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

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H01L 51/52 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **313/505**; 313/504; 313/512; 313/506;
257/59; 257/72; 257/E51.022

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC 313/500-512; 257/59, 72, E51.022
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An organic light-emitting diode (OLED) display includes a substrate and a plurality of sub-pixels formed on the substrate, wherein the substrate includes a display region having formed therein sub-pixels to which colored organic materials are applied, and a non-display region formed at edges of the display region. The non-display region includes an outgassing portion and a cathode contacting portion, and protrusions and recessions having different numbers and unit opening areas are formed in at least one of the outgassing portion and the cathode contacting region. Thus, organic raw materials applied during manufacturing process may be prevented from remaining. Therefore, an increase in contact resistance due to organic raw materials remaining in a cathode contact region may be reduced.

20 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets

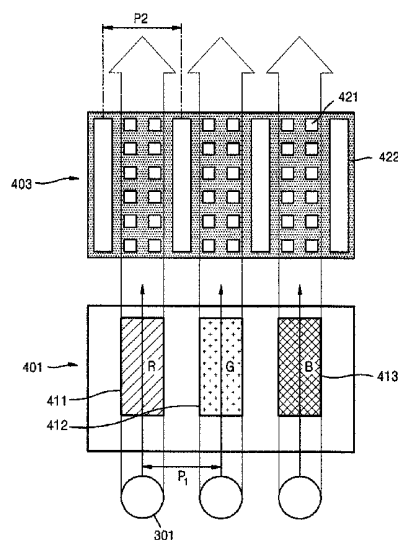


FIG. 1

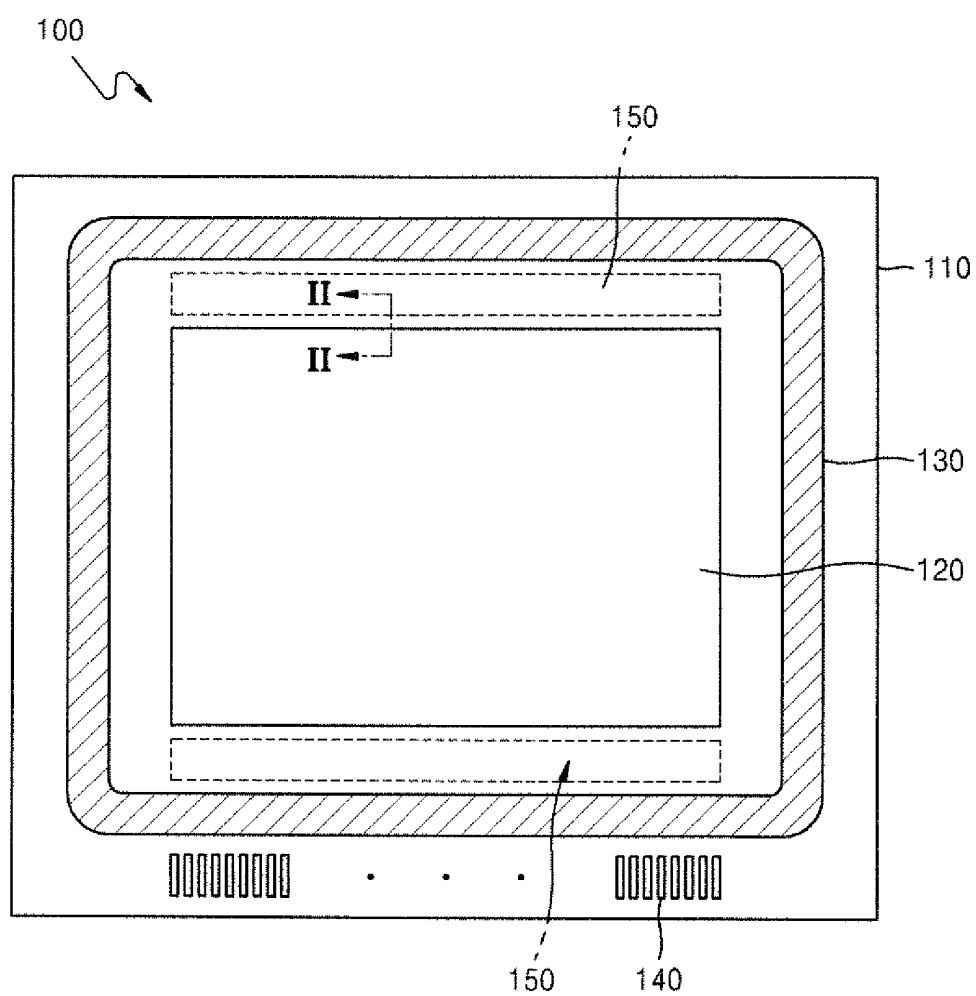


FIG. 2

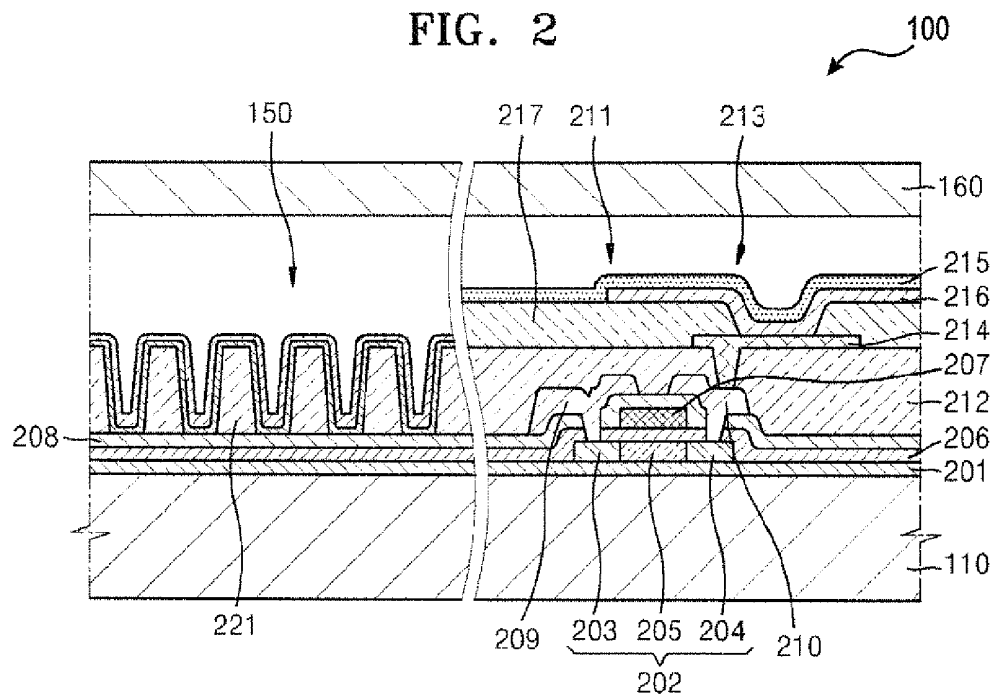


FIG. 3

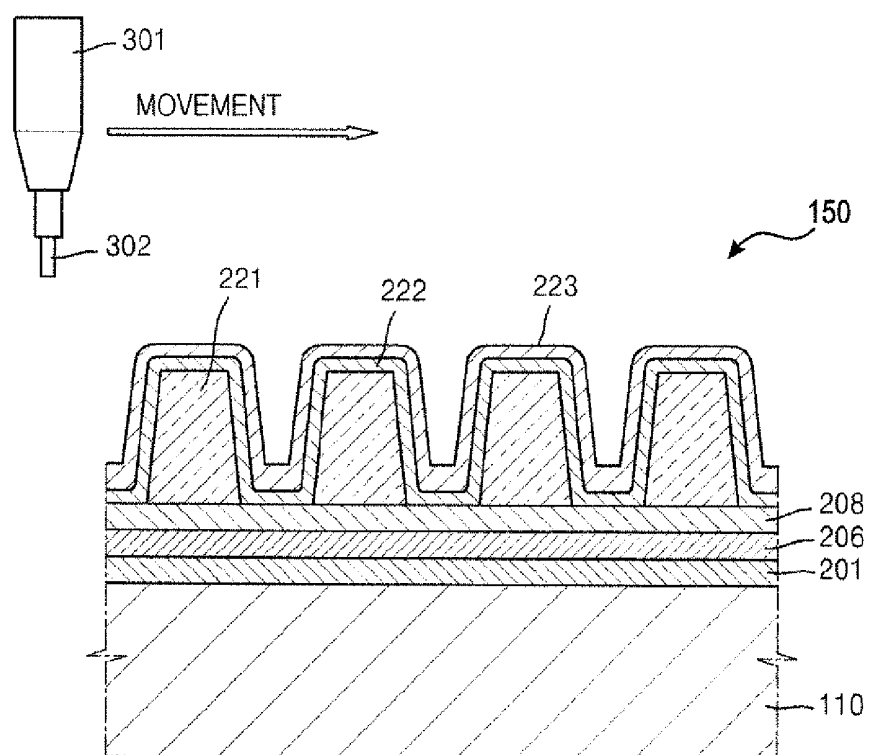


FIG. 4

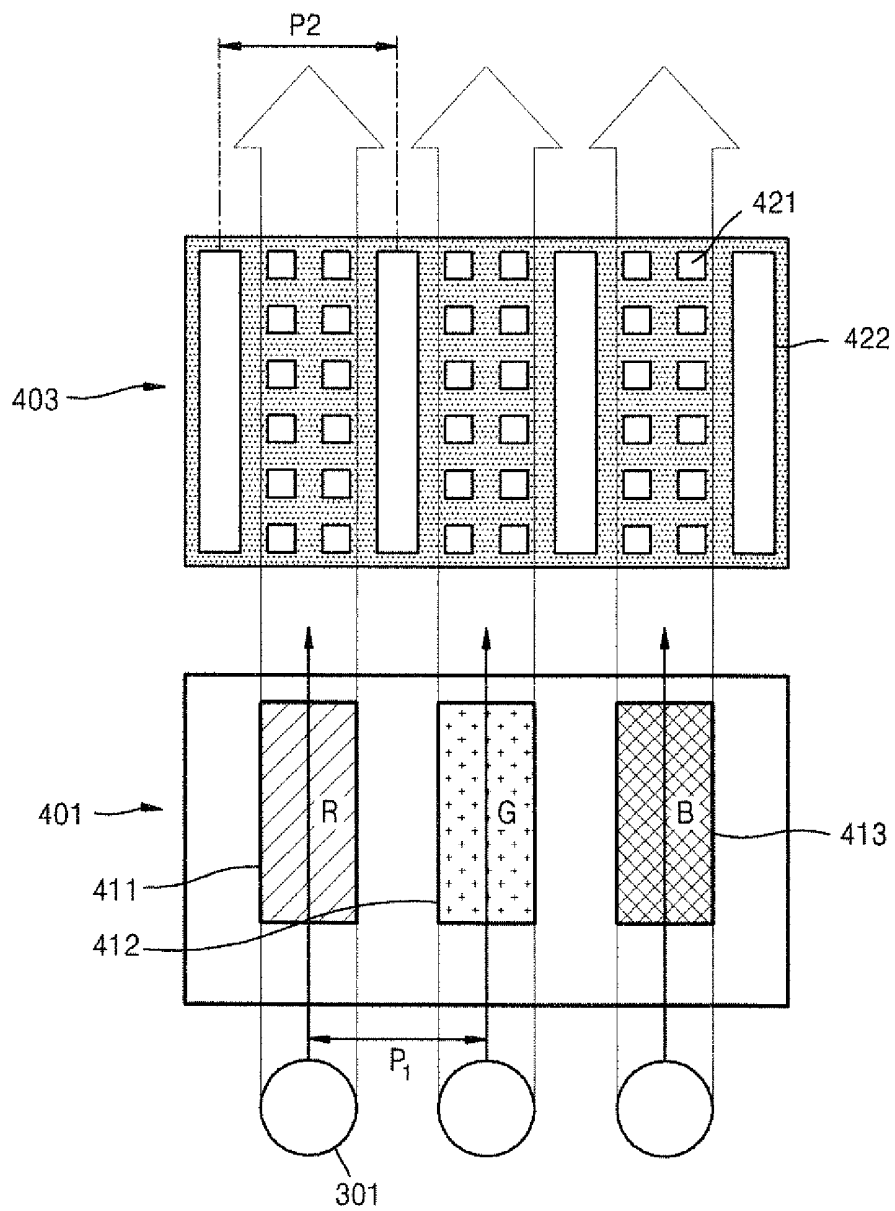


FIG. 5

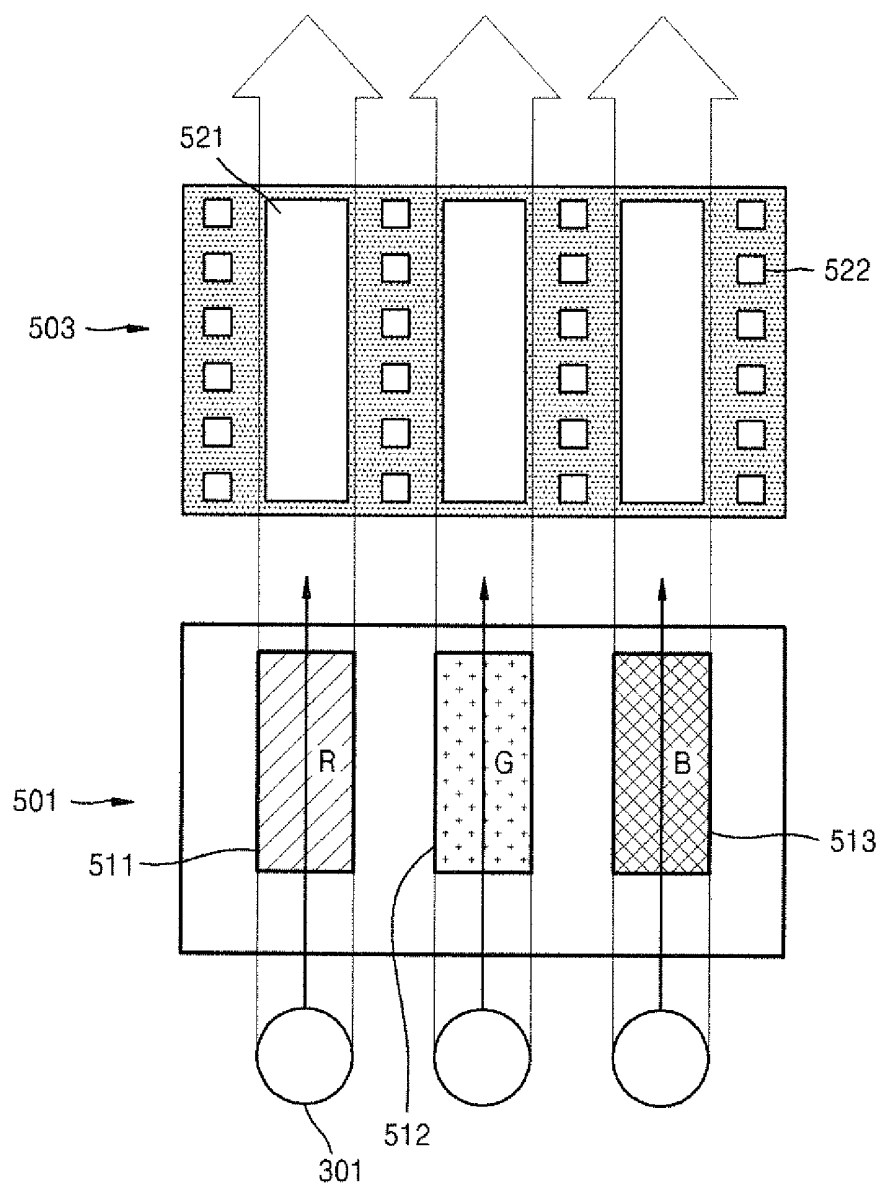


FIG. 6

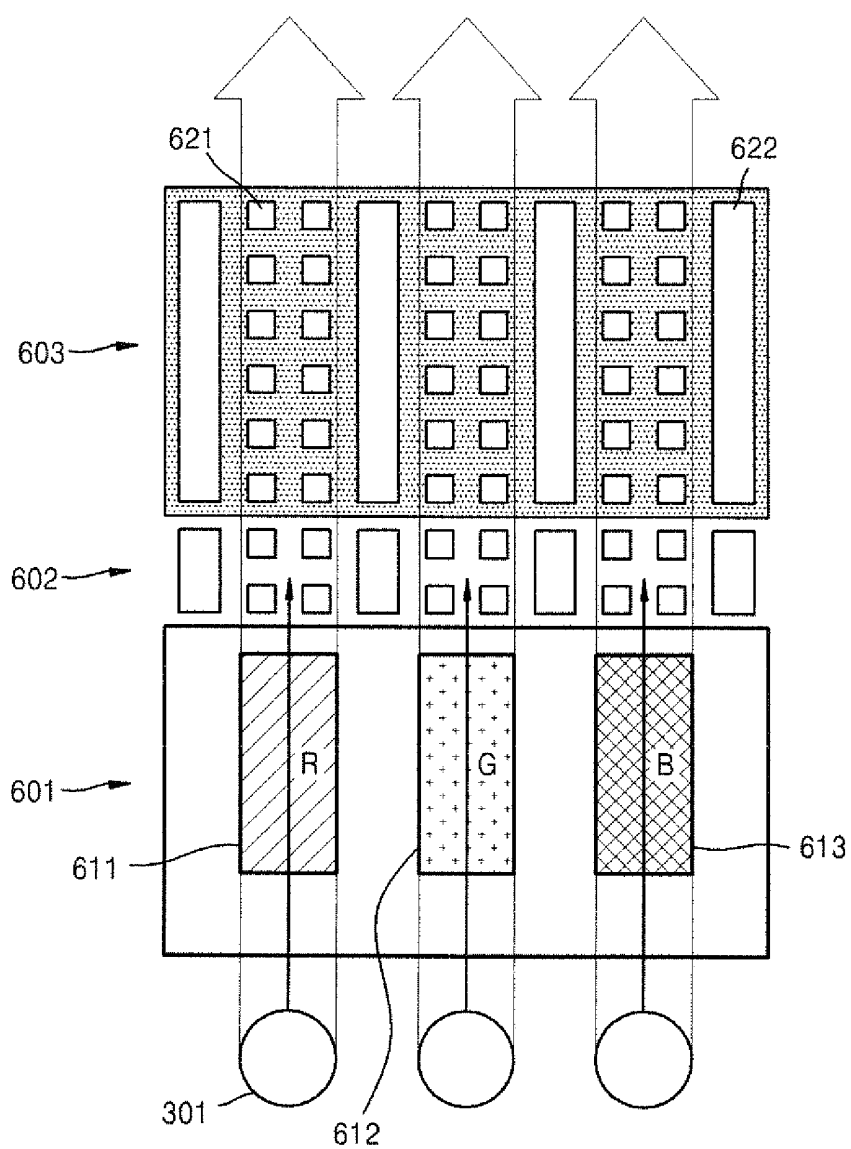


FIG. 7

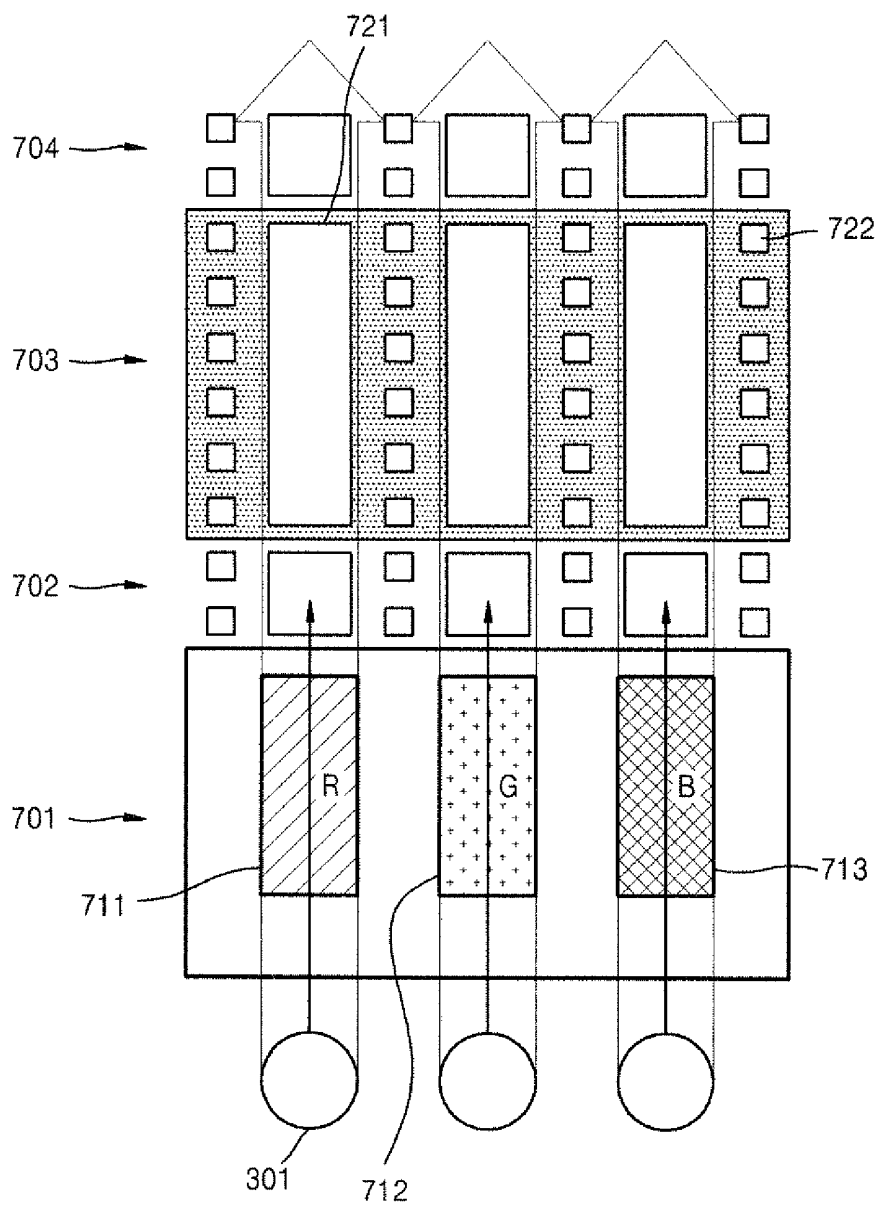


FIG. 8

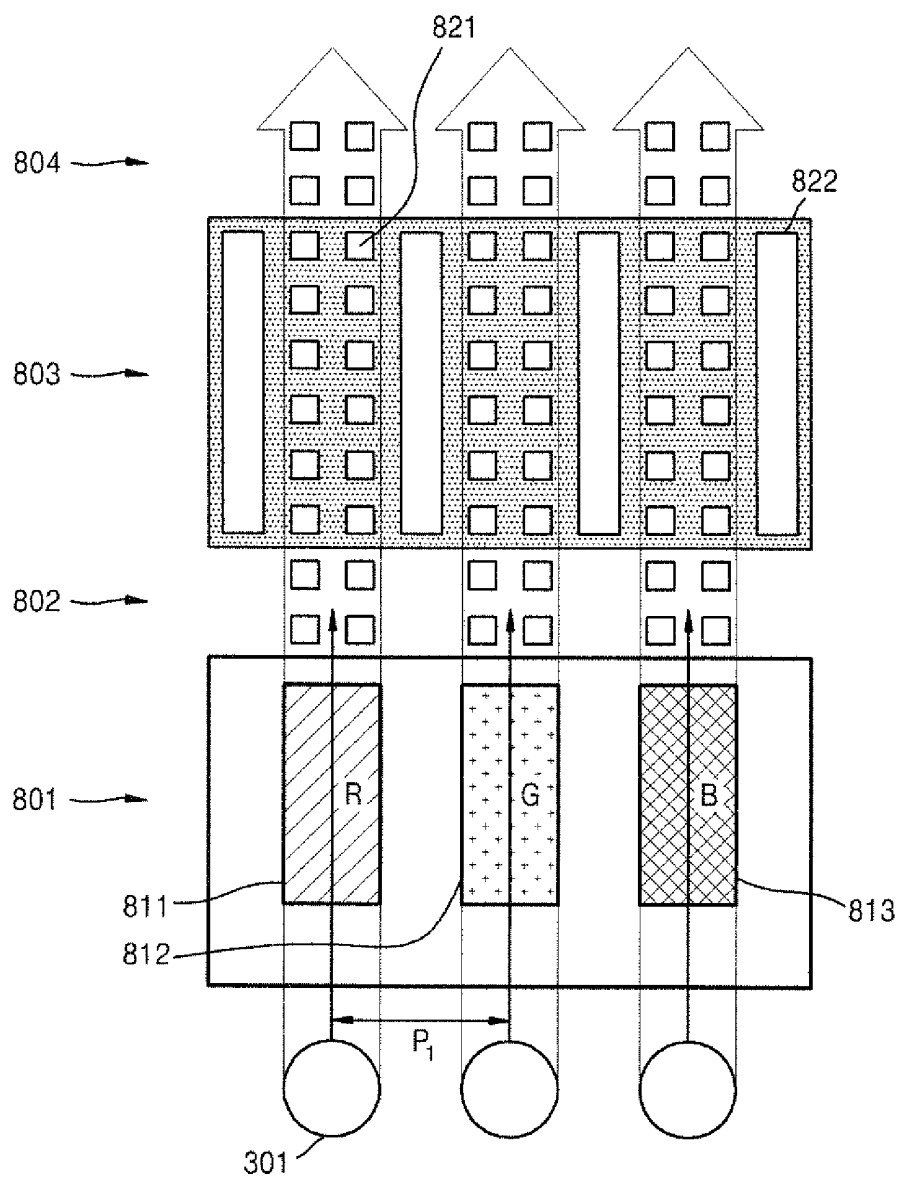


FIG. 9

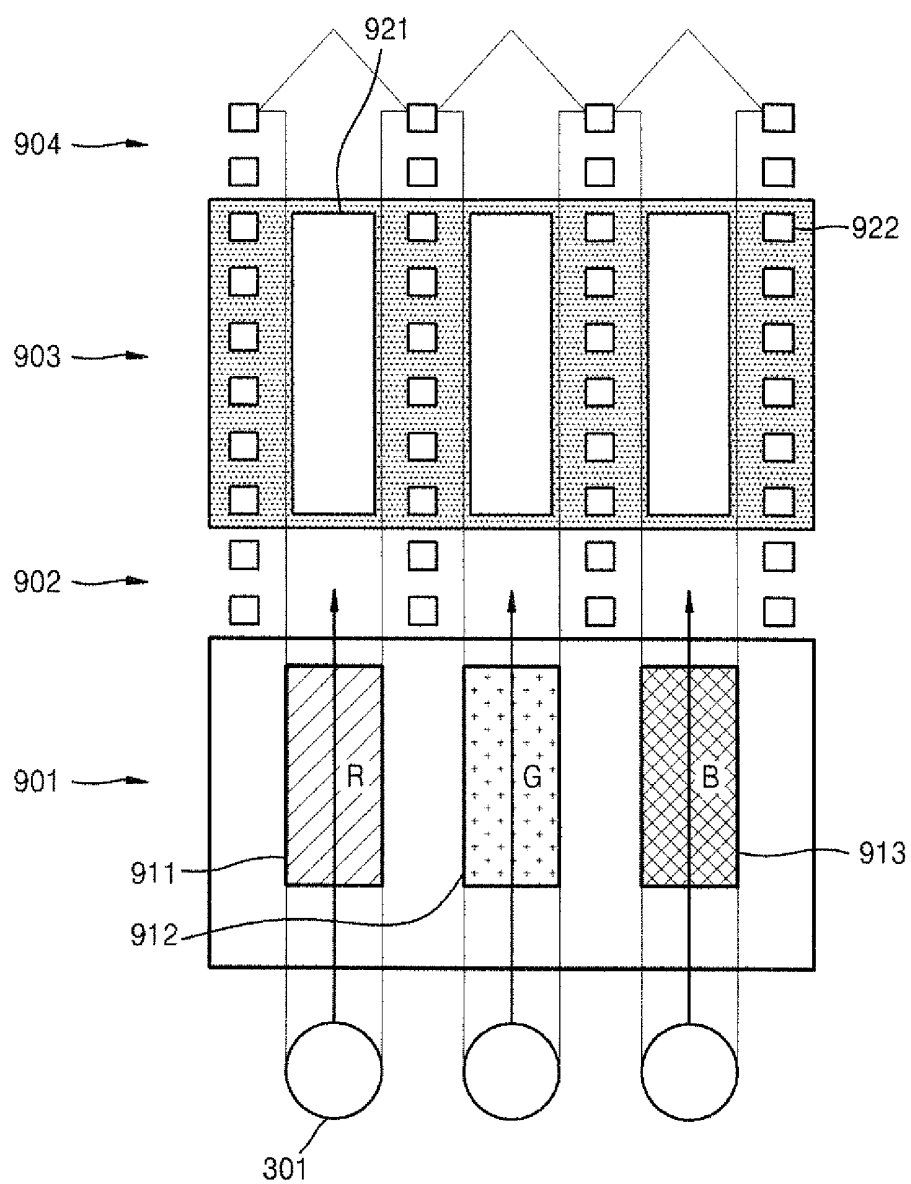


FIG. 10

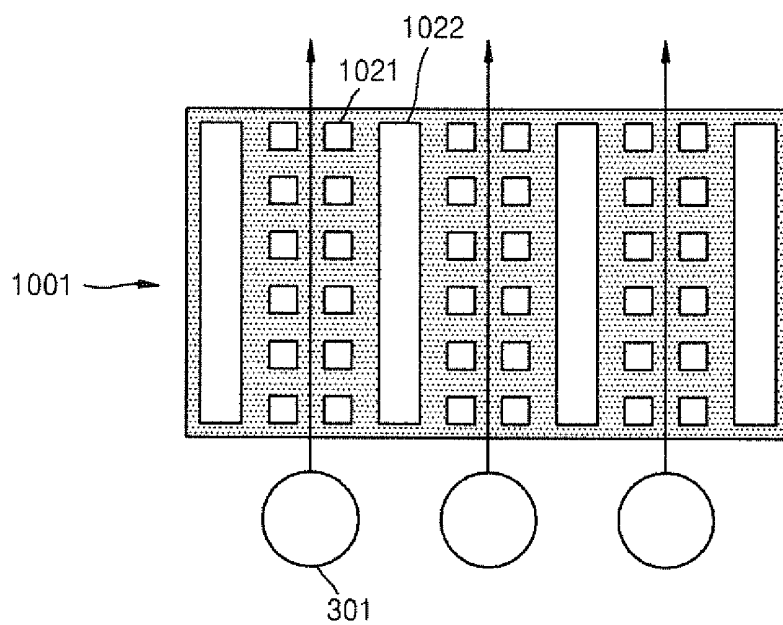
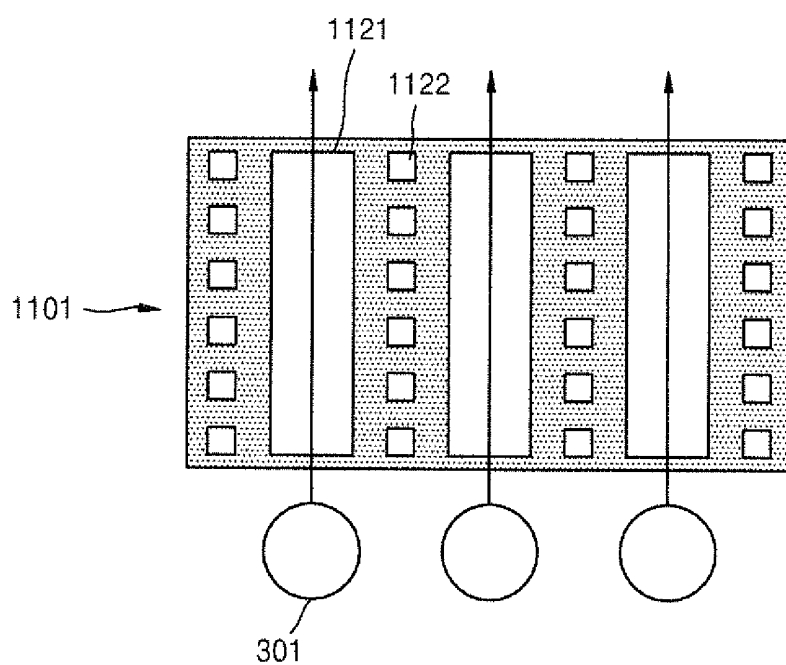


FIG. 11



ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DIODE DISPLAY

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

This application makes reference to, incorporates the same herein, and claims all benefits accruing under 35 U.S.C. § 119 from an application earlier filed in the Korean Intellectual Property Office on the 9 Nov. 2011 and there duly assigned Ser. No. 10-2011-0116475.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an organic light-emitting diode (OLED) display, and more particularly, to an OLED display for removing organic materials remaining in a non-display region.

2. Description of the Related Art

Generally, an organic light-emitting diode (OLED) display is a self-luminescent display featuring wide viewing angles, excellent contrast, and fast response.

Therefore, the OLED display is widely applied to mobile devices, such as digital cameras, video cameras, camcorders, mobile data terminals, smart phones, super-slim laptops, tablets, flexible display devices, etc. or to electric/electronic devices, such as super-slim TVs, etc.

The OLED display may embody colors as holes and electrons are respectively injected by anodes and cathodes, are recombined with each other, and emit light. In this regard, light is emitted when excitons, which are combinations of injected holes and electrons, transit from an excited state to a ground state.

OLED displays may be categorized according to driving mechanisms as follows: passive matrix (PM) type and active matrix (AM) type.

In a PMOLED display, anodes and cathodes are arranged in columns and rows, and scanning signals are supplied to the cathodes from a row driving circuit. In this regard, only one of the rows is selected. Furthermore, a data signal is inputted to each of the pixels by a column driving circuit.

An AMOLED display controls signals inputted to each of the pixels by using thin-film transistors (TFTs). Therefore, an AMOLED display is suitable for processing a large amount of signals, and thus the AMOLED display is popular as a display device for reproducing moving pictures.

Generally, in the case of forming an emissive layer via a nozzle printing method, a continuous ejection operation is performed to uniformly apply an organic raw material onto a display region of a substrate, reducing tact time, and reducing manufacturing cost.

As a result, an organic material is ejected not only onto a display region of a substrate, but also onto a non-display region of the substrate, such as a cathode contact region, in which it is not necessary to apply the organic material. Therefore, it is necessary to perform an additional processing operation, such as an organic material removal operation using oxygen plasma. Furthermore, if an organic material exists in a cathode contact region, cathode resistance increases.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides an organic light-emitting diode (OLED) display having relatively less increase in con-

tact resistance due to an organic material remaining in a non-display region during the formation of an emissive layer via a nozzle printing method.

According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided an OLED display including a substrate and a plurality of sub-pixels formed on the substrate. The substrate includes a display region having formed therein sub-pixels to which colored organic materials are applied, and a non-display region formed at edges of the display region. The non-display region includes an outgassing portion and a cathode contacting portion, and protrusions and recessions having difference numbers, and unit opening areas are formed in at least one of the outgassing portion and the cathode contacting region.

The protrusions and recessions may include a plurality of first protrusions and recessions having a first unit opening area, and a plurality of second protrusions and recessions having a second unit opening area which is larger than the first unit opening area.

The number of second protrusions and recessions may be less than that of the first protrusions and recessions.

The size of each opening formed as the second protrusions and recessions may be larger than the size of each opening formed as the first protrusions and recessions.

The outgassing portion or the cathode contacting region may be continuously defined from an edge of the display region to the opposite edge of the display region in a direction in which nozzle units depositing organic raw materials move. The first protrusions and recessions may be formed in portions of the non-display region corresponding to the sub-pixels, and the second protrusions and recessions may be formed in portions of the non-display region corresponding to spaces between the sub-pixels.

A pitch between a pair of sub-pixels adjacent to each other may be identical to a pitch between a pair of the second protrusions and recessions formed in a portion of the non-display region corresponding to the space between the sub-pixels.

The protrusions and recessions may have a polygonal or circular opening pattern.

The outgassing portion or the cathode contacting region may be continuously defined outside the display region from an edge of the display region to the opposite edge of the display region in a direction in which a nozzle unit depositing organic raw materials moves. The protrusions and recessions may be formed so as to have different unit opening areas in adjacent regions formed in the direction in which the nozzle units move.

A pitch between a pair of sub-pixels adjacent to each other in the direction in which the nozzle units move may be identical to a pitch between a pair of protrusions and recessions formed adjacent to each other in a portion of the non-display region corresponding to the space between the sub-pixels.

The protrusions and recessions may include the first protrusions and recessions formed in portions of the non-display region corresponding to the sub-pixels adjacent to each other in the direction in which the nozzle units move, and the second protrusions and recessions formed in portions of the non-display region corresponding to spaces between the sub-pixels and having a unit opening area different from that of the first protrusions and recessions.

As a unit opening area of the first protrusions and recessions is smaller than that of the second protrusions and recessions, the number of first protrusions and recessions may be greater than that of second protrusions and recessions.

As a unit opening area of the first protrusions and recessions is larger than that of the second protrusions and recessions,

sions, the number of first protrusions and recessions may be less than that of second protrusions and recessions.

The cathode contacting region may be a region in which one of the electrodes of the display region and a power wire are electrically connected to each other.

A non-cathode contacting region, in which no conductive pattern is formed, may be further defined in a region adjacent to the cathode contacting region, and protrusions and recessions having different unit opening areas may be formed in the non-cathode contacting region.

The display region may include a thin-film transistor (TFT) comprising: a semiconductor active layer, a gate electrode, and source and drain electrodes; an insulation layer that is formed to cover the source and drain electrodes; and an organic emissive device that is formed on the insulation layer and which includes a first electrode connected to any one of the source and drain electrodes, an emissive layer, and a second electrode.

A plurality of protrusions and recessions may be formed in portions of the non-display region adjacent to the display region, a first conductive pattern corresponding to a power wire arranged on the substrate may be formed on the protrusions and recessions, and a second conductive pattern corresponding to the first electrode or the second electrode may be formed on the first conductive pattern.

The protrusions and recessions may include a plurality of first protrusions and recessions having a first unit opening area, and at least one second protrusion and recessions having a second unit opening area, which is larger than the first unit opening area.

The first protrusions and recessions and the second protrusions and recessions may be formed from an edge of the display region to the opposite edge of the display region in a direction in which a nozzle unit depositing organic raw materials moves. The first protrusions and recessions may be formed in portions of the non-display region respectively corresponding to sub-pixels, and the second protrusions and recessions are formed in portions of the non-display region respectively corresponding to spaces between the sub-pixels.

A pitch between a pair of sub-pixels adjacent to each other may be identical to a pitch between a pair of second protrusions and recessions formed in the portions of the non-display region respectively corresponding to spaces between the sub-pixels.

The protrusions and recessions may include at least one first protrusion and recessions having a first unit opening area, and a plurality of second protrusions and recessions having a second unit opening area, which is smaller than the first unit opening area.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A more complete appreciation of the invention, and many of the attendant advantages thereof, will be readily apparent as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference symbols indicate the same or similar components, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an organic light-emitting diode (OLED) display according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a sectional view of the OLED display of FIG. 1 taken along a line II-II of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 shows a non-display region of FIG. 2 in more detail; and

FIGS. 4 through 11 show patterns of protrusions and recessions formed on a substrate according to embodiments of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

As the invention allows for various changes and numerous embodiments, particular embodiments will be illustrated in the drawings and described in detail in the written description. However, this is not intended to limit the present invention to particular modes of practice, and it is to be appreciated that all changes, equivalents, and substitutes that do not depart from the spirit and technical scope of the present invention are encompassed in the present invention. In the description of the present invention, certain detailed explanations of related art are omitted when it is deemed that they may unnecessarily obscure the essence of the invention.

It will be understood that, although the terms first, second, third, etc. may be used herein to describe various elements, components, regions, layers and/or sections, these elements, components, regions, layers and/or sections should not be limited by these terms. These terms are only used to distinguish one element, component, region, layer or section from another element, component, region, layer or section.

The terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only and is not intended to be limiting of the inventive concept. As used herein, the singular forms "a", "an" and "the" are intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. It will be further understood that the terms "comprises" and/or "comprising," or "includes" and/or "including", when used in this specification, specify the presence of stated features, regions, integers, steps, operations, elements, and/or components, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, regions, integers, steps, operations, elements, components, and/or groups thereof. 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.

Organic light-emitting diode (OLED) display according to certain embodiments of the invention will be described below in more detail with reference to the accompanying drawings. Those components that are the same or are in correspondence are rendered the same reference numeral regardless of the figure number, and redundant explanations are omitted.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an organic light-emitting diode (OLED) display according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 1, the OLED display 100 includes a display region 120 which is formed on a substrate 110 and embodies images. A plurality of pixel regions are formed in the display region 120 and emit light as predetermined power is supplied thereto. A sealant 130 is formed around the display region 120. A plurality of terminals 140 are formed outside the sealant 130.

Although not shown, a plurality of wire lines, e.g., a driving power supply line for supplying driving power to a driving line (Vdd line) of a pixel region, a power supply line for supplying power to an electrode of an organic emissive device of the pixel region, a vertical driving circuit unit or a horizontal driving circuit unit for controlling signals applied to the pixel region, etc. are formed outside the display region 120.

In this regard, a non-display region 150 including a cathode contacting region is formed around the display region 120.

FIG. 2 is a sectional view of the OLED display of FIG. 1 taken along a line II-II of FIG. 1, and FIG. 3 shows the non-display region of FIG. 2 in more detail.

Referring to FIG. 2, the OLED display 100 includes the substrate 110 and an encapsulating substrate 160 which faces the substrate 110. The encapsulating substrate 160 is a substrate for encapsulating the substrate 110. Alternatively, an encapsulating layer may be formed on the substrate 110 instead of the encapsulating substrate 160.

The substrate 110 may be an insulation substrate formed of polymer, such as acryl, polyimide, polycarbonate, polyester, etc., or glass.

A buffer layer 201 may be formed on the top surface of the substrate 110. The buffer layer 201 includes an organic material, an inorganic material, or a stacked structure in which an organic material and an inorganic material are alternately stacked. The buffer layer 201 blocks oxygen and moisture, prevents moisture or impurity formed at the substrate 110 from being diffused, and helps crystallization of a semiconductor active layer by controlling a heat transmission rate during crystallization of the semiconductor active layer.

A semiconductor active layer 202 is formed on the top surface of the buffer layer 201. If the semiconductor active layer 202 is formed of polysilicon, the semiconductor active layer 202 is formed by forming amorphous silicon, crystallizing the amorphous silicon into polysilicon, and patterning the polysilicon.

The amorphous silicon may be crystallized via any of various methods including Rapid Thermal Annealing (RTA), Solid Phase Crystallization (SPC), Excimer Laser Annealing (ELA), Metal-Induced Crystallization (MIC), Metal-Induced Lateral Crystallization (MILC), Super Grain Silicon (SGS), Sequential Lateral Solidification (SLS), etc.

The semiconductor active layer 202 includes a source region 203 and a drain region 204 that are formed via implantation of n-type or p-type impurity ions. A region between the source region 203 and the drain region 204 is a channel region 205 that is not doped with an impurity.

A gate insulation layer 206 is deposited on the semiconductor active layer 202. The gate insulation layer 206 may be a single layer formed of SiO_2 or a double layer including a SiO_2 layer and a SiN_x layer.

A gate electrode 207 is formed on the gate insulation layer 206. The gate electrode 207 may be formed of a single metal or metals, and may be formed of a single layer containing Mo, MoW, Cr, Al, an Al alloy, Mg, Cu, Ti, Ag, Al, Ni, W, or Au or layers formed of combinations thereof.

An interlayer insulation layer 208 is formed on the gate electrode 207. The interlayer insulation layer 208 may be a single layer formed of SiO_2 or a double layer including a SiO_2 layer and a SiN_x layer. The gate insulation layer 206 and the interlayer insulation layer 208 are formed to expose portions of the source region 203 and the drain region 204, respectively, of the semiconductor active layer 202. A source electrode 209 is electrically connected to the exposed portion of source region 203 of the semiconductor active layer 202, and a drain electrode 210 is electrically connected to the exposed portion of the drain electrode 210 of the semiconductor active layer 202.

The source electrode 209 and the drain electrode 210 may be formed of Au, Pd, Pt, Ni, Rh, Ru, Ir, Os, Al, Mo, or an alloy containing two or more metals, such as Al:Nd alloy, MoW alloy. However, the present invention is not limited thereto.

Furthermore, a thin-film transistor (TFT) 211, including the semiconductor active layer 202, the gate electrode 207, the source electrode 209, and the drain electrode 210, is formed.

A protective layer 212 is formed on the source electrode 209 and the drain electrode 210. The protective layer 212 includes a structure in which at least one layer of a passivation layer and/or a planarization film is stacked. The protective layer 212 may be at least one of an inorganic insulation layer and an organic insulation layer. The protective layer 212 may be formed of a composite stacked structure in which inorganic insulation layers and organic insulation layers are alternately stacked.

The inorganic insulation layer may contain SiO_2 , SiN_x , SiON , Al_2O_3 , TiO_2 , Ta_2O_5 , HfO_2 , ZrO_2 , BST, PZT, etc., whereas the organic insulation layer may contain general universal polymer (PMMA, PS, etc.), a polymer inducer having a phenol group, an acrylic polymer, an imide-based polymer, an aryl ether-based polymer, an amide-based polymer, a fluorine-based polymer, a p-xylene-based polymer, a vinyl alcohol-based polymer, or a blend thereof.

Therefore, the protective layer 212 covering the source electrode 209 and the drain electrode 210 protects the TFT 211.

The protective layer 212 is formed so as to expose a portion of the drain electrode 210, where an organic emissive device 213 is formed and is connected to the exposed drain electrode 210. The organic emissive device 213 is a device for displaying predetermined display data by emitting red, green, and blue lights according to current. The organic emissive device 213 includes a first electrode 214, a second electrode 215, and an intermediate layer 216 interposed between the first electrode 214 and the second electrode 215.

The first electrode 214 is electrically connected to the drain electrode 210. The first electrode 214 may be formed of any of various conductive materials. For example, the first electrode 214 may be formed as a transparent layer or a reflective layer.

When the first electrode 214 is formed as a transparent layer, the first electrode 214 may contain ITO, IZO, ZnO or In_2O_3 . When the first electrode 214 is formed as a reflective layer, the first electrode 214 may be formed by forming a reflective film by using Ag, Mg, Al, Pt, Pd, Au, Ni, Nd, Ir, Cr, or a compound thereof, and forming ITO, IZO, ZnO or In_2O_3 thereon.

A pixel-defining layer (PDL) 217, which is an insulation layer, is formed on the first electrode 214. The PDL 217 may be formed of a material containing an acrylic or imide-based polymer.

A predetermined opening is formed in the PDL 217 so as to expose a portion of the first electrode 214. The intermediate layer 216 is formed on the exposed portion of the first electrode 214. The intermediate layer 216 includes an organic emissive layer (EML) and, when a voltage is applied via the first electrode 214 and the second electrode 215, the intermediate layer 216 embodies visible rays.

The intermediate layer 216 may be formed of an organic monomer material or an organic polymer material.

In the case of using a monomer organic material, the intermediate layer 216 may be formed by stacking a hole injection layer (HIL), a hole transport layer (HTL), an EML, an electron transport layer (ETL), and an electron injection layer (EIL) in a single structure or a composite structure.

In the case of using a monomer organic material, the intermediate layer 216 may be formed of various materials including copper phthalocyanine (CuPc), N,N'-Di(naphthalene-1-yl)-N,N'-diphenyl-benzidine (NPB), tris-8-hydroxyquinoline aluminum (Alq3), etc. The monomer organic material may be formed via a method, such as vacuum deposition using masks.

In this regard, the HIL, the HTL, the ETL, and the EIL are common layers and may be commonly applied to red pixels,

green pixels, and blue pixels. In this case, the common layers may be formed to cover all pixels, like the second electrode **215**.

In the case of using an organic polymer material, a structure including a HTL and an EML may be employed. Here, the HTL may be formed of PEDOT, and the EML may be formed of a Poly-Phenylene vinylene (PPV)-based or fluorine-based organic polymer material, via screen printing or inkjet printing.

The second electrode **215** is formed on the intermediate layer **216**. The second electrode **215** is formed to cover all pixels. The second electrode **215** may be formed as a transparent layer or a reflective layer.

If the second electrode **215** is formed as a transparent layer, a layer formed of Li, Ca, LiF/Ca, LiF/Al, Al, Mg, Ag, or a compound thereof may be formed, and an auxiliary electrode or a bus electrode line formed of a transparent layer-forming material, such as ITO, IZO, ZnO or In_2O_3 , may be formed thereon. If the second electrode **215** is formed as a reflective layer, the second electrode **215** may be formed by depositing Li, Ca, LiF/Ca, LiF/Al, Al, Mg, Ag, or a compound thereof on the entire top surface of the substrate **110**.

The first electrode **214** and the second electrode **215** are formed so as to have polarities of an anode and a cathode, respectively. In this regard, the polarities of the first electrode **214** and the second electrode **215** may be reversed.

The first electrode **214** and the second electrode **215** are insulated from each other by the intermediate layer **216**, and the intermediate layer **216** emits light as voltages of opposite polarities are applied to the first electrode **214** and the second electrode **215**.

In this regard, a plurality of protrusions and recessions **221** are formed in the non-display region **150**. The protrusions and recessions **221** are formed in a region outside the display region **120** by patterning a plurality of protrusions and a plurality of recessions by using an insulation material.

The protrusions and recessions **221** are formed so as to easily connect one of the electrodes of the organic emissive device **213** to a power wire, or for outgassing the OLED display **100** during a manufacturing process.

Referring to FIG. 3, the plurality of protrusions and recessions **221** are patterned on the substrate **110**. The protrusions and recessions **221** are formed in the non-display region **150** formed around the display region **120** (see FIG. 1) in a particular pattern. The protrusions and recessions **221** are formed of a material that is substantially the same as the material constituting the protective layer **212** (see FIG. 2).

Alternatively, the protrusions and recessions **221** may be formed of any insulation materials. The protrusions and recessions **221** may be either formed simultaneously with the protective layer **212** is formed or formed individually in a separate operation.

A first conductive pattern **222** (FIG. 3) is formed on the protrusions and recessions **221**. The first conductive pattern **222** may function as wires. The first conductive pattern **222** may be formed of a material that is substantially the same as the material constituting the first electrode **214**.

Alternatively, the first conductive pattern **222** may be formed of any conductive material. The first conductive pattern **222** may be either formed simultaneously with the first electrode **214** or formed individually in a separate operation.

A second conductive pattern **223** is formed on the first conductive pattern **222**. The second conductive pattern **223** substantially corresponds to the second electrode **215** formed throughout the top surface of the substrate **110**. The second

conductive pattern **223** may be electrically connected to the first conductive pattern **222** in the non-display region **150** and apply external power.

When the second conductive pattern **223** is electrically connected to the first conductive pattern **222**, since the plurality of protrusions and recessions **221** are formed, short-circuits may be minimized. Furthermore, the protrusions and recessions **221** have a structure in which a plurality of openings are formed, and thus a contact area between the first conductive pattern **222** and the second conductive pattern **223** may increase.

During a nozzle printing operation, a nozzle unit **301** moves in a direction across the substrate **110** and ejects an organic raw material **302** into desired regions on the substrate **110**. The nozzle unit **301** moves from an edge of the substrate **110** to the opposite edge of the substrate **110** for continuous ejections.

In this regard, the nozzle unit **301** may be a single nozzle unit for applying an organic raw material of a desired color, such as red, green, or blue, to each sub-pixel or a multi-nozzle for simultaneously applying organic raw materials of a plurality of colors to sub-pixels.

When the nozzle unit **301** moves in a direction across the substrate **110** and applies the organic raw material **302**, the organic raw material **302** also remains in the protrusions and recessions **221** formed in the non-display region **150**. An organic material removal operation, such as plasma processing, is performed to remove the remaining organic raw material **302**. However, since a significant amount of organic material remains in openings of the protrusions and recessions **221**, it is necessary to remove the organic material that remains in openings of the protrusions and recessions **221** as much as possible.

In this regard, the protrusions and recessions **221** are formed in the non-display region **150** in a particular pattern.

FIG. 4 shows a pattern of a protrusions and recessions formed on a substrate according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 4, a red sub-pixel **411**, a green sub-pixel **412**, and a blue sub-pixel **413** are arranged in a display region **401**. Although the red, green, and blue sub-pixels **411**, **412**, and **413**, respectively, are arranged on the same line in the present embodiment, the red, green, and blue sub-pixels **411**, **412** and **413**, respectively, may be arranged in any of various patterns, such as a zigzag pattern, a honeycomb-like pattern, etc.

Protrusions and recessions are formed in a non-display region defined at the upper edge of the display region **401**. The non-display region corresponds to a cathode contacting region **403**. In other words, the non-display region corresponds to a region in which the second conductive pattern **223** is connected to the first conductive pattern **222**, and is a region in which one of the electrodes on the display region **401** is connected to a power wire at the cathode contacting region **403**.

The protrusions and recessions include first protrusions and recessions **421** with relatively small openings and second protrusions and recessions **422** with relatively large openings. As the first and second protrusions and recessions **421** and **422**, respectively, are formed, at least one of the first and second conductive patterns **222** and **223**, respectively, has a plurality of branched conductive lines. Therefore, even if a conductive line is short-circuited, electrical connection may be established via another line.

The nozzle units **301** move from an edge of the display region **401** to the opposite edge of the display region **401** in a direction indicated by arrows, eject a red organic raw material

to the red sub-pixel **411**, eject a green organic raw material to the green sub-pixel **412**, and eject a blue organic raw material to the blue sub-pixel **413**.

In this regard, in the cathode contacting region **403**, the first and second protrusions and recessions **421** and **422**, respectively, are formed so as to have openings of different sizes according to pitches between the nozzle units **301** in the direction in which the nozzle units **301** move.

As indicated by the arrows, when the nozzle units **301** move in a direction across a substrate, the red organic raw material and the green organic raw material may overlap with each other in the space between the red sub-pixel **411** and the green sub-pixel **412**, and the green organic raw material and the blue organic raw material may overlap with each other in the space between the green sub-pixel **412** and the blue sub-pixel **413** in the direction in which the nozzle units **301** move.

The overlapping occurs as the red, green, and blue organic raw materials spread to adjacent spaces during application of the red, green, and blue organic raw materials. In other words, organic raw materials remaining in unnecessary spaces in the display region **401** may be easily removed via a plasma processing operation. However, organic raw materials remaining in openings of the first and second protrusions and recessions **421** and **422**, respectively, is not easy to remove.

Therefore, in a direction in which the nozzle units **301** move, it is necessary to minimize organic raw materials remaining in the cathode contacting region **403** corresponding to the spaces between the red, green, and blue sub-pixels **411**, **412** and **413**, respectively.

In this regard, in the direction in which the nozzle units **301** move, the first protrusions and recessions **421** with relatively small openings are formed at locations of the cathode contacting region **403** corresponding to the red, green, and blue sub-pixels **411**, **412** and **413**, respectively.

On the other hand, in the direction in which the nozzle units **301** move, the second protrusions and recessions **422** with relatively large openings are formed at locations of the cathode contacting region **403** corresponding to the space between the red sub-pixel **411** and the green sub-pixel **412**, or corresponding to the space between the green sub-pixel **412** and the blue sub-pixel **413**.

In the present embodiment, the first protrusions and recessions **421** include a plurality of patterned rectangular small openings, whereas the second protrusions and recessions **422** include a single patterned rectangular large opening.

In this regard, the size of a single opening formed as the second protrusions and recessions **422** is relatively larger than that of an opening formed as the first protrusions and recessions **421**. Furthermore, the number of second protrusions and recessions **422** is relatively less than the number of first protrusions and recessions **421**.

As described above, since the second protrusions and recessions **422** formed in a region corresponding to the space between the red sub-pixel **411** and the green sub-pixel **412**, or corresponding to the space between the green sub-pixel **412** and the blue sub-pixel **413**, include a single large opening, when red, green, and blue organic raw materials are ejected by the nozzle units **301**, accumulation of organic raw materials in the second protrusions and recessions **422** may be minimized.

As the number of second protrusions and recessions **422** is reduced to one, the number of boundaries between a plurality of openings may be reduced, and thus the possibility for organic raw materials to remain in the space between the red sub-pixel **411** and the green sub-pixel **412** in which the red organic raw material and the green organic raw material overlap with each other, or in the space between the green sub-

pixel **412** and the blue sub-pixel **413** in which the green organic raw material and the blue organic raw material overlap with each other, may be reduced.

On the other hand, in the direction in which the nozzle units **301** move, the first protrusions and recessions **421** with relatively small openings are formed at locations of the cathode contacting region **403** corresponding to the red, green, and blue sub-pixels **411**, **412** and **413**, respectively, and thus electrical connection between one of the electrodes in the display region **401** and a power wire may be easily established.

Particular design rules are necessary for forming the first protrusions and recessions **421** and the second protrusions and recessions **422** in the cathode contacting region **403**.

It is necessary for a pitch P1 between the red sub-pixel **411** and the green sub-pixel **412**, or between the green sub-pixel **412** and the blue sub-pixel **413**, to be identical to a pitch P2 between the adjacent second protrusions and recessions **422**.

In this regard, the pitch P1 between the sub-pixels is the length of an imaginary line interconnecting the centers of a pair of the sub-pixels **411** through **413** adjacent to each other, whereas the pitch P2 between the second protrusions and recessions **422** is also the length of an imaginary line interconnecting the centers of a pair of the second protrusions and recessions **422** adjacent to each other.

In other words, in the direction in which the nozzle units **301** move, an interval between the nozzle units **301** adjacent to each other is determined based on a pitch between sub-pixels adjacent to each other, and, as the interval between the nozzle units **301** is determined, an interval between the protrusions and recessions **422** is determined at locations of the cathode contacting regions **403**, the locations corresponding to spaces between the sub-pixels.

Therefore, organic raw materials may be applied to regions of the cathode contacting region **403** respectively designated to the organic raw materials, and thus concentration of organic raw materials in a particular region may be prevented.

As described above, in a non-display region like the cathode contacting region **403**, the remaining organic raw material may be reduced by forming the first and second protrusions and recessions **421** and **422**, respectively, so as to have different numbers and different unit opening areas according to a direction in which the nozzle units **301** move and the pitch between the nozzle units **301**. As a result, contact resistance due to organic raw material remaining in the cathode contacting region **403** may be lowered.

Although the first and second protrusions and recessions **421** and **422**, respectively, have rectangular openings having different sizes in the present embodiment, the present invention is not limited thereto, and the openings of the first and second protrusions and recessions **421** and **422**, respectively, may be patterned to have shapes of arbitrary polygons, such as a circle, a triangle, etc., a partially repeating shape, a zigzag shape, etc.

FIG. 5 shows a protrusion and recession pattern according to another embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 5, a red sub-pixel **511**, a green sub-pixel **512**, and a blue sub-pixel **513** are arranged in a display region **501**. First protrusions and recessions **521** and second protrusions and recessions **522**, which have different sizes and unit opening areas, are formed in a cathode contacting region **503**, which is a non-display region defined at the upper edge of the display region **501**.

Unlike in the above embodiment shown in FIG. 4, in the direction in which the nozzle units **301** move, the first protrusions and recessions **521** with relatively large openings are formed at locations of the cathode contacting region **503** corresponding to the red, green, and blue sub-pixels **511**, **512**

and **513**, respectively, whereas the second protrusions and recessions **521** with relatively small openings are formed at locations of the cathode contacting region **503** corresponding to the space between the red sub-pixel **511** and the green sub-pixel **512** or the space between the green sub-pixel **512** and the blue sub-pixel **513**.

In this regard, the first protrusions and recessions **521** include a plurality of patterned rectangular large openings, whereas the second protrusions and recessions **522** include single patterned rectangular small openings.

In the present embodiment, a surface treatment is selectively performed by using a separate nozzle unit before organic raw materials are applied, and thus the organic raw materials do not remain in the space between the red sub-pixel **511** and the green sub-pixel **512** or in the space between the green sub-pixel **512** and the blue sub-pixel **513**, where red, green, and blue organic raw materials overlap with each other.

In the first and second protrusions and recessions **521** and **522**, respectively, having the structure described above, it is still necessary for a pitch between the red sub-pixel **511** and the green sub-pixel **512** or between the green sub-pixel **512** and the blue sub-pixel **513** to be identical to a pitch between the adjacent second protrusions and recessions **522**.

Accordingly, contact resistance due to organic raw material remaining in the cathode contacting region **503** may be lowered.

FIG. 6 shows a protrusion and recession pattern according to another embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 6, a red sub-pixel **611**, a green sub-pixel **612**, and a blue sub-pixel **613** are arranged in a display region **601**.

A non-display region defined at the upper edge of the display region **601** includes an outgassing portion **602** and a cathode contacting region **603** which is adjacent to the outgassing portion **602**. The outgassing portion **602** is a hole for outgassing an organic raw material patterned below a substrate, while the cathode contacting region **603** is where one of the electrodes of the display region **601** is connected to a power wire.

In the direction in which the nozzle units **301** move, the first protrusions and recessions **621** with relatively small openings are formed at locations of the outgassing portion **602** and the cathode contacting region **603** corresponding to the red sub-pixel **611**, the green sub-pixel **612**, and the blue sub-pixel **613**, whereas the second protrusions and recessions **622** with relatively large openings are formed at locations of outgassing portion **602** and the cathode contacting region **603** corresponding to the space between the red sub-pixel **611** and the green sub-pixel **612** or the space between the green sub-pixel **612** and the blue sub-pixel **613**.

According to the present embodiment, the first protrusions and recessions **621** include a plurality of patterned rectangular small openings, whereas the second protrusions and recessions **622** include single patterned rectangular large openings.

In this regard, the size of the single opening formed as the second protrusions and recessions **622** is relatively larger than the size of one of the openings formed as the first protrusions and recessions **621**. Furthermore, the number of second protrusions and recessions **622** is relatively less than the number of first protrusions and recessions **621**.

In the first and second protrusions and recessions **621** and **622**, respectively, having the structure as described above, it is necessary for a pitch between the red sub-pixel **611** and the green sub-pixel **612** or between the green sub-pixel **612** and the blue sub-pixel **613** to be identical to a pitch between the adjacent second protrusions and recessions **622**.

As described above, in a non-display region like the cathode contacting region **603** the first and second protrusions and recessions **421** and **422**, respectively, the remaining organic raw material may be easily removed by forming the protrusions and recessions **621** and **622**, respectively, to have different numbers and different unit opening areas according to a direction in which the nozzle units **301** move and a pitch between the nozzle units **301**.

Furthermore, since the protrusions and recessions **621** and **622**, respectively, are formed so as to have different numbers and different unit opening areas in the outgassing portion **602** and the cathode contacting region **603**, the remaining organic raw material may be reduced, and thus panel reliability may be improved.

Furthermore, contact resistance at the cathode contacting region **603** may be lowered.

FIG. 7 shows a protrusion and recession pattern according to another embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 7, a red sub-pixel **711**, a green sub-pixel **712**, and a blue sub-pixel **713** are arranged in a display region **701**.

A non-display region defined at the upper edge of the display region **701** includes an outgassing portion **702**, a cathode contacting region **703** adjacent to the outgassing portion **702**, and a non-cathode contacting region **704** adjacent to the cathode contacting region **703**. The non-cathode contacting region **704** is a region in which a second conductive layer pattern, such as a cathode, is not deposited.

The outgassing portion **702**, the cathode contacting region **703**, and the non-cathode contacting region **704**, which are non-display regions defined at the upper edge of the display region **701**, include first protrusions and recessions **721** and second protrusions and recessions **722** having different numbers and unit opening areas.

In the direction in which the nozzle units **301** move, the first protrusions and recessions **721** with relatively large openings are formed at locations of the outgassing portion **702**, the cathode contacting region **703**, and the non-cathode contacting region **704** corresponding to the red sub-pixel **711**, the green sub-pixel **712**, and the blue sub-pixel **713**, whereas the second protrusions and recessions **722** with relatively small openings are formed at locations of outgassing portion **702**, the cathode contacting region **703**, and the non-cathode contacting region **704** corresponding to the space between the red sub-pixel **711** and the green sub-pixel **712** or the space between the green sub-pixel **712** and the blue sub-pixel **713**.

According to the present embodiment, the first protrusions and recessions **721** include a single patterned rectangular large opening, whereas the second protrusions and recessions **722** include a plurality of patterned rectangular small openings.

As described above, since the protrusions and recessions **721** and **722**, respectively, are formed so as to have different numbers and different unit opening areas in the outgassing portion **702**, the cathode contacting region **703**, and the non-cathode contacting region **704**, the remaining organic raw material may be reduced.

FIG. 8 shows a protrusion and recession pattern according to another embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 8, a red sub-pixel **811**, a green sub-pixel **812**, and a blue sub-pixel **813** are arranged in a display region **801**.

A non-display region defined at the upper edge of the display region **801** includes an outgassing portion **802**, a cathode contacting region **803** adjacent to the outgassing portion **802**, and a non-cathode contacting region **804** adjacent to the cathode contacting region **803**. The non-cathode

contacting region **804** is a region in which a second conductive layer pattern, such as a cathode, is not deposited.

In the direction in which the nozzle units **301** move, the first protrusions and recessions **821** with relatively small openings are formed at locations of the outgassing portion **802**, the cathode contacting region **803**, and the non-cathode contacting region **804** corresponding to the red sub-pixel **811**, the green sub-pixel **812**, and the blue sub-pixel **813**, whereas the second protrusions and recessions **822** with relatively large openings are formed at locations of outgassing portion **802**, the cathode contacting region **803**, and the non-cathode contacting region **804** corresponding to the space between the red sub-pixel **811** and the green sub-pixel **812** or the space between the green sub-pixel **812** and the blue sub-pixel **813**.

In this regard, in the outgassing portion **802**, protrusions and recessions are partially removed in comparison to the embodiment of FIG. 7. Furthermore, in the non-cathode contacting region **804**, protrusions and recessions are partially removed in comparison to the embodiment of FIG. 7.

The regions in which protrusions and recessions are partially removed are portions of the outgassing portion **802** and the non-cathode contacting region **804** corresponding to the space between the red sub-pixel **811** and the green sub-pixel **812** or the space between the green sub-pixel **812** and the blue sub-pixel **813**.

FIG. 9 shows a protrusion and recession pattern according to another embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 9, a red sub-pixel **911**, a green sub-pixel **912**, and a blue sub-pixel **913** are arranged in a display region **901**.

In the direction in which the nozzle units **301** move, first protrusions and recessions **921** with relatively large openings are formed at locations of the outgassing portion **902**, the cathode contacting region **903**, and the non-cathode contacting region **904** corresponding to the red sub-pixel **911**, the green sub-pixel **912**, and the blue sub-pixel **913**, whereas second protrusions and recessions **922** with relatively small openings are formed at locations of the outgassing portion **902**, the cathode contacting region **903**, and the non-cathode contacting region **904** corresponding to the space between the red sub-pixel **911** and the green sub-pixel **912** or the space between the green sub-pixel **912** and the blue sub-pixel **913**.

In this regard, the regions in which protrusions and recessions are partially removed are the outgassing portion **902** and the non-cathode contacting region **904** corresponding to the space between the red sub-pixel **911** and the green sub-pixel **912** or the space between the green sub-pixel **912** and the blue sub-pixel **913**.

The regions in which protrusions and recessions are partially removed are portions of the outgassing portion **902** and the non-cathode contacting region **904** corresponding to the red sub-pixel **911**, the green sub-pixel **912**, and the blue sub-pixel **913**.

FIG. 10 shows a protrusion and recession pattern according to another embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 10, first protrusions and recessions **1021** and second protrusions and recessions **1022** having different numbers and unit opening areas are formed in a cathode contacting region **1001**.

In the present embodiment, the cathode contacting region **1001** is a region formed at the entrance to a display region in a direction in which the nozzle units **301** move. The first protrusions and recessions **1021** is a region corresponding to regions to which colored organic raw materials are applied, where a plurality of small openings are patterned in the first protrusions and recessions **1021**. The second protrusions and recessions **1022** is a region corresponding to spaces between

the region to which colored organic raw materials are applied, where a single large opening is patterned in the second protrusions and recessions **1022**.

FIG. 11 shows a protrusion and recession pattern according to another embodiment of the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 11, first protrusions and recessions **1121** and second protrusions and recessions **1122** having different numbers and unit opening areas are formed in a cathode contacting region **1101**. The cathode contacting region **1101** is a region formed at the entrance to a display region in a direction in which the nozzle units **301** move.

Unlike in the embodiment shown in FIG. 10, the first protrusions and recessions **1121** corresponding to regions to which colored organic raw materials are applied include single patterned large openings, whereas the second protrusions and recessions **1122** corresponding to spaces between the region to which colored organic raw materials are applied include a plurality of patterned small openings.

According to embodiments of the present invention as described above, an OLED display according to the present invention may have the following effects.

First, since protrusions and recessions having different numbers and unit opening areas are formed in a non-display region, organic raw materials applied during the manufacturing process may be prevented from remaining. Therefore, an increase in contact resistance due to organic raw materials remaining in a cathode contact region may be reduced.

Second, since the amount of organic raw materials remaining in a non-display region may be reduced, deterioration of the reliability of a display device due to outgassing may be improved.

While the present invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to exemplary embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art that various changes in form and detail may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An organic light-emitting diode (OLED) display, comprising:

a substrate; and

a plurality of sub-pixels formed on the substrate;

wherein the substrate comprises:

a display region having formed therein sub-pixels to which colored organic materials are applied; and

a non-display region formed at edges of the display region;

wherein the non-display region comprises an outgassing portion and a cathode contacting portion; and

wherein protrusions and recessions having different numbers and unit opening areas are formed in at least one of the outgassing portion and the cathode contacting region.

2. The OLED display of claim 1, wherein the protrusions and recessions comprise:

a plurality of first protrusions and recessions having a first unit opening area; and

a plurality of second protrusions and recessions having a second unit opening area which is larger than the first unit opening area.

3. The OLED display of claim 2, wherein a number of second protrusions and recessions is less than a number of the first protrusions and recessions.

4. The OLED display of claim 3, wherein a size of each opening formed as the second protrusions and recessions is larger than a size of each opening formed as the first protrusions and recessions.

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5. The OLED display of claim 2, wherein one of the outgassing portion and the cathode contacting region is continuously defined from an edge of the display region to an opposite edge of the display region in a direction in which nozzle units depositing organic raw materials move;

wherein the first protrusions and recessions are formed in portions of the non-display region corresponding to the sub-pixels; and

wherein the second protrusions and recessions are formed in portions of the non-display region corresponding to spaces between the sub-pixels.

6. The OLED display of claim 5, wherein a pitch between a pair of sub-pixels adjacent to each other is identical to a pitch between a pair of the second protrusions and recessions formed in a portion of the non-display region corresponding to a space between the sub-pixels.

7. The OLED display of claim 1, wherein the protrusions and recessions have one of a polygonal opening pattern and a circular opening pattern.

8. The OLED display of claim 1, wherein one of the outgassing portion and the cathode contacting region is continuously defined outside the display region from an edge of the display region to an opposite edge of the display region in a direction in which nozzle units depositing organic raw materials move; and

wherein the protrusions and recessions are formed so as to have different unit opening areas in adjacent regions formed in the direction in which the nozzle units move.

9. The OLED display of claim 8, wherein a pitch between a pair of sub-pixels adjacent to each other in the direction in which the nozzle units move is identical to a pitch between a pair of protrusions and recessions formed adjacent to each other in a portion of the non-display region corresponding to a space between the sub-pixels.

10. The OLED display of claim 8, wherein the protrusions and recessions comprise:

first protrusions and recessions formed in portions of the non-display region corresponding to sub-pixels adjacent to each other in the direction in which the nozzle units move; and

second protrusions and recessions formed in portions of the non-display region corresponding to spaces between the sub-pixels and having a unit opening area different from a unit opening area of the first protrusions and recessions.

11. The OLED display of claim 10, wherein, when a unit opening area of the first protrusions and recessions is smaller than a unit opening area of the second protrusions and recessions, a number of first protrusions and recessions is greater than a number of second protrusions and recessions.

12. The OLED display of claim 10, wherein, when a unit opening area of the first protrusions and recessions is larger than a unit opening area of the second protrusions and recessions, a number of first protrusions and recessions is less than a number of second protrusions and recessions.

13. The OLED display of claim 1, wherein the cathode contacting region is a region in which an electrode of the display region and a power wire are electrically connected to each other.

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14. The OLED display of claim 1, wherein a non-cathode contacting region, in which no conductive pattern is formed, is further defined in a region adjacent to the cathode contacting region; and

wherein protrusions and recessions having different unit opening areas are formed in the non-cathode contacting region.

15. The OLED display of claim 1, wherein the display region comprises:

a thin-film transistor (TFT) including a semiconductor active layer, a gate electrode, a source electrode and a drain electrode;

an insulation layer formed to cover the source electrode and the drain electrode; and

an organic emissive device formed on the insulation layer and including:

a first electrode connected to one of the source electrode and the drain electrode;

an emissive layer; and

a second electrode.

16. The OLED display of claim 15, wherein a plurality of protrusions and recessions are formed in portions of the non-display region adjacent to the display region;

wherein a first conductive pattern corresponding to a power wire arranged on the substrate is formed on the protrusions and recessions; and

wherein a second conductive pattern corresponding to the one of first electrode and the second electrode is formed on the first conductive pattern.

17. The OLED display of claim 16, wherein the protrusions and recessions comprise:

a plurality of first protrusions and recessions having a first unit opening area; and

at least one second protrusions and recessions having a second unit opening area which is larger than the first unit opening area.

18. The OLED display of claim 17, wherein the first protrusions and recessions and the second protrusions and recessions are formed from an edge of the display region to an opposite edge of the display region in a direction in which a nozzle unit depositing organic raw materials moves;

wherein the first protrusions and recessions are formed in portions of the non-display region respectively corresponding to sub-pixels; and

wherein the second protrusions and recessions are formed in portions of the non-display region respectively corresponding to spaces between the sub-pixels.

19. The OLED display of claim 18, wherein a pitch between a pair of sub-pixels adjacent to each other is identical to a pitch between a pair of second protrusions and recessions formed in the portions of the non-display region respectively corresponding to spaces between the sub-pixels.

20. The OLED display of claim 16, wherein the protrusions and recessions comprise:

at least one first protrusions and recessions having a first unit opening area; and

a plurality of second protrusions and recessions having a second unit opening area, which is smaller than the first unit opening area.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	有机发光二极管显示器		
公开(公告)号	US8508124	公开(公告)日	2013-08-13
申请号	US13/448901	申请日	2012-04-17
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	MIN KYOUNG 旭		
申请(专利权)人(译)	MIN , KYOUNG 旭		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	三星DISPLAY CO. , LTD.		
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发明人	MIN, KYOUNG-WOOK		
IPC分类号	H01L51/50 H01L51/52		
CPC分类号	H01L27/3211 H01L27/3279 H01L51/0005 H01L2227/323		
优先权	1020110116475 2011-11-09 KR		
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摘要(译)

一种有机发光二极管 (OLED) 显示器，包括基板和形成在基板上的多个子像素，其中基板包括显示区域，其中形成有子像素，有色有机材料应用于所述子像素，以及非基板显示区域形成在显示区域的边缘处。非显示区域包括除气部分和阴极接触部分，并且在除气部分和阴极接触区域中的至少一个中形成具有不同数量和单位开口面积的突起和凹陷。因此，可以防止在制造过程中施加的有机原料残留。因此，可以减少由于残留在阴极接触区域中的有机原料引起的接触电阻的增加。

