second substrate opposing the first substrate; an insulating layer disposed on the first substrate and including one or more openings; and a sealing member interconnecting the first substrate and the second substrate to each other and interposed between the first and second substrates. The one or more openings are disposed between a first conductive layer disposed on the display area and a second conductive layer disposed on the peripheral area. The one or more openings are at least partially or entirely filled with the sealing member.

20 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets

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CPC ***H01L 51/5246*** (2013.01); ***H01L 27/3258***
(2013.01); ***H01L 27/3276*** (2013.01); ***H01L***
2251/5392 (2013.01)



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(58) Field of Classification Search

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2227/32; H01L 2924/12044

See application file for complete search history.

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FIG. 1

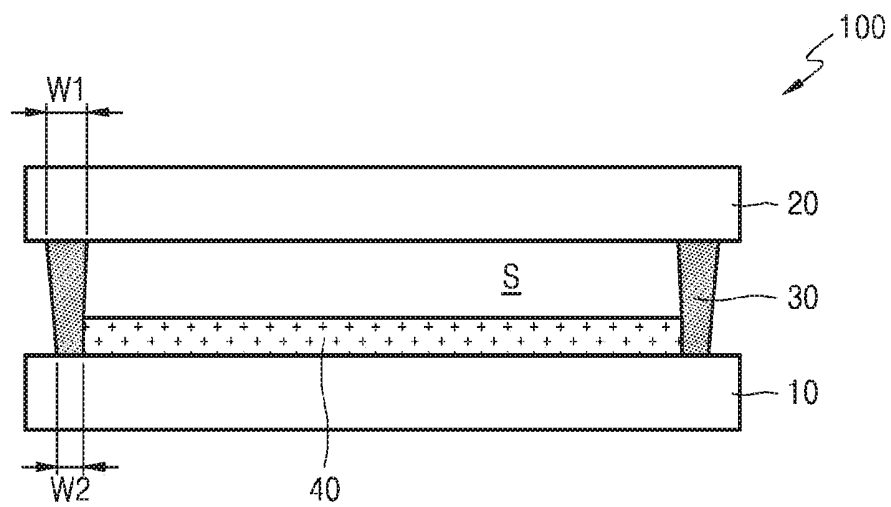


FIG. 2

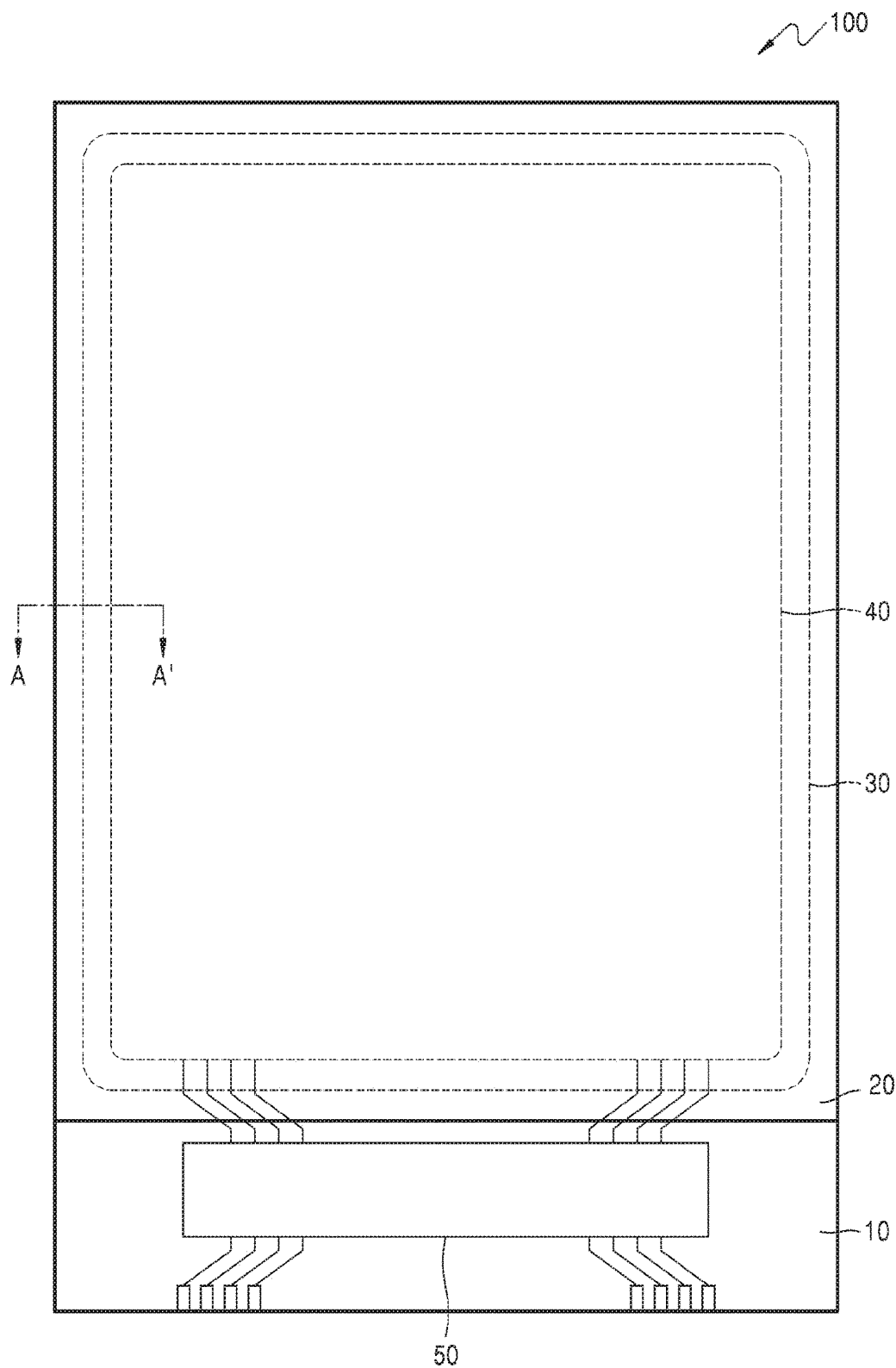


FIG. 3

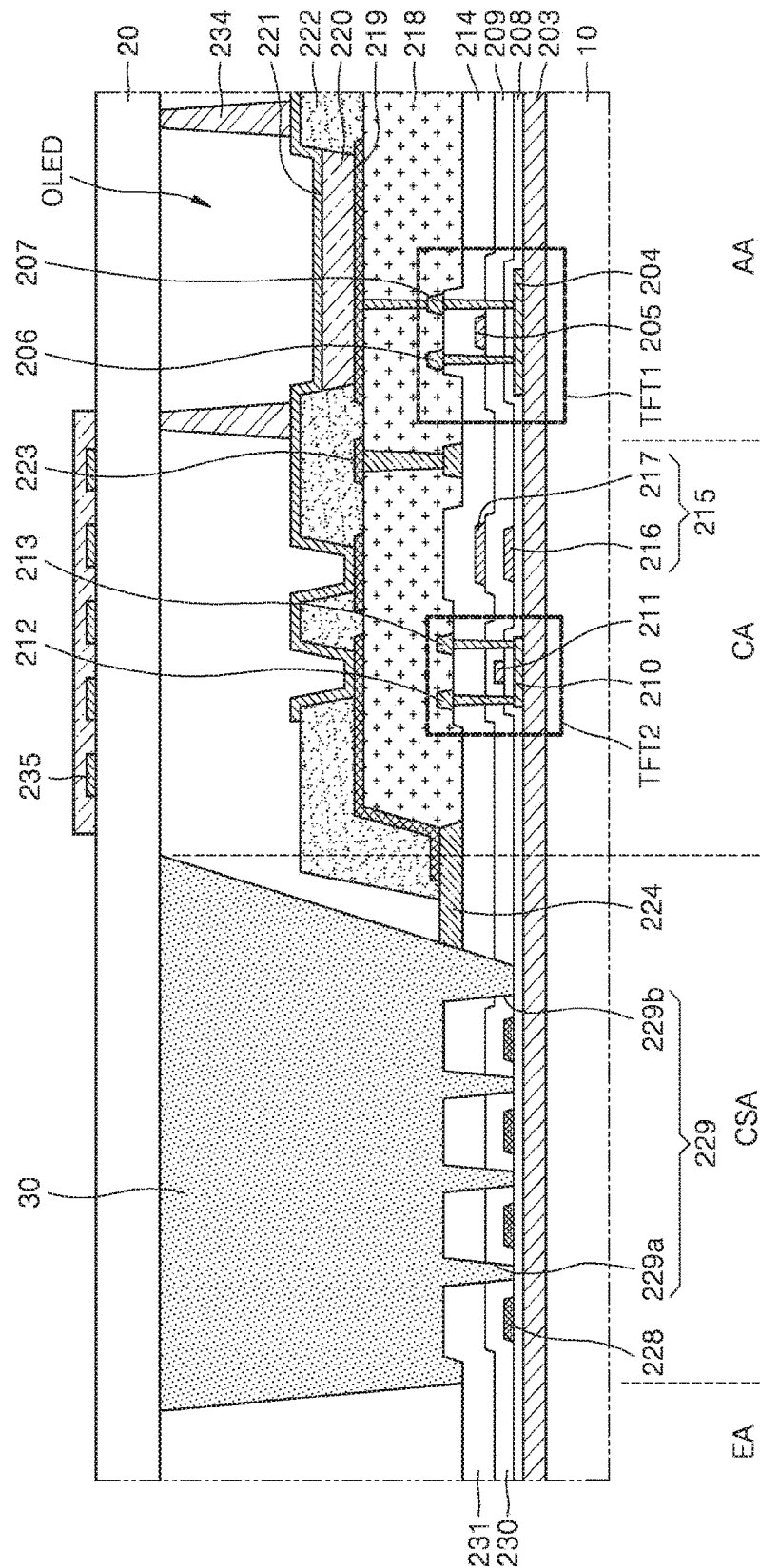


FIG. 4

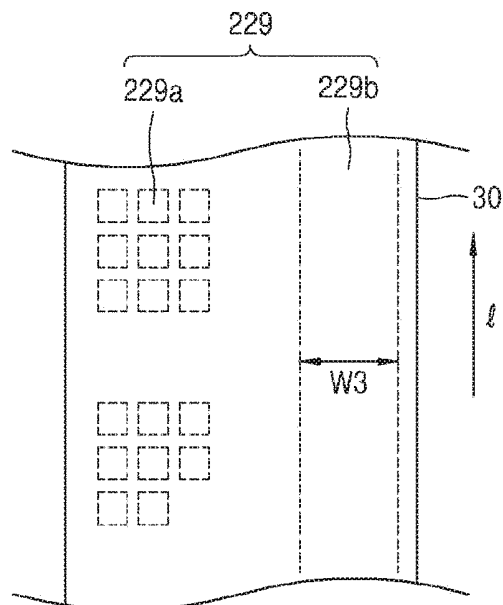


FIG. 5

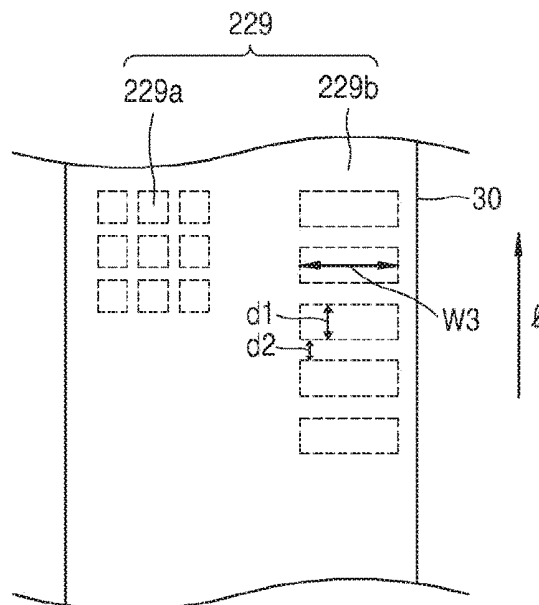


FIG. 6

FORCE (kgf)	COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE	FIRST EMBODIMENT	SECOND EMBODIMENT
MINIMUM	4.59	4.39	5.86
MAXIMUM	6.35	6.79	7.11
DEVIATION	0.42	0.55	0.39
AVERAGE	5.84	6.04	6.58

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ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DISPLAY APPARATUS FOR INCREASING CONTACT AREA BETWEEN SEALING MEMBER AND INSULATING LAYERS

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/811,381, filed on Nov. 13, 2017, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/007,923, filed on Jan. 27, 2016, issued as U.S. Pat. No. 9,818,975, and claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of Korean Patent Application No. 10-2015-0047542, filed on Apr. 3, 2015, in the Korean Intellectual Property Office, the disclosures of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entireties.

BACKGROUND

1. Field

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

2. Discussion of the Related Technology

A display apparatus is used to provide a user with visual information such as images or videos. Such a display apparatus is being manufactured in various types in order to display visual information, that is, images or videos.

In particular, an organic light-emitting display apparatus is a self-emissive display apparatus that emits light by electrically exciting an organic compound. Therefore, the organic light-emitting display apparatus may operate with a low voltage and may be manufactured to be thin, and thus, may have wide viewing angles and fast response speeds. Accordingly, the organic light-emitting display apparatus has been considered as a next generation display apparatus capable of addressing the problems of a liquid crystal display (LCD) apparatus.

In such an organic light-emitting display apparatus, a sealing member may be used to bond a lower substrate and an upper substrate to each other. A portion where the sealing member is located becomes a dead space that may not display images.

In general, in the organic light-emitting display apparatus, an area occupied by the sealing member that is used to bond the lower substrate and the upper substrate to each other, that is, a dead space, is large.

SUMMARY

One aspect of the invention provides an organic light-emitting display apparatus, which may comprise: a first substrate comprising a display area and a peripheral area; a second substrate opposing the first substrate; an insulating layer disposed on the first substrate and comprising one or more openings; and a sealing member interconnecting the first substrate and the second substrate to each other and interposed between the first substrate and the second substrate, wherein the one or more openings are disposed between a first conductive layer disposed on the display area and a second conductive layer disposed on the peripheral area, and the one or more openings are at least partly or entirely filled with the sealing member.

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In the foregoing apparatus, the first conductive layer may be a power line disposed on the display area. The sealing member may contact the first conductive layer. The first conductive layer may be disposed at a different layer level than the second conductive layer. The first conductive layer may be disposed above the insulating layer, and the second conductive layer is disposed under the insulating layer. The first conductive layer and the second conductive layer may be formed of different materials from each other. At least one of the first conductive layer and the second conductive layer may comprise metal.

Still in the foregoing apparatus, the one or more openings may extend along a lengthwise direction of the sealing member when viewed in a viewing direction perpendicular to a major surface of the first substrate. The one or more openings may comprise first and second openings separate in a lengthwise direction of the sealing member when viewed in a viewing direction perpendicular to a major surface of the first substrate. A distance between the first and second openings may be less than a maximum width of each of the first and second openings. The one or more openings may be formed in one of a polygonal shape, a circular shape, and an oval shape.

Further in the foregoing apparatus, the apparatus may further comprise a transistor formed on the display area, wherein the first conductive layer comprises a material that is the same as a material forming at least one of a source electrode and a drain electrode of the transistor. The second conductive layer may comprise a material that is the same as a material forming a gate electrode of the transistor. A material that is the same as a material forming the first conductive layer may be disposed in at least one of the one or more openings. The sealing member may have a first width measured at its lower surface facing the first substrate and a second width measured at its upper surface facing the second substrate, the first width being different from the second width. The first width may be less than the second width. The insulating layer may comprise a material that is the same as a material forming an interlayer insulating layer formed on the display area.

Another aspect of the invention provides an organic light-emitting display apparatus, which may comprise: a first substrate comprising a display area and a peripheral area; a second substrate opposing the first substrate; an insulating layer disposed on the first substrate and comprising one or more openings; and a sealing member interconnecting the first substrate and the second substrate to each other and interposed between the first substrate and the second substrate, wherein at least one of the one or more openings is formed in a first conductive layer disposed on the display area, and the one or more openings are filled with the sealing member.

In the foregoing apparatus, the first conductive layer may be a power line of the display area. The apparatus may further comprise a second conductive layer disposed on the peripheral area, wherein the first conductive layer and the second conductive layer overlap each other.

One or more embodiments include an organic light-emitting display apparatus capable of reducing the isolation of a sealing member while reducing a dead space, and a method of manufacturing the organic light-emitting display apparatus.

One or more embodiments include an organic light-emitting display apparatus capable of improving a bonding force of a sealing member, and a method of manufacturing the organic light-emitting display apparatus.

Additional aspects will be set forth in part in the description which follows and, in part, will be apparent from the description, or may be learned by practice of the presented embodiments.

According to one or more embodiments, an organic light-emitting display apparatus includes: a first substrate including a display area and a peripheral area; a second substrate facing the first substrate; an insulating layer disposed on the first substrate and including one or more openings; and a sealing member for bonding the first substrate and the second substrate to each other, wherein the one or more openings are disposed between a first conductive layer disposed on the display area and a second conductive layer disposed on the peripheral area, and the sealing member fills the one or more openings.

The first conductive layer may be a power line of the display area.

The sealing member may contact the first conductive layer.

The first conductive layer may be disposed at a different layer level than the second conductive layer.

The first conductive layer may be disposed on the insulating layer, and the second conductive layer may be covered by the insulating layer.

The first conductive layer and the second conductive layer may be formed of different materials from each other.

At least one of the first conductive layer and the second conductive layer may include metal.

The one or more openings may be formed long in a lengthwise direction of the sealing member.

A plurality of the openings may be separate in the lengthwise direction of the sealing member.

A distance between neighboring openings from among the plurality of openings may be less than a maximum width of the plurality of openings.

The one or more openings may be formed in one of a polygonal shape, a circular shape, and an oval shape.

The display area may include a transistor, and the first conductive layer may include a material that is the same as a material forming at least one of a source electrode and a drain electrode of the transistor.

The second conductive layer may include a material that is the same as a material forming a gate electrode of the transistor.

A partial region in the one or more openings may include a material that is the same as a material forming the first conductive layer.

A width of a lower region in the sealing member may be different from a width of an upper region in the sealing member.

A width of a lower region in the sealing member may be less than a width of an upper region in the sealing member.

The insulating layer may include a material that is the same as a material forming an interlayer insulating layer on the display area.

According to one or more embodiments, an organic light-emitting display apparatus includes: a first substrate including a display area and a peripheral area; a second substrate facing the first substrate; an insulating layer disposed on the first substrate and comprising one or more openings; and a sealing member for bonding the first substrate and the second substrate to each other, wherein the one or more openings are formed in a first conductive layer disposed on the display area, and the sealing member fills the one or more openings.

The first conductive layer may be a power line of the display area.

The organic light-emitting display apparatus may further include a second conductive layer disposed on the peripheral area, wherein the first conductive layer and the second conductive layer partially overlap each other.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and/or other aspects will become apparent and more readily appreciated from the following description of the embodiments, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of a display apparatus according to an embodiment;

FIG. 2 is a schematic plan view of the display apparatus of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view expanding a part of the display apparatus of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a schematic plan view of a sealing member and an opening according to an embodiment;

FIG. 5 is a schematic plan view of a sealing member and an opening according to another embodiment;

FIG. 6 is a table showing results of experiments for isolating a display apparatus according to embodiments;

FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view expanding a part of a display apparatus according to another embodiment; and

FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view expanding a part of the display apparatus according to another embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Hereinafter, the inventive concept will be described more fully with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which embodiments of the inventive concept are shown. This inventive concept may, however, be embodied in many 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 the scope of the inventive concept to one of ordinary skill in the art. Sizes of components in the drawings may be exaggerated for convenience of explanation. In other words, since sizes and thicknesses of components in the drawings are arbitrarily illustrated for convenience of explanation, the following embodiments are not limited thereto.

While such terms as “first,” “second,” etc., may be used to describe various components, such components must not be limited to the above terms. The above terms are used only to distinguish one component from another.

The terms used in the present specification are merely used to describe particular embodiments, and are not intended to limit the inventive concept. An expression used in the singular encompasses the expression of the plural, unless it has a clearly different meaning in the context. In the present specification, it is to be understood that the terms such as “including,” “having,” and “comprising” are intended to indicate the existence of the features, numbers, steps, actions, components, parts, or combinations thereof disclosed in the specification, and are not intended to preclude the possibility that one or more other features, numbers, steps, actions, components, parts, or combinations thereof may exist or may be added.

It will be understood that when a layer, region, or component is referred to as being formed or disposed “on” another layer, region, or component, it can be formed or disposed directly or indirectly on the other layer, region, or component. For example, one or more intervening layers, regions, or components may be present therebetween. As

used herein, the term “and/or” includes any and all combinations of one or more of the associated listed items. Expressions such as “at least one of,” when preceding a list of elements, modify the entire list of elements and do not modify the individual elements of the list.

In the embodiment, the display apparatus **100** is assumed as an organic light-emitting display apparatus, but is not limited thereto. The display apparatus **100** may be a display apparatus being applied a predetermined electric power to display images, e.g., a liquid crystal display (LCD) apparatus, a field emission display (FED) apparatus, or an electronic paper display (EPD) apparatus.

FIG. **1** is a schematic diagram of a display apparatus **100** according to an embodiment, and FIG. **2** is a schematic plan view of the display apparatus **100** of FIG. **1**.

Referring to FIGS. **1** and **2**, the display apparatus **100** includes a first substrate or sheet **10**, and a second substrate or sheet **20** arranged such that a lower surface of the second substrate **20** faces an upper surface of the first substrate **10**. The apparatus **100** includes a display area **40**, and a sealing member or seal member **30** surrounds the display area **40** when viewed in a viewing direction perpendicular to the upper surface of the first substrate **10** while bonding the first substrate **10** and the second substrate **20** to each other.

The first substrate **10** may be formed of a transparent glass material mainly containing SiO_2 , but is not limited thereto. In an alternative embodiment, the first substrate **10** may be formed of a transparent plastic material. The first substrate **10** may be a flexible substrate. The flexible substrate may be formed of a material that is light, hard to be broken, and flexible due to a specific gravity that is greater than that of a glass substrate, for example, a polymer material such as a flexible plastic film.

The display area **40** may include thin film transistors TA and TB for driving, a capacitor Cst, and an organic light-emitting diode OLED on the first substrate **10**. In embodiments, the display area may include a plurality of OLEDs forming an array. The display area **40** will be described in more detail later.

The second substrate **20** corresponds to the first substrate **10**, and may be formed of various materials such as a glass material, a metal material, or a plastic material. In embodiments, a functional layer performing various functions may be formed on the second substrate **20**. For example, the functional layer may include at least one selected from a polarization plate, a touch screen, and a cover window.

The touch screen may have a structure, in which a touch screen pattern is directly formed on the second substrate **20**, for example, an on-cell touch screen panel. The polarization plate may prevent external light from being reflected by the display area **40**. The cover window may protect the display apparatus **100**.

The first substrate **10** and the second substrate **20** may be bonded to each other via the sealing member **30**. The sealing member **30** is disposed to contact a part of the display area **40**. The seal member **30** encapsulates the display area **40** from outside. Thus, the sealing member **30** may protect the display area **40** against the outside. A moisture absorbent or a filler may be disposed in an internal space S sealed by the first substrate **10**, the second substrate **20**, and the sealing member **30**.

Since a part of the sealing member **30** contacts a part of the display area **40**, a dead space generated due to the sealing member **30** may be reduced. Also, since the sealing member **30** and the display area **40** partially contact each other, an area of the display area **40** may be maintained while reducing the dead space.

A pad portion **50** may be mounted on an edge of the first substrate **10** that is not covered by the second substrate **20**. Metal wires connecting the pad portion **50** to the display area **40** may be disposed between the first substrate **10** and the sealing member **30**.

In addition, the sealing member **30** may be formed of a material that is melted when a predetermined thermal energy is applied thereto. The sealing member **30** may be melted by irradiating light. In embodiments, the sealing member **30** may include, for example, glass frit.

For example, after aligning the first substrate **10** and the second substrate **20** with each other, light such as an ultraviolet (UV) ray or a laser beam may be irradiated via the second substrate **20**. The sealing member **30** is melted due to the irradiation of light, and then, the first substrate **10** and the second substrate **20** may be attached to each other. Since the sealing member **30** is compressed while being melted and solidified, a thickness of the sealing member **30** may be reduced.

In addition, a width w1 of an upper region of the sealing member **30** may be different from a width w2 of a lower region of the sealing member **30**. For example, the width w1 of the upper region may be greater than the width w2 of the lower region in the sealing member **30**. Therefore, when the width w2 of the lower region of the sealing member **30** is formed to be narrow, a short circuit of the display area **40**, in particular, a circuit region, caused because the sealing member **30** pushes the display area **40**, may be prevented.

In embodiments, the sealing member includes an upper surface facing the second substrate and a lower surface facing the first substrate. The width w1 may be measured at the upper surface and the width w2 may be measured at the lower surface. When reducing the width w2, a contact area between the lower surface and a surface that the lower surface contacts may be reduced. Thus, to provide sufficient contact area, in embodiments, the lower portion of the seal member **30** may include a plurality of protrusions received in holes and/or trenches. As described later, in embodiments, the display apparatus **100** according to the embodiment may include an insulating layer having a plurality of openings in order to reduce the width of the lower region of the sealing member **30**, and the sealing member **30** may be filled in the plurality of openings.

FIG. **3** is a cross-sectional view expanding a part of the display apparatus **100** of FIG. **1**.

The display apparatus may include an active area AA, and a circuit area CA extending from the active area AA toward a peripheral area. An edge area EA including a cutting region may be formed at the periphery. A cell seal area CSA is disposed between the active area AA and the edge area EA. The active area AA and the circuit area CA become a display unit, while the peripheral area includes the edge area EA and at least part of the cell seal area CSA.

The active area AA includes a region displaying images, and the circuit area CA includes a region where circuit patterns for electrically transmitting signals to devices of the active area AA are formed. In addition, the cell seal area CSA includes a region for bonding the first substrate **10** and the second substrate **20** to each other. In the display apparatus **100** according to the embodiment, the display unit may partially overlap the cell seal area CSA. In embodiments, a part of the display unit, for example, a part of the circuit area CA, may overlap a part of the cell seal area CSA. Therefore, the area of the display unit may not be reduced while reducing the dead space.

A buffer layer **203** is formed on the first substrate **10**. The buffer layer **203** may planarize a surface of the first substrate

10, and prevent infiltration of moisture or external air into the first substrate 10. The buffer layer 203 may be formed as an inorganic layer such as silicon oxide, an organic layer such as polyimide, or a stacked structure of an inorganic layer and an organic layer.

At least one thin film transistor TFT is formed on each of the active area AA and the circuit area CA. A plurality of thin film transistors TFTs may be disposed on each of the active area AA and the circuit area CA. In the embodiment, different kinds of thin film transistors TFTs are disposed on the active area AA and the circuit area CA, but are not limited thereto.

A first thin film transistor TFT1 disposed on the active area AA may include a first semiconductor active layer 204, a first gate electrode 205, a first source electrode 206, and a first drain electrode 207. A first gate insulating layer 208 and a second gate insulating layer 209 are disposed between the first gate electrode 205 and the first semiconductor active layer 204 so as to insulate the first gate electrode 205 from the first semiconductor active layer 204.

A second thin film transistor TFT2 is disposed on the circuit area CA. The second thin film transistor TFT2 may include a second semiconductor active layer 210, a second gate electrode 211, a second source electrode 212, and a second drain electrode 213. The first gate insulating layer 208 is disposed between the second semiconductor active layer 210 and the second gate electrode 211 so as to insulate the second gate electrode 211 from the second semiconductor active layer 210.

When comparing the first thin film transistor TFT1 with the second thin film transistor TFT2, the first thin film transistor TFT1 further includes the second gate insulating layer 209 between a semiconductor active layer and a gate electrode. In embodiments, the first thin film transistor TFT1 has a gate insulating layer that is thicker than that of the second thin film transistor TFT2. If a thick gate insulating layer is provided, a driving range of a gate voltage applied to the gate electrode may become greater.

The first thin film transistor TFT1 may be a driving TFT for driving the organic light-emitting diode OLED. That the driving range of the driving thin film transistor becomes greater may denote controlling the light emitted from the organic light-emitting diode OLED to have a large gray scale.

The first gate electrode 205 and the second gate electrode 211 are not formed on the same layer. Therefore, even when the first thin film transistor TFT1 and the second thin film transistor TFT2 are disposed adjacent to each other, they do not interfere with each other. Thus, a lot of devices may be disposed on the same area.

The first semiconductor active layer 204 and the second semiconductor active layer 210 may be formed on the buffer layer 203. The first and second semiconductor active layers 204 and 210 may be formed of an inorganic semiconductor such as amorphous silicon or polysilicon, or an organic semiconductor.

According to the embodiment, the first semiconductor active layer 204 and the second semiconductor active layer 210 may be formed of an oxide semiconductor. For example, the oxide semiconductor includes an oxide of a material selected from Group VI, XII, XIII, and XIV metal elements such as zinc (Zn), indium (In), gallium (Ga), tin (Sn), cadmium (Cd), germanium (Ge), and hafnium (Hf), and combinations thereof.

The first gate insulating layer 208 is formed on the buffer layer 203, and covers the first semiconductor active layer 204 and the second semiconductor active layer 210.

The second gate electrode 211 is formed on the first gate insulating layer 208, and may overlap a part of the second semiconductor active layer 210.

The second gate insulating layer 209 covers the second gate electrode 211.

The first gate electrode 205 is formed on the second gate insulating layer 209, and may overlap a part of the first semiconductor active layer 204.

The first gate electrode 205 and the second gate electrode 211 may include a single layer or layers formed of Au, Ag, Cu, Ni, Pt, Pd, Al, Mo, and Cr, or an alloy such as Al:Nd or Mo:W.

The first gate insulating layer 208 and the second insulating layer 209 may include an inorganic layer such as silicon oxide, silicon nitride, or metal oxide. Each of the first gate insulating layer 208 and the second gate insulating layer 209 may be formed as a single layer or multiple sub-layers.

An interlayer insulating layer 214 is formed to cover the first gate electrode 205. The interlayer insulating layer 214 may be formed as an inorganic layer such as silicon oxide or silicon nitride. According to the embodiment, the interlayer insulating layer 214 may be formed as an organic layer such as polyimide.

The first source electrode 206 and the first drain electrode 207 are formed on the interlayer insulating layer 214, and contact the first semiconductor layer 204 via contact holes. Also, the second source electrode 212 and the second drain electrode 213 are formed on the interlayer insulating layer 214, and contact the second semiconductor active layer 210 via contact holes.

The first source electrode 206, the second source electrode 212, the first drain electrode 207, and the second drain electrode 213 may include metals, alloys, metal nitrides, conductive metal oxides, or transparent conductive materials.

The thin film transistor TFT is not limited to the above-described structure, and the thin film transistor TFT may have various types of structures. For example, the thin film transistor TFT is formed to have a top gate structure. However, the thin film transistor TFT may be formed to have a bottom gate structure, in which the first gate electrode 205 is disposed below the first semiconductor active layer 204.

A capacitor 215 may be formed on the circuit area CA. A plurality of capacitors may be formed on the active area AA.

The capacitor 215 includes a first capacitor electrode 216, a second capacitor electrode 217, and a second gate insulating layer 209 disposed between the first and second capacitor electrodes 216 and 217. The first capacitor electrode 216 may be formed of a material that is the same as the material forming the second gate electrode 211, and the second capacitor electrode 217 may be formed of a material that is the same as that forming the first gate electrode 205.

A planarization layer 218 covers the thin film transistors TFT1 and TFT2 and the capacitor 215. The planarization layer 218 is formed on the interlayer insulating layer 214. The planarization layer 218 eliminates steps on thin films and planarizes thin films in order to improve the light-emitting efficiency of the organic light-emitting diode OLED that will be formed thereon. According to the embodiment, the planarization layer 218 may have a through hole for exposing a part of the first drain electrode 207.

The planarization layer 218 may be formed of an insulating material. For example, the planarization layer 218 may be formed as a single-layered structure or a multi-layered structure including an inorganic material, an organic material, or an organic/inorganic composite material, by using various deposition methods.

The planarization layer **218** may be formed of an organic material such as polyacrylates resin, epoxy resin, or benzocyclobutene (BCB), or an inorganic material such as silicon nitride (SiNx).

One of the planarization layer **218** and the interlayer insulating layer **214** may be omitted.

The organic light-emitting diode OLED is formed on the planarization layer **218**. The organic light-emitting diode OLED includes a first electrode **219**, an intermediate layer **220** including an organic emission layer, and a second electrode **221**.

A pixel-defining layer **222** covers the planarization layer **218** and a part of the first electrode **219**, and defines a pixel area PA and a non-pixel area NPA.

The pixel-defining layer **222** may be formed of an organic material or an inorganic material. For example, the pixel-defining layer **222** may be formed of an organic material such as polyimide, polyamide, BCB, acryl resin, or phenol resin, or an organic material such as SiNx. The pixel-defining layer **222** may be formed to have a single-layered structure or a multi-layered structure.

Holes and electrons injected from the first electrode **219** and the second electrode **221** of the organic light-emitting diode OLED may be combined with each other in the organic emission layer of the intermediate layer **220** to emit light.

The intermediate layer **220** may include the organic emission layer. In another example, the intermediate layer **220** includes an organic emission layer and may further include at least one of a hole injection layer (HIL), a hole transport layer (HTL), an electron transport layer (ETL), and an electron injection layer (EIL). However, the embodiment is not limited thereto, and the intermediate layer **220** includes an organic emission layer and may further include other various functional layers.

The second electrode **221** may be formed on the intermediate layer **220**. The second electrode **221** forms an electric field with the first electrode **219** to make the intermediate layer **220** emit light. The first electrode **219** may be patterned in each pixel, and the second electrode **221** may be on all the pixels as a common electrode so as to apply a common voltage to all the pixels.

The first electrode **219** and the second electrode **221** may include transparent electrodes or reflective electrodes.

The first electrode **219** functions as an anode, and may be formed of various conductive materials. The first electrode **219** may be formed as a transparent electrode or a reflective electrode.

For example, if the first electrode **219** is formed as a transparent electrode, the first electrode **219** includes a transparent conductive layer formed of indium tin oxide (ITO), indium zinc oxide (IZO), ZnO, or In₂O₃. If the first electrode **219** is formed as a reflective electrode, the first electrode **219** may be formed by forming a reflective layer by using Ag, Mg, Al, Pt, Pd, Au, Ni, Nd, Ir, Cr, or a compound thereof, and then, forming a transparent conductive layer by using ITO, IZO, ZnO, or In₂O₃ on the reflective layer.

The second electrode **221** may function as a cathode. Like the first electrode **219**, the second electrode **221** may be formed as a transparent electrode or a reflective electrode.

For example, when the second electrode **221** is formed as a transparent electrode, metal having a small work function, for example, Li, Ca, LiF/Ca, LiF/Al, Al, Mg, or a compound thereof, is formed on the intermediate layer **220**, and after that, a transparent conductive layer formed of ITO, IZO, ZnO, or In₂O₃ may be further formed on the metal and the

compound thereof. When the second electrode **221** is formed as a reflective electrode, the second electrode **221** may be formed of Li, Ca, LiF/Ca, LiF/Al, Al, Mg, or a compound thereof.

The first electrode **219** may act as an anode and the second electrode **221** may act as a cathode, but they are not limited thereto. For example, the first electrode **219** may act as a cathode and the second electrode **221** may act as an anode.

Each organic light-emitting diode OLED may form one pixel, and each pixel may emit red, green, blue, or white light. However, one or more embodiments are not limited thereto. The intermediate layer **220** may be commonly formed on all the first electrodes **219** without regard to locations of the pixels. Here, the organic emission layer may be formed by, for example, stacking layers including light-emitting materials emitting red, green, and blue light vertically, or by mixing the light-emitting materials emitting red, green, and blue light. Provided that white light may be emitted, any type of color combinations may be used. A color conversion layer or a color filter for converting the white light into a predetermined color may be further provided.

A protective layer may be disposed on the second electrode **221**. The protective layer covers the organic light-emitting diode OLED. The protective layer may be an inorganic insulating layer and/or an organic insulating layer.

A spacer **234** may be disposed on the non-pixel area NPA. The spacer **234** is disposed between the first substrate **10** and the second substrate **20**. The spacer **234** may be provided not to degrade the display characteristics due to external shock.

The second substrate **20** is coupled onto the first substrate **10**. The second substrate **20** may protect the organic light-emitting diode OLED and the other thin films against external moisture or oxygen.

The second substrate **20** may be a rigid glass substrate, a polymer substrate, or a flexible film. The second substrate **20** may have a structure, in which organic layers and inorganic layers are alternately stacked.

The second substrate **20** may include a plurality of touch electrodes **235** so as to perform as a touch screen. In addition, functional layers such as a polarization film, a color filter, and a cover window, may be further formed on the second substrate **20**.

Various circuit patterns may be formed in the circuit area CA. Such circuit patterns may include, for example, a power supply line, an anti-electrostatic pattern, and other various electrically conductive material features may be formed.

A circuit wire **223** is formed on the circuit area CA. The circuit wire **223** may be formed on the planarization layer **218**. The circuit wire **223** may be formed of the same material as that forming the first electrode **219**. The circuit wire **223** may be electrically connected to a device on the active area AA, for example, the second electrode **221**.

The circuit wire **223** is connected to a power line **224**. The power line **224** may be formed on the interlayer insulating layer **214**. The power line **224** may be formed of a material that is the same as that forming the first source electrode **206**, the second source electrode **212**, the first drain electrode **207**, and the second drain electrode **213**. The power line **224** may be a wire to which electric power is applied from outside. In the embodiment, the power line **224** may have a triple-layered structure including titanium (Ti)/aluminum (Al)/Ti. Since the power line **224** is formed of a conductive material, the power line **224** may be referred to as a conductive layer.

The circuit wire **223** and the power line **224** may be disposed at different layers.

For example, the circuit wire **223** may be formed on the polarization layer **218**. The circuit wire **223** may be formed of the same material as the first electrode **219** in the same process as the first electrode **219**. The power line **224** may be formed on the interlayer insulating layer **214**. The power line **224** may be formed of the same material as those of the first source electrode **206**, the second source electrode **212**, the first drain electrode **207**, and the second drain electrode **213** in the same process.

An end of the circuit wire **223** contacts the power line **224**. In the embodiment, at least a part of the circuit wire **223** may overlap with the power line **224**.

The sealing member **30** is disposed on the cell seal area CSA. The sealing member **30** is disposed between the first substrate **10** and the second substrate **20**. A partial area of the sealing member **30** may be disposed along with a boundary of the circuit area CA while contacting the circuit area CA. For example, the partial area of the sealing member **30** may contact the power line **224**.

The sealing member **30** includes glass frit. The glass frit includes glass powder and oxide powder. An organic material is added to the glass frit including the oxide powder to fabricate a gel-type paste, and baked in a temperature range of about 300° C. to 500° C. When baking the glass frit, the organic material is vaporized to the atmosphere, and the gel-type paste is hardened to be the frit of a solid state.

A conductive material layer **228** may be formed below the sealing member **30**. The conductive material layer **228** may absorb the heat of the laser beam or reflect the laser beam to transfer the heat to the sealing member **30**. In embodiments, the reflective, conductive material layer **228** may be electrically decoupled from any electronic features formed over the display area.

The conductive material layer **228** may be formed of the same material and at the same layer as the second gate electrode **211** in the second thin film transistor TFT2. Otherwise, the conductive material layer **228** may be formed of the same material and at the same layer as the first gate electrode **205** in the first thin film transistor TFT1.

The conductive material layer **228** may have a single-layered structure or a multi-layered structure including Au, Ag, Cu, Ni, Pt, Pd, Al, Mo, or Cr. The conductive material layer **228** may be formed of an alloy such as Al:Nd or Mo:W.

At least one insulating layer, for example, a first insulating layer **230** and a second insulating layer **231**, are formed on the conductive material layer **228**. When the first insulating layer **230** and the second insulating layer **231** are formed on the conductive material layer **228**, a hillock phenomenon and generation of pores caused by rapid temperature rising of the conductive material layer **228** due to the laser beam may be prevented.

The first insulating layer **230** and the second insulating layer **231** include a plurality of openings **229**. The plurality of openings **229** may be provided in order to increase a contact area between the sealing member **30** and the first and second insulating layers **230** and **231**. Accordingly, a bonding strength between the sealing member **30** and the first and second insulating layers **230** and **231** may be improved. In embodiments, the openings **229** may include holes and/or trenches formed in the insulation layers **230** and **231**. The openings **229** may be filled with the seal material for forming portions of the seal member **30**.

The first insulating layer **230** may be formed of the same material and at the same layer as the second gate insulating layer **209**. The second insulating layer **231** may be formed of the same material and at the same layer as the interlayer insulating layer **214**.

The plurality of openings **229** may include a first opening **229a** disposed between the conductive material layers **228**, and a second opening **229b** disposed between the conductive material layer **228** and the display area, for example, the circuit area CA. Since the sealing member **30** is filled in the first and second openings **229a** and **229b**, a contact area between the sealing member **30** and the first and second insulating layers **230** and **231** may be increased. Therefore, a bonding intensity between the sealing member **30** and the first and second insulating layers **230** and **231** may be improved.

In particular, the second opening **229b** is formed to be adjacent to the power line **224** so that the sealing member **30** may contact the power line **224** while filling the second opening **229b**. Thus, the display apparatus **100** may have a bonding strength that is greater than that between the sealing member **30** and the first and second insulating layers **230** and **231** due to the first opening **229a**. Also, if there are impurities under the sealing member **30**, the impurities may flow through the second opening **229b**, and thus, the impurities may not push the structures in the display area **40**.

As shown in FIG. 3, in embodiments, the seal member **30** includes a top inner edge and a bottom inner edge. When viewed in the viewing direction perpendicular to a top surface of the first substrate **10**, the top inner edge is located closer to the active area AA than the bottom inner edge. Thus, an inner side wall of the seal member **30** is inclined such that an angle between the top surface of the first substrate in the display area and the side wall is smaller than 90°. Accordingly, in embodiments, when viewed in the viewing direction, the seal member **30** overlaps structures in the display area, for example, the power line **224** and/or the pixel defining layer as shown in FIG. 3.

FIG. 4 is a schematic plan view of the sealing member **30** and the openings **229**. As shown in FIG. 4, the first and second insulating layers **230** and **231** may include the openings **229** that overlap with the sealing member **30**. The openings **229** may include the first opening or holes **229a** disposed between the conductive material layers and the second opening or trench **229b** that is adjacent to the display area.

There may be a plurality of first openings **229a** that are arranged two dimensionally. A size of the first opening **229a**, for example, a width of the first opening **229a**, may be 3 μm, and a distance between the first openings **229a** may be about 2.5 μm or greater. If the distance between the first openings **229a** is less than 2.5 μm, the first and second insulating layers **230** and **231** between adjacent first openings **229a** may be collapsed to form one opening. In this case, the contact area between the sealing member **30** and the first and second insulating layers **230** and **231** may be reduced.

Here, the distance between the first openings **229a** is not a distance between centers of the first openings **229a**, but may be defined as a thickness of the first and second insulating layers **230** and **231** between the two adjacent first openings **229a**. A cross-sectional shape of the first opening **229a** may be a square shape, but is not limited thereto. In an alternative embodiment, the cross-sectional shape of the first opening **229a** may be a polygonal shape, a circular shape, or an oval shape.

One second opening **229b** may be provided. The second opening or trench **229b** is formed to be elongated in a length direction **1** of the sealing member **30** so as to surround at least a part of the display unit. A maximum width **w3** of the second opening **229b** may be about 16 μm. The second opening **229b** has a greater width so that the contact area between the sealing member **30** and the first and second

insulating layers **230** and **231** may be increased and the impurities existing under the sealing member **30** may flow through the second opening **229b**, whereas the first opening **229a** increases the contact area between the sealing member **30** and the first and second insulating layers **230** and **231**. A cross-sectional shape of the second opening **229b** may be a square shape, but is not limited thereto. In an alternative embodiment, the cross-sectional shape of the second opening **229b** may be a polygonal shape, a circular shape, or an oval shape.

FIG. **5** is a schematic plan view of the sealing member **30** and the openings **229** according to another embodiment. When FIG. **5** is compared with FIG. **4**, the openings **229** may include a plurality of second openings **229b** that are adjacent to the display area **40**. The plurality of second openings or holes **229b** may be spaced apart from each other in the length direction **1** of the sealing member **30**. The maximum width **w3** of each of the second openings **229b** may be greater than a maximum length **d1** of the second opening **229b**. For example, the maximum width **w3** of the second opening **229b** may be about 16 μm and the maximum length **d1** of the second opening **229b** may be about 4.5 μm . Also, a distance **d2** between the second openings **229b** may be about 5 μm .

FIG. **6** is a table showing results of experimenting isolation of the display apparatus. As shown in FIG. **6**, a comparative example, in which an insulating layer is formed on the first substrate, the first opening is formed in the insulating layer, and the first substrate and the second substrate are bonded to each other by the sealing member, a first example, in which an insulating layer is formed on the first substrate, and the first opening and the second opening of FIG. **4** are formed in the insulating layer, and the first substrate and the second substrate are bonded to each other by the sealing member, and a second example, in which an insulating layer is formed on the first substrate, the first opening and the second opening of FIG. **5** are formed in the insulating layer, and the first substrate and the second substrate are bonded to each other by the sealing member, were provided.

In addition, a force for isolating the first substrate and the second substrate from each other was applied. The first and second examples needed a greater force for isolating the first and second substrates from each other than that of the comparative example, and showed less standard deviation in the force than that of the comparative example. Also, the second example needed greater force than that of the first example for isolating the first and second substrates, and showed less standard deviation than that of the first example. Thus, it is considered that the isolation between the substrates has been improved when the second opening is formed adjacent to the display area.

FIG. **7** is a cross-sectional view expanding a part of the display apparatus **100** according to another embodiment. When comparing with the embodiment of FIG. **3**, a metal material **225** is filled in a partial region in the second opening **229b**. The metal material **225** may be the same as that of the power line **224**. The metal material **225** may absorb the heat of the laser beam or reflect the laser beam to transfer heat to the sealing member **30**. Therefore, attachment of the sealing member **30** may be reinforced.

FIG. **8** is a cross-sectional view expanding a part of the display apparatus **100** according to another embodiment. When comparing with the embodiment of FIG. **3**, the second opening **229b** of FIG. **8** may be formed in the power line **224**. In addition, the power line **224** may partially overlap with the conductive material layer **228**. Even though the

power line **224** extends to the cell seal area CSA, the second opening **229b** is disposed in the power line **224**, and thus, the contact area between the sealing member **30** and the first and second insulating layers **230** and **231** may be increased. Therefore, the bonding strength between the sealing member **30** and the first and second insulating layers **230** and **231** may be improved.

It should be understood that the embodiments described therein should be considered in a descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation. Descriptions of features or aspects within each embodiment should typically be considered as available for other similar features or aspects in other embodiments.

While one or more embodiments have been described with reference to the figures, it will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art that various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope as defined by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An organic light-emitting display apparatus comprising:

a first substrate comprising a display area and a peripheral area;

a second substrate opposing the first substrate;

an insulating layer disposed on the first substrate and comprising one or more first openings;

a sealing member interconnecting the first substrate and the second substrate to each other and interposed between the first substrate and the second substrate;

a first transistor in the display area;

an organic light-emitting element electrically connected to the first transistor;

a first conductive layer;

a second conductive layer disposed in the peripheral area, wherein the first conductive layer is closer to the display area than the second conductive layer;

at least one second opening disposed between the first conductive layer and an innermost side of the second conductive layer, the at least one second opening is partly or entirely filled with a material of the sealing member; and

a second transistor between the first transistor and an outer side wall of the sealing member.

2. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first conductive layer is a power line.

3. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sealing member contacts the first conductive layer.

4. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first conductive layer is disposed above the insulating layer, and wherein the second conductive layer is disposed under the insulating layer.

5. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first conductive layer and the second conductive layer are formed of different materials from each other.

6. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first conductive layer and the second conductive layer comprises metal.

7. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one second opening extends along a lengthwise direction of the sealing member when viewed in a viewing direction perpendicular to a major surface of the first substrate.

8. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more first openings are formed in one of a polygonal shape, a circular shape, and an oval shape.

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9. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 1, wherein an end of the first conductive layer extends on a bottom surface of the at least one second opening.

10. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sealing member has a first width measured at its lower surface facing the first substrate and a second width measured at its upper surface facing the second substrate, the first width being different from the second width.

11. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 10, wherein the first width is less than the second width.

12. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 1, wherein a distance between the at least one second opening and the first conductive layer is less than that between the one or more first openings and the first conductive layer.

13. An organic light-emitting display apparatus comprising:

a first substrate comprising a display area and a peripheral area;

a second substrate opposing the first substrate;

an insulating layer disposed on the first substrate and comprising one or more openings;

a sealing member interposed between the first substrate and the second substrate, wherein the one or more openings partly or entirely filled with a material of the sealing member;

a first transistor in the display area;

an organic light-emitting element electrically connected to the first transistor;

a first conductive layer and a second conductive layer, wherein the second conductive layer is disposed in the

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peripheral area, and wherein the first conductive layer is closer to the display area than the second conductive layer;

a second transistor between the first transistor and an outer side wall of the sealing member; and

a touch layer over the second substrate.

14. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 13, wherein a portion of the touch layer overlaps the second transistor.

15. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 13, wherein the second transistor is interposed between the substrate and the first conductive layer.

16. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 15, wherein the first conductive layer comprises a material that is the same as a pixel electrode of the organic light-emitting element.

17. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 13, wherein the first conductive layer comprises a material that is the same as a gate electrode, a source electrode, or a drain electrode of the first transistor.

18. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 13, wherein the first conductive layer contacts the sealing member.

19. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 18, wherein the first conductive layer is over the insulating layer.

20. The organic light-emitting display apparatus of claim 19, wherein an end of the first conductive layer extends on a bottom surface of the one or more openings.

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专利名称(译)	用于增加密封构件和绝缘层之间的接触面积的有机发光显示装置		
公开(公告)号	US10374192	公开(公告)日	2019-08-06
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[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	三星显示有限公司		
申请(专利权)人(译)	三星DISPLAY CO. , LTD.		
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摘要(译)

一种有机发光显示装置，包括：第一基板，包括显示区域和外围区域；与第一基板相对的第二基板；绝缘层，设置在第一基板上并包括一个或多个开口；密封构件将第一基板和第二基板彼此互连并插入第一和第二基板之间。一个或多个开口设置在设置在显示区域上的第一导电层和设置在外围区域上的第二导电层之间。一个或多个开口至少部分地或完全地填充有密封构件。

