



US009722203B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Nagata

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,722,203 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Aug. 1, 2017**

(54) **DISPLAY DEVICE**

(71) Applicant: **Japan Display Inc.**, Tokyo (JP)

(72) Inventor: **Tetsuya Nagata**, Tokyo (JP)

(73) Assignee: **Japan Display Inc.**, Tokyo (JP)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 1 day.

(21) Appl. No.: **14/809,713**

(22) Filed: **Jul. 27, 2015**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2016/0028039 A1 Jan. 28, 2016

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Jul. 28, 2014 (JP) 2014-152517

(51) **Int. Cl.**
H01L 51/52 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **H01L 51/524** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC H01L 51/0545; H01L 51/0036; H01L 51/0541; H01L 51/5012

See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

7,542,105 B2* 6/2009 Sato G02F 1/133528
349/58
2007/0152577 A1 7/2007 Cho et al.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

JP 2007-183605 A 7/2007

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner — Quoc Hoang

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Typha IP LLC

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A display device includes a first substrate, a light emitting element located on the first substrate and including a pair of electrodes and one organic layer or a plurality of organic layers located between the pair of electrodes, a second substrate located to face the first substrate, a third substrate located on a surface of the second substrate opposite to a surface thereof facing the light emitting element, and a tacky layer located between the second substrate and the third substrate, a tack strength between the tacky layer and the second substrate or the third substrate being weaker than an adhesive strength between one of the pair of electrodes and the one organic layer or an adhesive strength between the plurality of organic layers.

16 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets

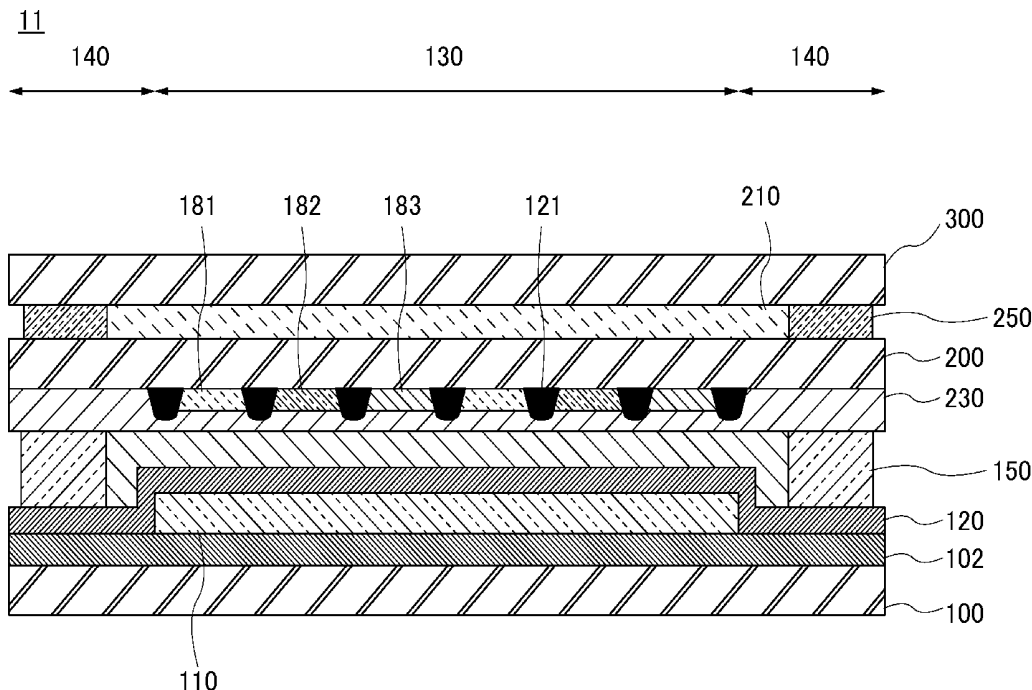


FIG. 1

10

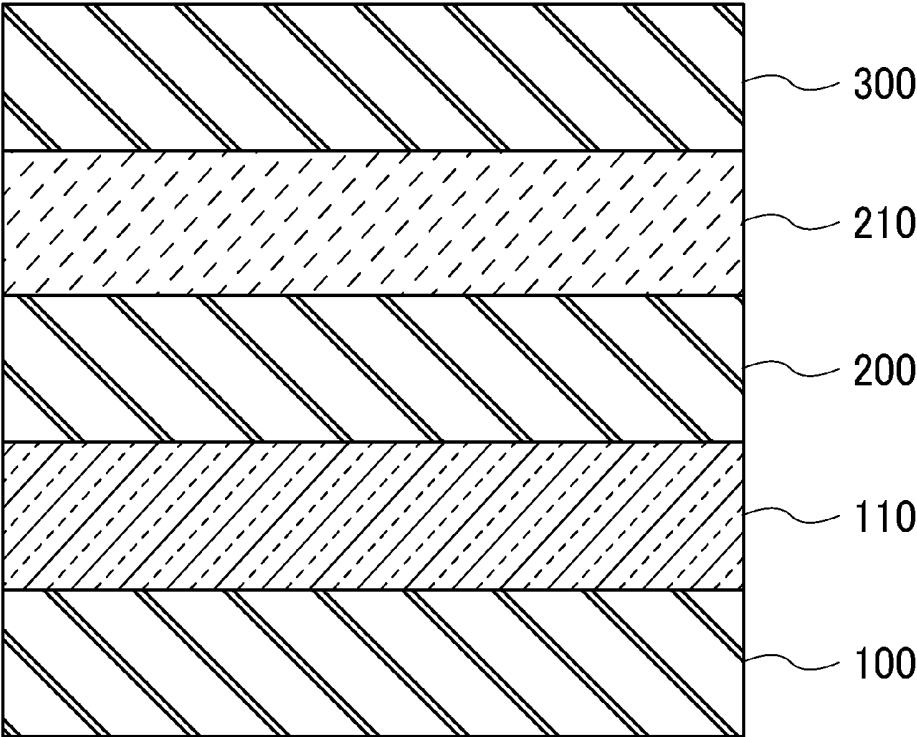


FIG. 2

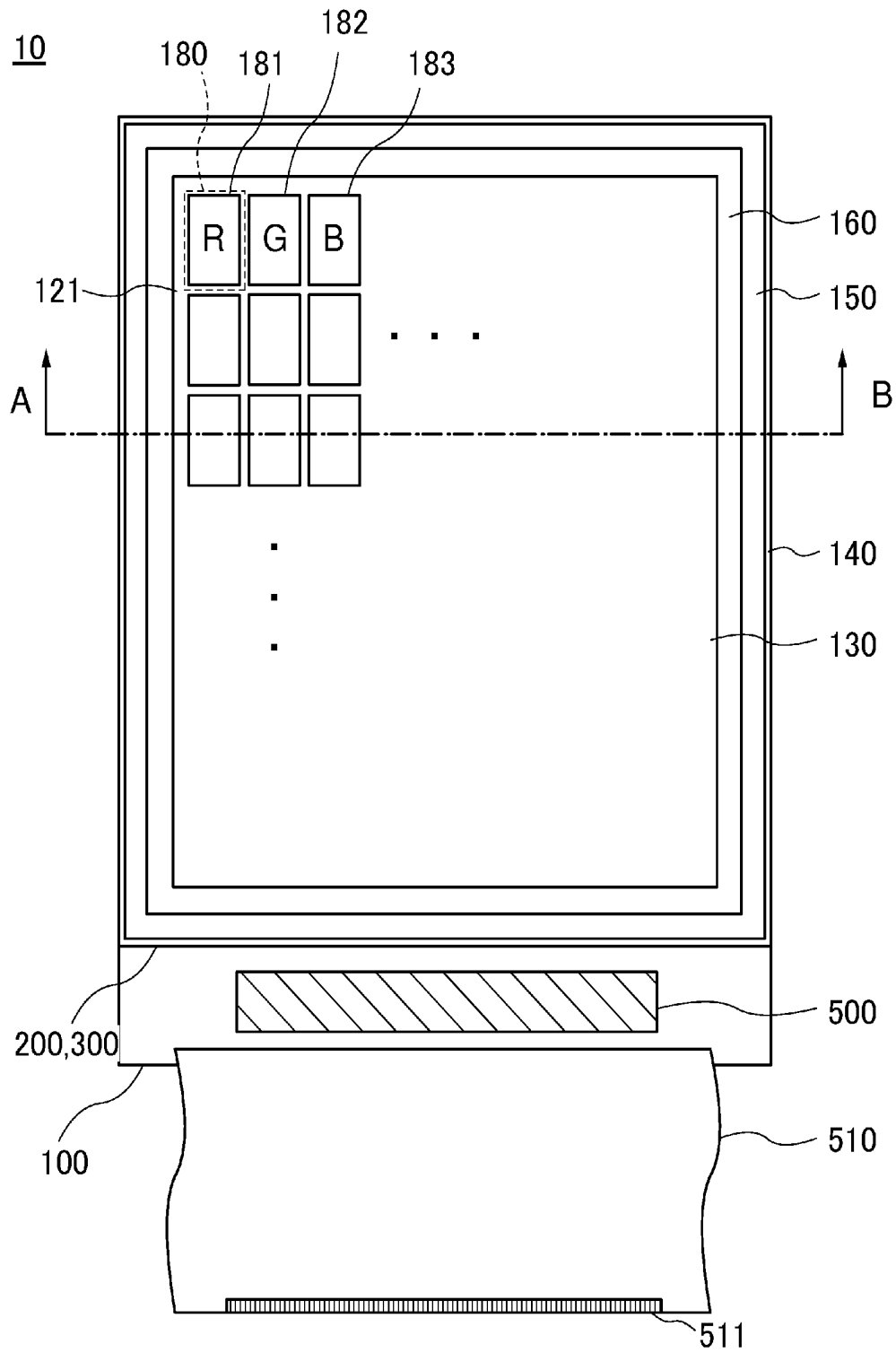


FIG. 3

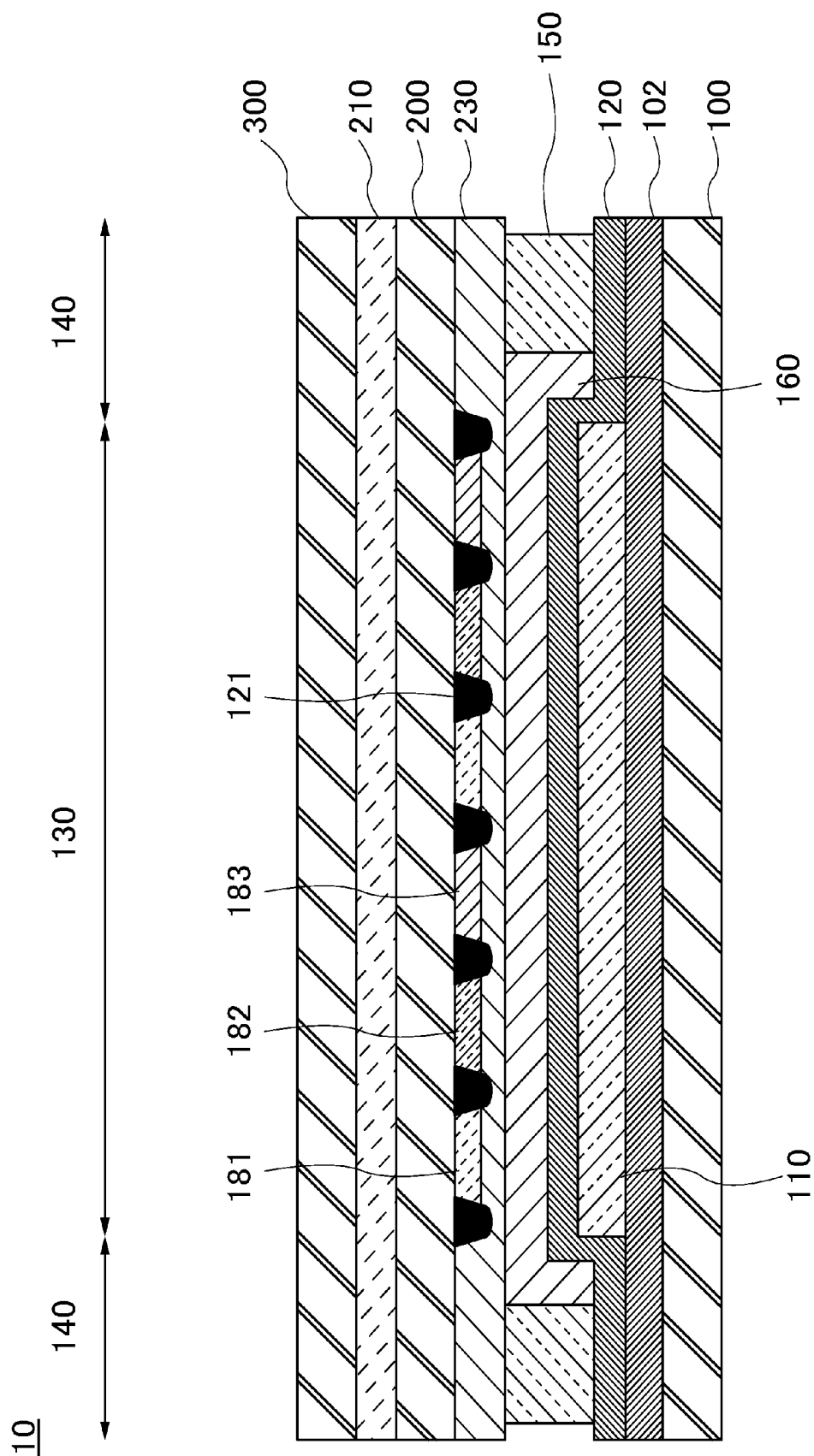


FIG. 4

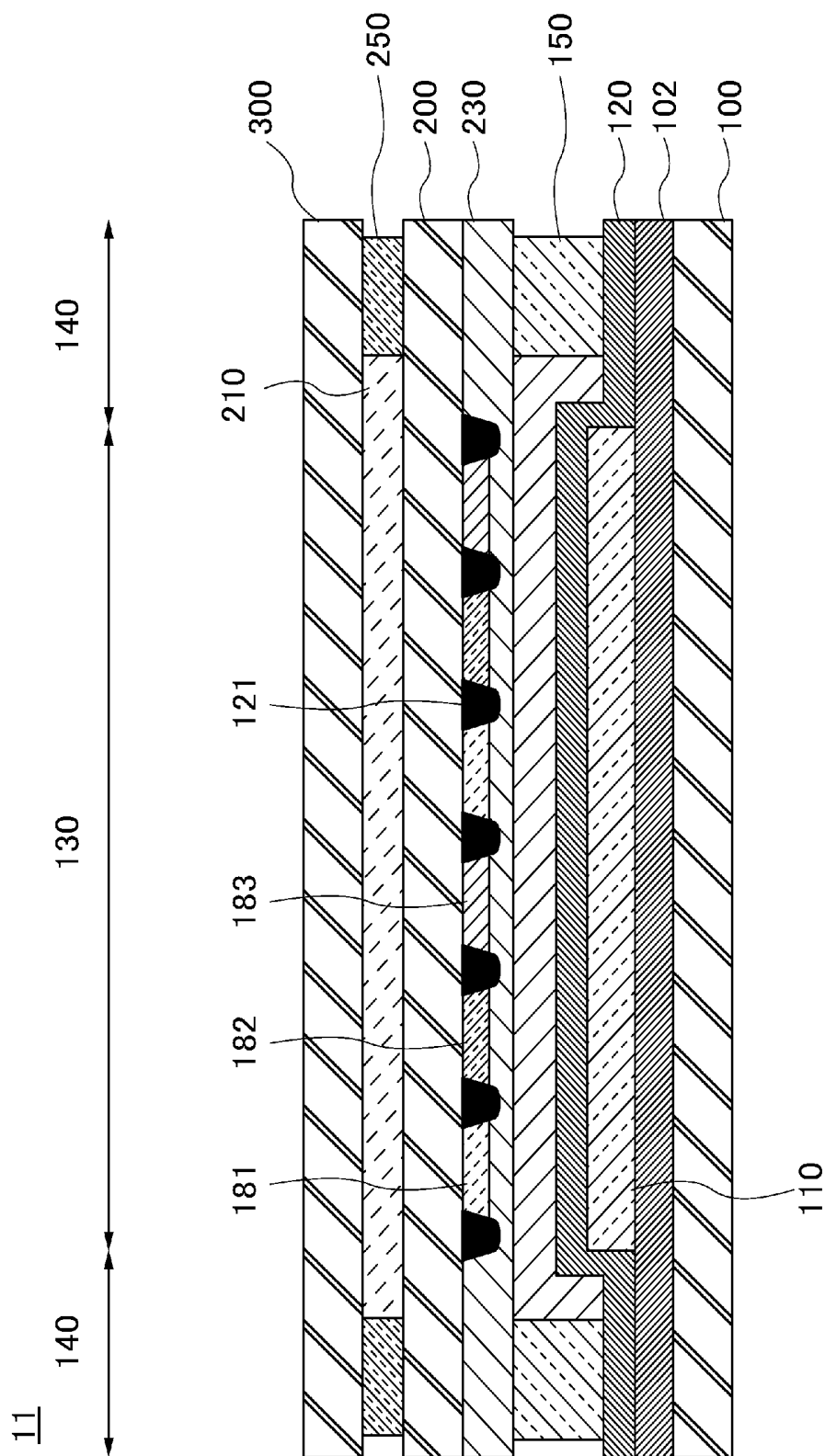


FIG. 5

20

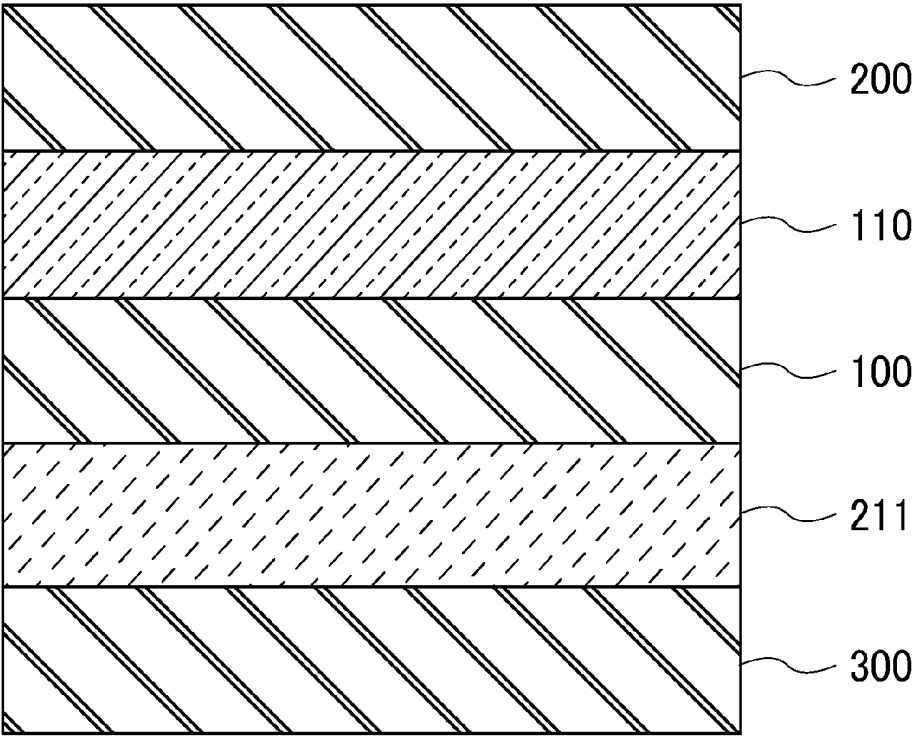


FIG. 6

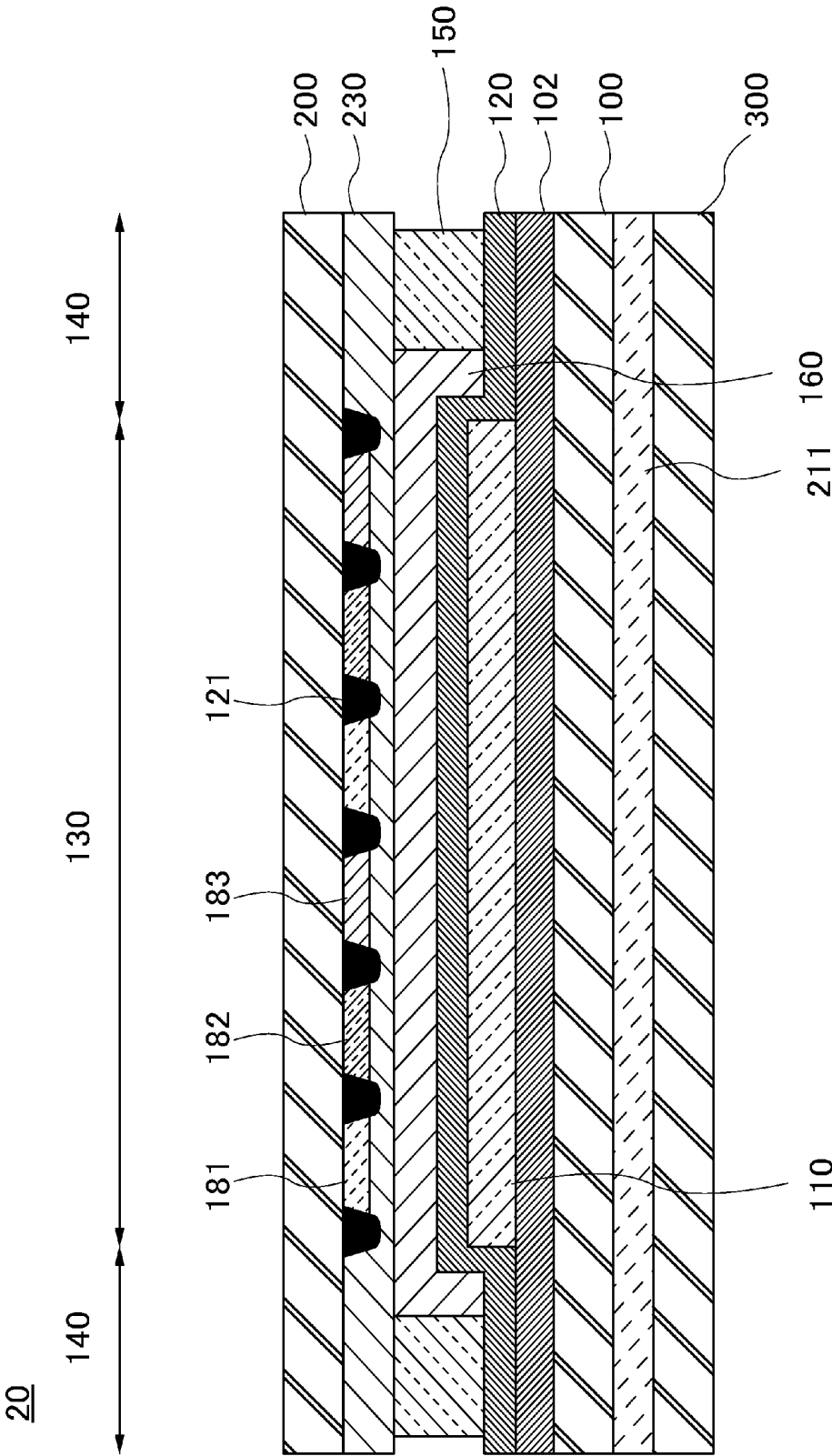


FIG. 7

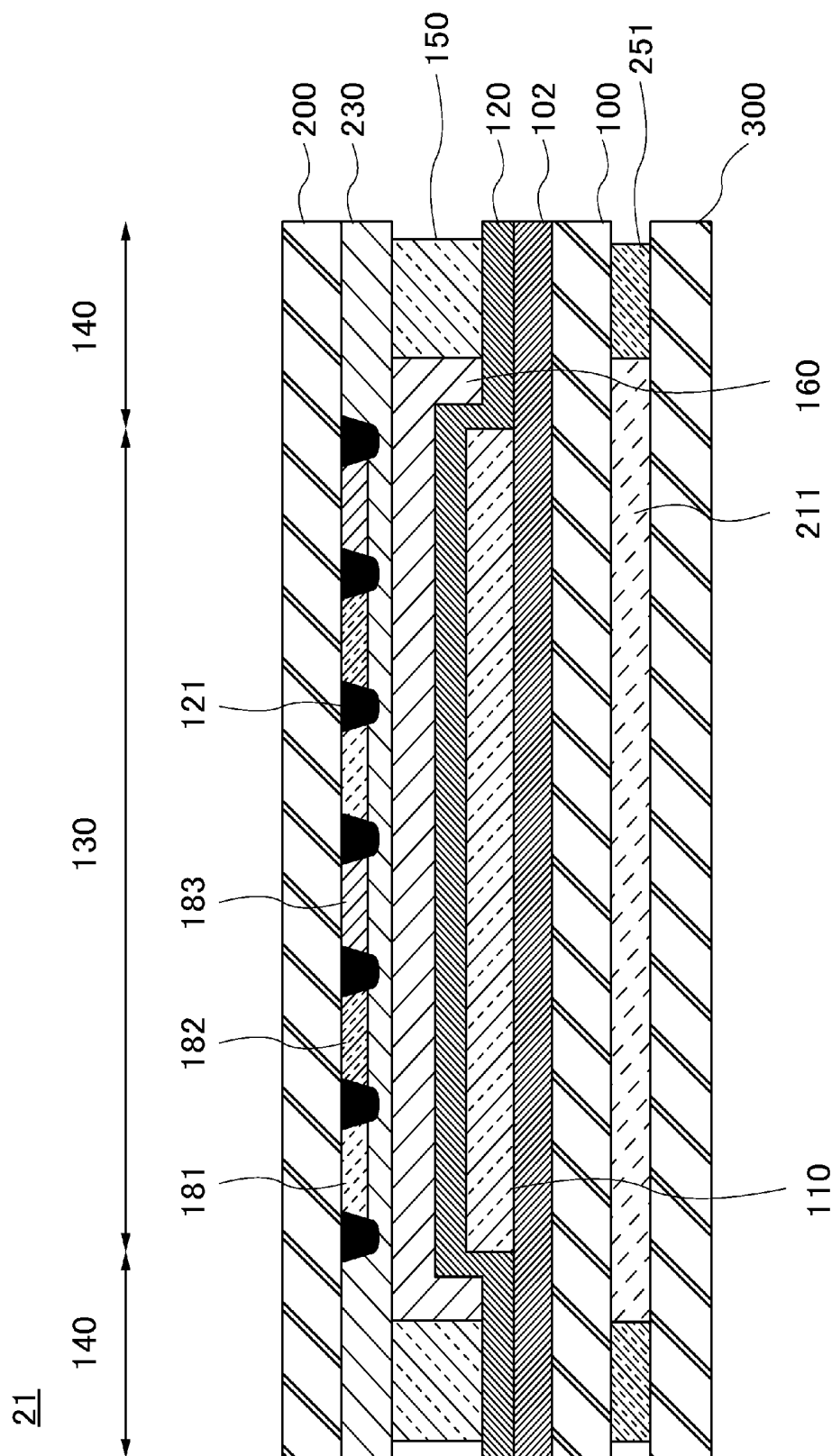


FIG. 8

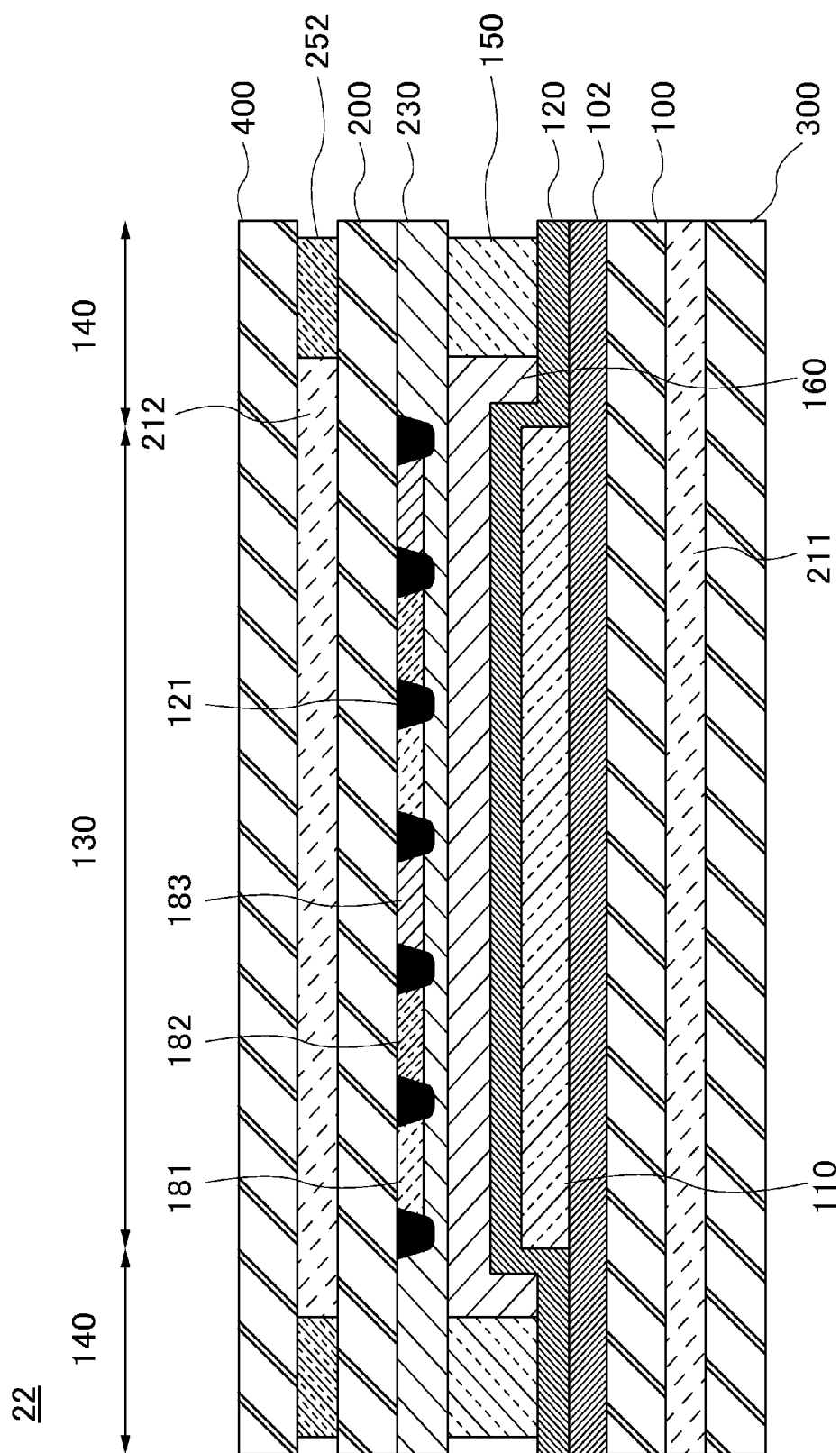


FIG. 9

30

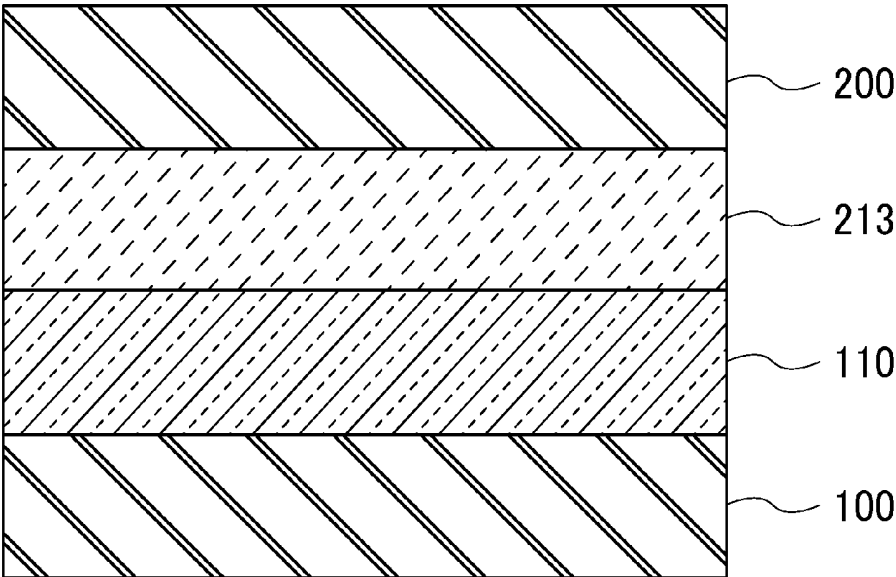


FIG. 10

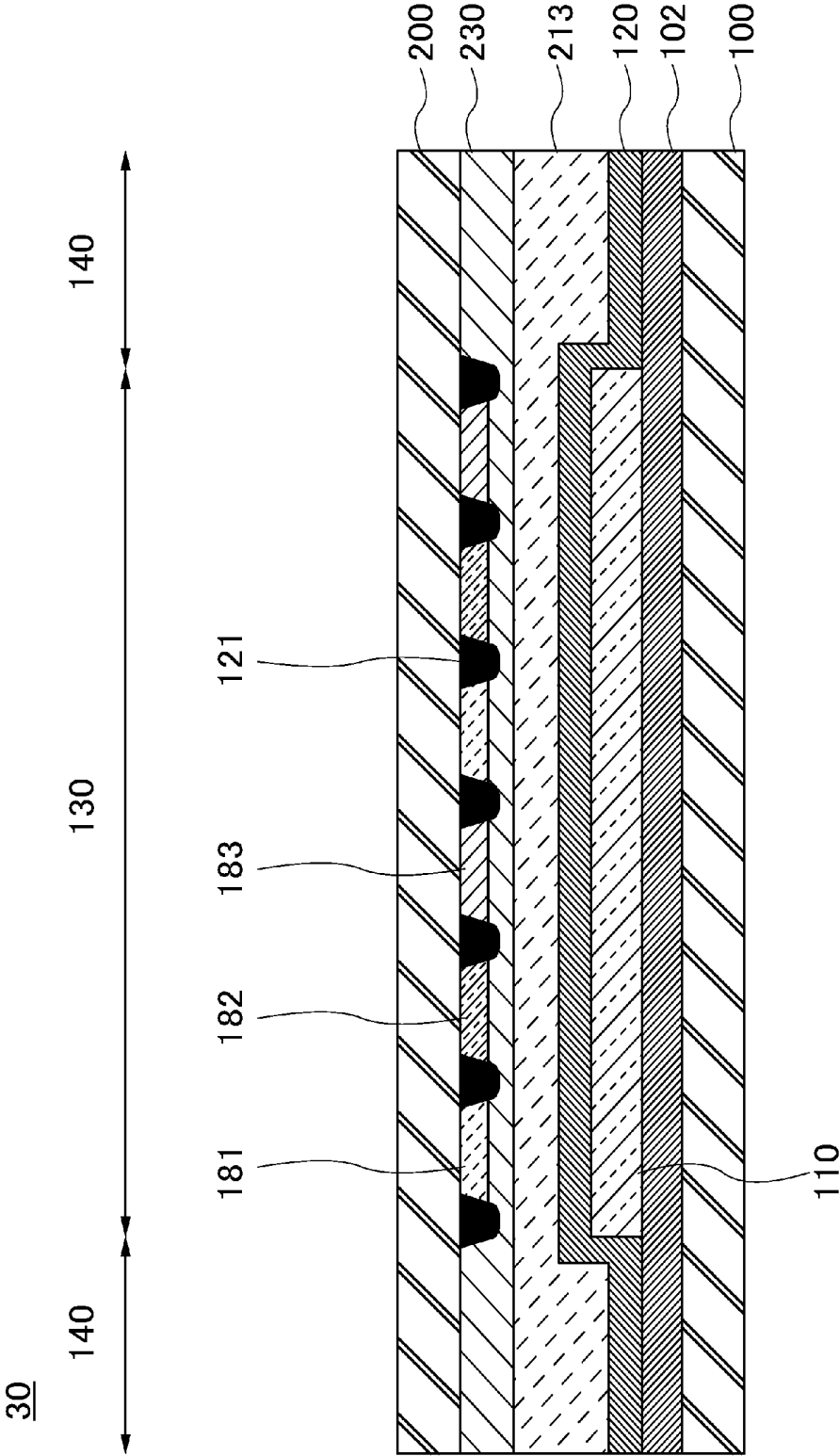


FIG. 11

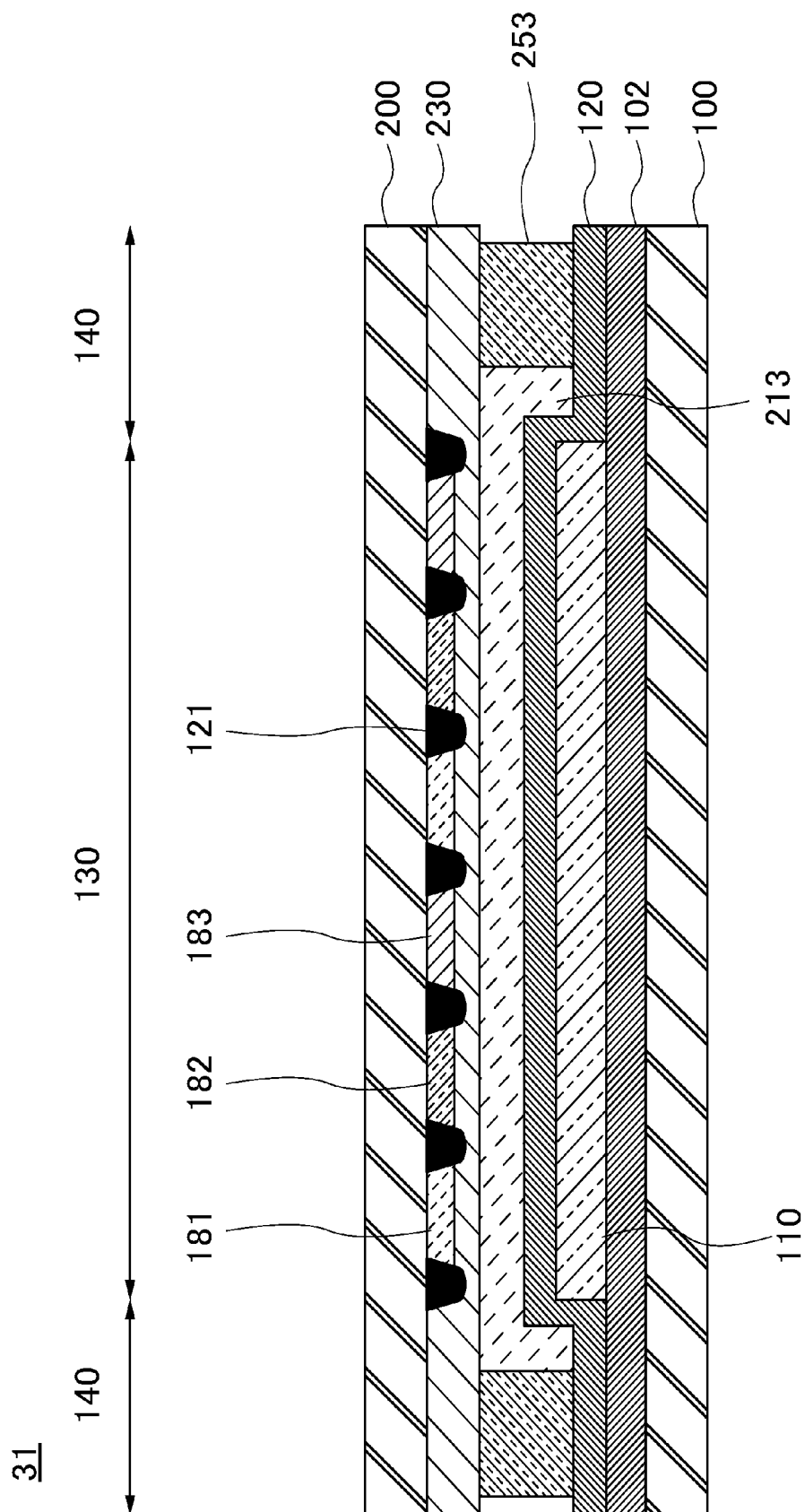


FIG. 12

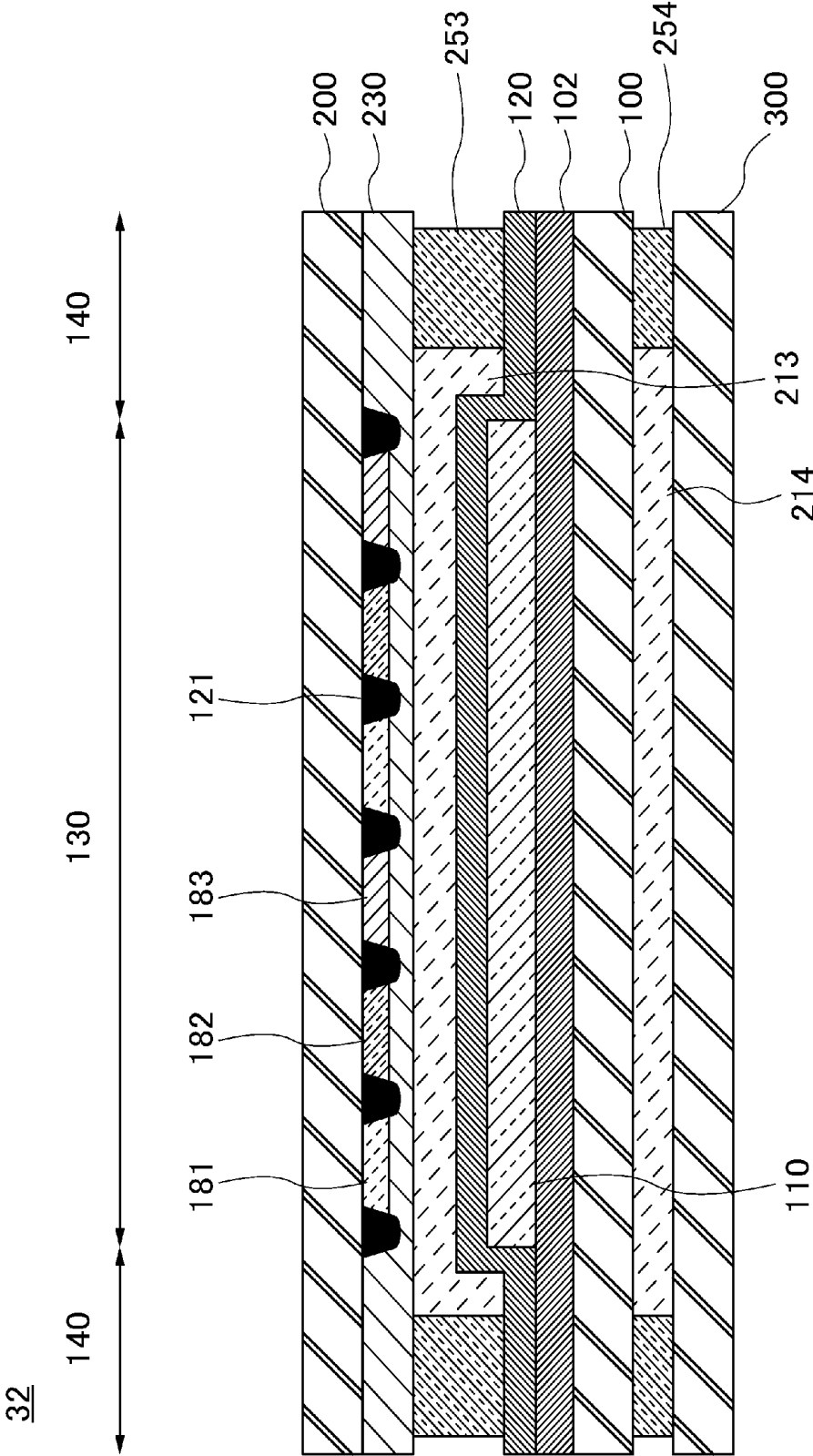


FIG. 13

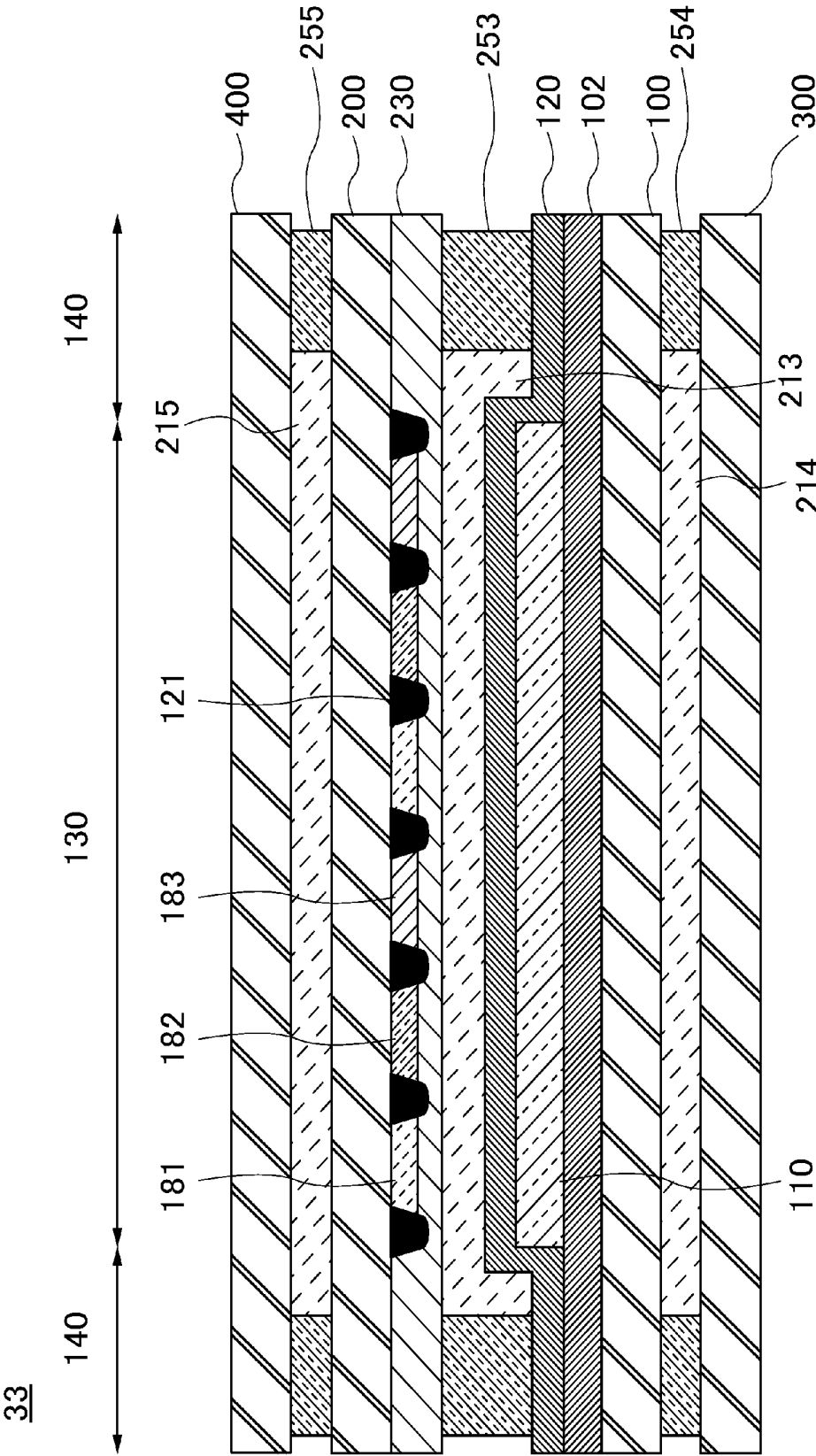
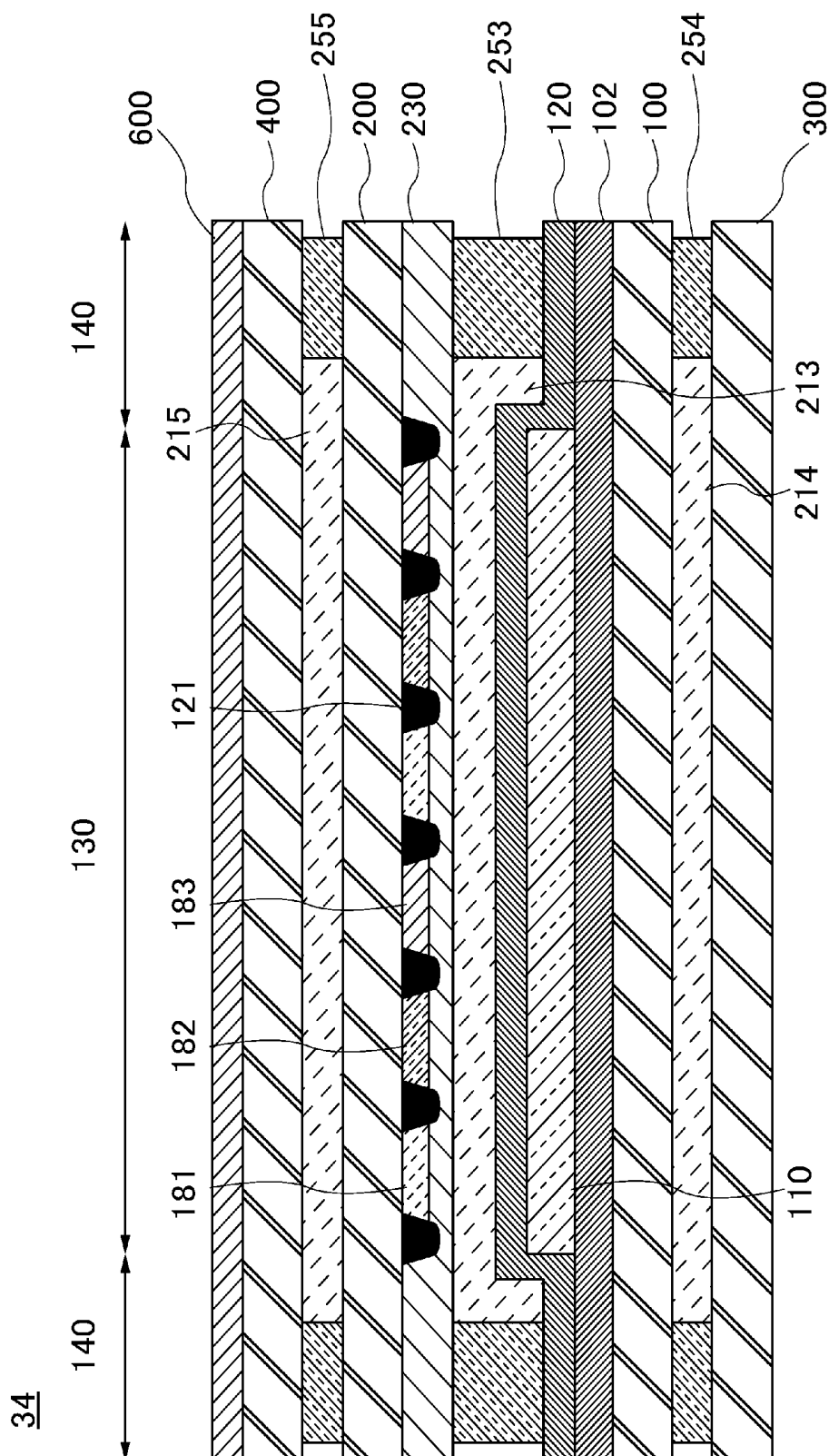


FIG. 14



1 DISPLAY DEVICE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is based upon and claims the benefit of priority from the prior Japanese Patent Application No. 2014-152517, filed on Jul. 28, 2014, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD

The present invention relates to a display device, and an embodiment disclosed herein relates to a structure of substrates assembled together.

BACKGROUND

Recently, light-emitting display devices for uses in mobile devices are increasingly strongly desired to have higher definition and consume less power. Examples of display devices for uses in mobile devices are liquid crystal display devices (LCDs), display devices using elements for spontaneously emitting light, for example, organic light-emitting diode (OLED) display devices (or organic EL display devices), electronic paper display devices, and the like.

Among the above, organic EL display devices do not require a backlight unit, which is required in liquid crystal display devices, and also use an organic light emitting element driven at a low voltage. For these reasons, organic EL display devices are a target of attention as thin light emitting display devices consuming low power. Especially, top emission-type organic EL display devices using white light emitting elements and color filters for light emission to realize full-color display have been progressively developed. Organic EL display device using color filters do not require a polarizer. The above-described top emission-type organic EL display devices realize both of a higher numerical aperture of pixels and higher definition, and therefore attract a significant attention. The organic EL display devices can be formed merely of thin films, and thus can be made flexible. Such flexible display devices do not use a glass substrate, and therefore are lightweight and are not easily breakable. For these reasons, organic EL display devices attract a lot of attention (e.g., Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2007-183605).

SUMMARY

A display device in an embodiment according to the present invention includes a first substrate, a light emitting element located on the first substrate and including a pair of electrodes and one organic layer or a plurality of organic layers located between the pair of electrodes, a second substrate located to face the first substrate, a third substrate located on a surface of the second substrate opposite to a surface thereof facing the light emitting element, and a tacky layer located between the second substrate and the third substrate, a tack strength between the tacky layer and the second substrate or the third substrate being weaker than an adhesive strength between one of the pair of electrodes and the one organic layer or an adhesive strength between the plurality of organic layers.

A display device in an embodiment according to the present invention includes a first substrate, a light emitting element located on the first substrate and including a pair of electrodes and one organic layer or a plurality of organic

2

layers located between the pair of electrodes, a second substrate located to face the first substrate, a third substrate located on a surface of the first substrate opposite to a surface thereof having the light emitting element located thereon, and a first tacky layer located between the first substrate and the third substrate, a tack strength between the first tacky layer and the first substrate or the third substrate being weaker than an adhesive strength between one of the pair of electrodes and the one organic layer or an adhesive strength between the plurality of organic layers.

A display device in an embodiment according to the present invention includes a first substrate having a light emitting element located on a surface thereon, the light emitting element including a pair of electrodes and one organic layer or a plurality of organic layers located between the pair of electrodes, a second substrate located to face the surface of the first substrate having the light emitting element located thereon, and a first tacky layer located between the first substrate and the second substrate and having a thickness of 10 μm or less, a tack strength between the first tacky layer and the first substrate or the second substrate being weaker than an adhesive strength between one of the pair of electrodes and the one organic layer or an adhesive strength between the plurality of organic layers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 shows a layer structure of a display device in embodiment 1 according to the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a plan view of the display device in embodiment 1 according to the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the display device in embodiment 1 according to the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view of a display device in a modification of embodiment 1 according to the present invention;

FIG. 5 shows a layer structure of a display device in embodiment 2 according to the present invention;

FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view of the display device in embodiment 2 according to the present invention;

FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view of a display device in modification 1 of embodiment 2 according to the present invention;

FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view of a display device in modification 2 of embodiment 2 according to the present invention;

FIG. 9 shows a layer structure of a display device in embodiment 3 according to the present invention;

FIG. 10 is a cross-sectional view of the display device in embodiment 3 according to the present invention;

FIG. 11 is a cross-sectional view of a display device in modification 1 of embodiment 3 according to the present invention;

FIG. 12 is a cross-sectional view of a display device in modification 2 of embodiment 3 according to the present invention;

FIG. 13 is a cross-sectional view of a display device in modification 3 of embodiment 3 according to the present invention; and

FIG. 14 is a cross-sectional view of a display device in modification 4 of embodiment 3 according to the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

Hereinafter, embodiments of the present invention will be described with reference to the drawings. The disclosure is

merely exemplary, and alternations and modifications easily conceivable by a person of ordinary skill in the art without departing from the gist of the present invention are duly encompassed in the scope of the present invention. In the drawings, components may be shown schematically regarding the width, thickness, shape and the like, instead of being shown in accordance with the actual sizes, for the sake of illustration. The drawings are merely exemplary and do not limit the interpretations of the present invention in any way. In the specification and the drawings, components that are substantially the same as those shown in a previous drawing (s) bear the identical reference signs thereto, and detailed descriptions thereof may be omitted.

Embodiment 1

With reference to FIG. 1 through FIG. 3, a layer structure and a device structure of a display device **10** in embodiment 1 according to the present will be described. The display device **10** in embodiment 1 is a top emission-type organic EL display device using a white light emitting element as a light emitting element and also using color filters to realize full-color display (hereinafter, such a structure will be referred to as a "white+CF structure"). In the display device **10**, a tacky layer **210** and a third substrate **300** are assembled to a counter substrate on which the color filters (CFs) are provided.

[Structure of the Display Device **10**]

FIG. 1 shows a layer structure of the display device **10** in embodiment 1 according to the present invention. As shown in FIG. 1, the display device **10** includes a first substrate **100**, a light emitting element **110** located on the first substrate **100**, a second substrate **200** located to face the first substrate **100** while having the light emitting element **110** therebetween, a tacky layer **210** located on a surface of the second substrate **200** opposite to a surface thereof facing the light emitting element **110**, and the third substrate **300** located to face the second substrate **200** while having the tacky layer **210** therebetween.

The first substrate **100** may be formed of a material durable against a step of forming a transistor layer or the like included in the light emitting element **110**. The first substrate **100** may be formed of, for example, a glass substrate or a quartz substrate that is highly resistant against heat and chemicals or a plastic substrate containing impurities in order to be improved in the resistance against heat and chemicals. In a top emission-type organic EL display device as in embodiment 1, light emitted from the light emitting element **110** is output from the third substrate **300**. In the case where being included in such a top emission-type organic EL display device, the first substrate **100** does not necessarily need to be highly light-transmissive and may be reflective. In a bottom emission-type organic EL display device, light emitted from the light emitting element **110** is output from the first substrate **100**. In the case where being included in such a bottom emission-type organic EL display device, the first substrate is desirably highly light-transmissive.

The first substrate **100** may be formed of a flexible material. Specifically, the first substrate **100** may be formed of a polyimide resin, an acrylic resin or the like. In this case, the first substrate **100** has a thickness of, preferably, 3 μm or greater and 50 μm or less, and more preferably, 5 μm or greater and 20 μm or less. In the case where being included in a top emission-type organic EL display device as in embodiment 1, the first substrate **100** does not necessarily need to be highly light-transmissive as described above.

Therefore, the first substrate **100** may contain impurities incorporated thereto in order to, for example, be improved in the resistance against a heat treatment performed in a step of forming a transistor. It causes no problem even if the light transmittance of the first substrate **100** is decreased due to the impurities.

The light emitting element **110** includes a transistor layer and an organic light emitting layer. The transistor layer includes a transistor element and a line. The transistor element may be an amorphous silicon transistor element, a polysilicon transistor element, a single crystalline silicon transistor element, an oxide semiconductor transistor element, an organic semiconductor transistor element or the like. The light emitting element **110** does not necessarily need to include a transistor element. For example, the first substrate **100** may include a line and an organic light emitting layer as in a passive display device.

The organic light emitting layer of the light emitting layer **110** includes a pair of electrodes (upper electrode and lower electrode) and a single layer of an organic material or a stack of a plurality of layers of organic materials. The single layer or the plurality of layers are provided between the pair of electrodes. The organic material may contain, for example, an electron injection material, an electron transfer material, a hole injection material, or a hole transfer material in addition to a light emitting material. The light emitting material in the display device **10** in embodiment 1 may be a white light emitting material including a stack of a plurality of light emitting materials that emit light of different wavelength regions, or may be a single-color light emitting material that emits light of either one of R (red), G (green) and B (blue) wavelength regions.

The second substrate **200** may have the same composition as that of the first substrate **100**. In the case where being included in a top emission-type organic EL display device, the second substrate **200** is desirably highly light-transmissive, as opposed to the first substrate **100**. By contrast, in the case where being included in a bottom emission-type organic EL display device, the second substrate **200** does not necessarily need to be highly light-transmissive and may be reflective.

The tacky layer **210** is formed of a tacky material. After being attached to another layer and then peeled off therefrom, the tacky material is kept tacky. Herein, a "tacky" material has both liquid and solid nature and is kept wet stably. A tacky material is different from an adhesive material, which is liquid and is solidified after being applied to another material, resulting in adhering thereto. In other words, the "tackiness" indicates a state where the material is not completely dried and is sticky at the surface. Therefore, the tacky layer **210** having tackiness can be attached to another layer without being cured to be solidified. After being attached to another layer, the tacky layer **210** can be peeled off while being kept tacky. For example, even when being attached to another layer and then peeled off therefrom, the tacky layer **210** can be re-attached to the same layer by an external pressure or an own weight thereof to return to the previous state.

As the tacky material, a weakly tacky material is preferable. For example, an acrylic resin-based tacky material and a glass plate react each other strongly, and thus are not easily peeled off. Tacky materials that are weakly tacky and are easily peeled off include, for example, rubber-based tacky materials, urethane-based tacky materials, and polyether-based tacky materials.

In the case where a tacky material is provided on the side of a display device on which display is to be visually

recognized, optical characteristics are important. It is desirable to select a tacky material that is transparent and colorless. In the case where a tacky material is provided close to the organic light emitting layer, an emulsion-based tacky material is preferable, not a solvent-based tacky material.

The third substrate **300** may have the same composition as that of the first substrate **100**. In the case where being included in a top emission-type organic EL display device, the third substrate **300** is preferably highly light-transmissive, like the second substrate **200**. By contrast, in the case where being included in a bottom emission-type organic EL display device, the third substrate **300** does not necessarily need to be highly light-transmissive and may be reflective.

The tack strength between the tacky layer **210** and the second substrate **200** or the third substrate **300** is weaker than the adhesive strength between one of the pair of electrodes and the organic material included in the light emitting element **110**. In the case where the light emitting layer **110** includes a stack of a plurality of organic materials, the tack strength between the tacky layer **210** and the second substrate **200** or the third substrate **300** is weaker than the adhesive strength between the plurality of organic materials in the stack. The “tack strength between the tacky layer **210** and the second substrate **200** or the third substrate **300**” encompasses the tack strength in the case where another layer is located between the tacky layer **210** and the second substrate **200** or the third substrate **300**.

[Device Structure of the Display Device **10**]

FIG. **2** is a plan view of the display device **10** in embodiment 1 according to the present invention. Referring to FIG. **2**, a structure of the display device **10** including elements such as a driver IC **500**, an FPC (Flexible Printed Circuit) **510** and the like, in addition to the layer structure described with reference to FIG. **1**, will be described in detail. The display device **10** shown in FIG. **2** is an organic EL display device having a “white+CF structure”.

As shown in FIG. **2**, the display device **10** in embodiment 1 includes the first substrate **100**, the second substrate **200**, the third substrate **300** (in FIG. **2**, the second substrate **200**, the third substrate **300** are shown as if being one substrate), the driver IC **500** and the FPC **510**. The driver IC **500** and the FPC **510** are provided on a part of the first substrate **100** that is exposed from the second substrate **200** and the third substrate **300**. The FPC **510** includes a terminal **511** connected to a controller circuit that controls a driving circuit.

The first substrate **100** includes pixels **180** in a display area **130**. The pixels **180** each include a light emitting element. In FIG. **2**, the light emitting element in each pixel **180** emits white light from a top surface thereof (on the side shown in FIG. **2**). The second substrate **200** includes a light blocking layer **121** having openings in positional correspondence with the pixels **180**, a color filter **181** transmitting light of a red wavelength region, a color filter **182** transmitting light of a green wavelength region, and a color filter **183** transmitting light of a blue wavelength region. The color filters **181**, **182** and **183** are respectively provided in the openings. The first substrate **100** and the second substrate **200** are assembled together by a sealing member **150**, located in a peripheral area **140** around the display area **130** in which the pixels **180** are located, and also by a filler **160** filling a space inside the sealing member **150**.

FIG. **3** is a cross-sectional view of the display device **10** in embodiment 1 according to the present invention, taken along line A-B in FIG. **1**. As shown in FIG. **3**, the display device **10** in embodiment 1 includes the first substrate **100**, an underlying barrier layer **102** that is located on the first

substrate **100** and suppresses diffusion of impurities from the first substrate **100**, the light emitting element **110** located on a part of the underlying barrier layer **102** that is in the display area **130**, and a protective layer **120** located in the display area **130** and the peripheral area **140** so as to cover the light emitting element **110**. The protective layer **120** is in contact with the underlying barrier layer **102** in the peripheral area **140** to seal the light emitting element **110**. Herein, a surface of the first substrate **100** on which the light emitting element **110** is formed will be referred to as an “upper surface” of the first substrate **100**, in consideration of the manufacturing process of the first substrate **100** and the components provided thereon.

The display device **10** also includes the second substrate **200**, the light blocking layer **121** that is located on the second substrate **200** and has the openings in positional correspondence with the pixels in the display area **130**, the color filters **181**, **182** and **183** respectively provided in the openings of the light blocking layer **121**, and an overcoat layer **230** located in the display area **130** and the peripheral area **140** so as to cover the light blocking layer **121** and the color filters **181**, **182** and **183**. The overcoat layer **230** alleviates stepped portions made by the light blocking layer **121** and the color filters **181**, **182** and **183**. Herein, the surface of the second substrate **200** on which the light blocking layer **121** is formed will be referred to as an “upper surface” of the second substrate **200**, in consideration of the manufacturing process of the second substrate **200** and the components provided thereon.

The first substrate **100** and the components provided thereon, and the second substrate **200** and the components provided thereon, are assembled together with the sealing member **150** and the filler **160** such that the upper surfaces thereof face each other. More specifically, the sealing member **150** is in contact with the overcoat layer **230** and the protective layer **120** in the peripheral area **140** to seal the filler **160**. The present invention is not limited to having the structure shown in FIG. **3**. One layer, or a plurality of layers, among the underlying barrier layer **102**, the protective layer **120** and the overcoat layer **230** may be removed from an area where the sealing member **150** is located.

The tacky layer **210** is located on the entirety of the surface of the second substrate **200** opposite to the surface thereof facing the light emitting element **110**. The third substrate **300** is located to face the second substrate **200** while having the tacky layer **210** therebetween. FIG. **3** shows a structure in which the tacky layer **210** and the third substrate **300** are located on the entire surface of the second substrate **200**. The present invention is not limited to having such a structure. For example, the tacky layer **210** and the third substrate **300** may be located in a part of the display area **130** or the peripheral area **140**. FIG. **3** shows a structure in which the tacky layer **210** and the third substrate **300** are formed in the same area. The present invention is not limited to having such a structure. The tacky layer **210** and the third substrate **300** may be located in different areas from each other. In other words, the tacky layer **210** and the third substrate **300** may have different patterns from each other.

The underlying barrier layer **102** and the protective layer **120** may be formed of a silicon nitride film (SiN_x film), a silicon oxide film (SiO_x film), a silicon nitride oxide film (SiN_xO_y film), a silicon oxide nitride film (SiO_xN_y film), an aluminum nitride film (AlN_x film), an aluminum oxide film (AlO_x film), an aluminum nitride oxide film (AlN_xO_y film), an aluminum oxide nitride film (AlO_xN_y film), or the like (x and y each represent an arbitrary value). These films may be stacked to form a stacking structure. The “silicon nitride

oxide film” is a silicon nitride film containing oxygen at a lower content than nitrogen. The “silicon oxide nitride film” is a silicon oxide film containing nitrogen at a lower content than oxygen.

As described above, with the display device **10** in embodiment 1 according to the present invention, even if an external impact is applied to the display device **10**, the tacky layer **210** is peeled off from the second substrate **200** or the third substrate **300** to alleviate the impact. Thus, one of the electrodes and the organic material are suppressed from being peeled off from each other, or the plurality of organic materials are suppressed from being peeled off from each other. The tacky layer **210** and the second substrate **200** or the third substrate **300**, even if being peeled off from each other by the impact, are re-attached to each other. Therefore, the external appearance of the display device **10** is kept normal. This decreases display faults such as light emission faults, non-uniform display or the like, which may be caused by the external impact.

Modification of Embodiment 1

FIG. **4** is a cross-sectional view of a display device **11** in a modification of embodiment 1 according to the present invention. In the modification of embodiment 1, the second substrate **200** and the third substrate **300** are fixed to each other with an adhesive layer **250**.

The display device **11** shown in FIG. **4** is similar to the display device **10** shown in FIG. **3**. Unlike the display device **10**, however, the display device **11** includes the adhesive layer **250** located between the second substrate **200** and the third substrate **300** so as to enclose the tacky layer **210**. Unlike the tacky layer **210**, the adhesive layer **250** is cured after the second substrate **200** and the third substrate **300** are assembled together while having the adhesive layer **250** therebetween. Therefore, the second substrate **200** and the third substrate **300** are fixed to each other with the adhesive layer **250**. The adhesive layer **250** does not necessarily need to completely enclose the tacky layer **210**, and may be located at discrete positions, for example, at four corners of the peripheral area **140**. The display device **11** shown in FIG. **4** includes the adhesive layer **250** located in the peripheral area **140** between the second substrate **200** and the third substrate **300**. The present invention is not limited to having such a structure. The adhesive layer **250** may be located in the display area **130**.

As described above, the display device **11** includes the adhesive layer **250**. This increases the force that keeps the second substrate **200** and the third substrate **300** together. Even if, for example, an external impact sufficiently large to peel off the entirety of the tacky layer **210** is applied to the display device **11**, the second substrate **200** and the third substrate **300** are kept fixed to each other and thus are prevented from being completely peeled off from each other.

Embodiment 2

With reference to FIG. **5** and FIG. **6**, a layer structure and a device structure of a display device **20** in embodiment 2 according to the present will be described. The display device **20** in embodiment 2 is an organic EL display device having a “white+CF structure”. The display device **20** includes a first tacky layer **211** and a third substrate **300** assembled to a surface of a first substrate **100** opposite to a surface thereof on which a light emitting element **110** is provided.

[Layer Structure of the Display Device **20**]

FIG. **5** shows a layer structure of the display device **20** in embodiment 2 according to the present invention. As shown in FIG. **5**, the display device **20** includes the first substrate **100**, the light emitting element **110** located on the first substrate **100**, a second substrate **200** located to face the first substrate **100** while having the light emitting element **110** therebetween, the first tacky layer **211** located on the surface of the first substrate **100** opposite to the surface thereof on which the light emitting element **110** is located, and the third substrate **300** located to face the first substrate **100** while having the first tacky layer **211** therebetween.

The first tacky layer **211** may be substantially the same layer as the tacky layer **210** shown in FIG. **1**. More specifically, the first tacky layer **211** is kept tacky even after being peeled off. The tack strength between the first tacky layer **211** and the first substrate **100** or the third substrate **300** is weaker than the adhesive strength between one of the pair of electrodes and the organic material included in the light emitting element **110**. In the case where the light emitting layer **110** includes a stack of a plurality of organic materials, the tack strength between the first tacky layer **211** and the first substrate **100** or the third substrate **300** is weaker than the adhesive strength between the plurality of organic materials in the stack. The “tack strength between the first tacky layer **211** and the first substrate **100** or the third substrate **300**” encompasses the tack strength in the case where another layer is located between the first tacky layer **211** and the first substrate **100** or the third substrate **300**. The first tacky layer **211** is located on the side of the display device **20** opposite to the side on which the light from the light emitting element **110** is emitted, and therefore is not required to be highly light-transmissive. This allows the first tacky layer **211** to be formed of any of various tacky materials. The first substrate **100**, the light emitting element **110**, the second substrate **200** and the third substrate **300** may be those described in embodiment 1.

[Device Structure of the Display Device **20**]

A structure of the display device **20** in embodiment 2 according to the present invention will be described in detail. A plan view of the display device **20** is substantially the same as FIG. **2**. Therefore, the plan view is omitted and only the cross-sectional view is provided.

FIG. **6** is a cross-sectional view of the display device **20** in embodiment 2 according to the present invention. As shown in FIG. **6**, the display device **20** is similar to the display device **10** shown in FIG. **3**. Unlike the display device **10**, however, the display device **20** does not include any tacky layer or any substrate on a surface of the second substrate **200** opposite to a surface thereof facing the light emitting element **110**, but includes the first tacky layer **211** and the third substrate **300** on the surface of the first substrate **100** opposite to the surface thereof on which the light emitting element **110** is provided. FIG. **6** shows a structure in which the first tacky layer **211** and the third substrate **300** are located on the entire surface of the first substrate **100**. The present invention is not limited to having such a structure. For example, the first tacky layer **211** and the third substrate **300** may be located in a part of the display area **130** or the peripheral area **140**. FIG. **6** shows a structure in which the first tacky layer **211** and the third substrate **300** are formed in the same area. The present invention is not limited to having such a structure. The first tacky layer **211** and the third substrate **300** may be located in different areas from each other. In other words, the first tacky layer **211** and the third substrate **300** may have different patterns from each other.

As described above, with the display device 20 in embodiment 2 according to the present invention, even if an external impact is applied to the display device 20, the first tacky layer 211 is peeled off from the first substrate 100 or the third substrate 300 to absorb the impact. The first tacky layer 211 and the first substrate 100 or the third substrate 300, even if being peeled off from each other by the impact, are re-attached to each other. Therefore, the external appearance of the display device 20 is kept normal. In addition, the first tacky layer 211 is not visually recognized by a viewer. Therefore, even if the first tacky layer 211 is not completely re-attached to the first substrate 100 or the third substrate 300, this is not easily recognized as a display fault. This decreases display faults such as light emission faults, non-uniform display or the like, which may be caused by the external impact.

Modification 1 of Embodiment 2

FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view of a display device 21 in modification 1 of embodiment 2 according to the present invention. In modification 1 of embodiment 2, the first substrate 100 and the third substrate 300 are fixed to each other with a first adhesive layer 251.

The display device 21 shown in FIG. 7 is similar to the display device 20 shown in FIG. 6. Unlike the display device 20, however, the display device 21 includes the first adhesive layer 251 located between the first substrate 100 and the third substrate 300 so as to enclose the first tacky layer 211. Unlike the first tacky layer 211, the first adhesive layer 251 is cured after the first substrate 100 and the third substrate 300 are assembled together while having the first adhesive layer 251 therebetween. Therefore, the first substrate 100 and the third substrate 300 are fixed to each other with the first adhesive layer 251. Like in the modification of embodiment 1, the first adhesive layer 251 does not necessarily need to completely enclose the first tacky layer 211. The first adhesive layer 251 may be located in the display area 130.

As described above, the display device 21 includes the first adhesive layer 251. This increases the force that keeps the first substrate 100 and the third substrate 300 together. Even if a large external impact is applied to the display device 21, the first substrate 100 and the third substrate 300 are prevented from being completely peeled off from each other.

Modification 2 of Embodiment 2

FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view of a display device 22 in modification 2 of embodiment 2 according to the present invention. In modification 2 of embodiment 2, the display device 22 includes the first tacky layer 211 located between the first substrate 100 and the third substrate 300 and also includes a second tacky layer 212 and a fourth substrate 400 that are located on the second substrate 200 side.

The display device 22 shown in FIG. 8 is similar to the display device 20 shown in FIG. 6. Unlike the display device 20, however, the display device 22 includes the second tacky layer 212 located on the surface of the second substrate 200 opposite to the surface thereof facing the light emitting element 110, the fourth substrate 400 located to face the second substrate 200 while having the second tacky layer 212 therebetween, and a second adhesive layer 252 located between the second substrate 200 and the fourth substrate 400 so as to enclose the second tacky layer 212.

The second tacky layer 212 may be substantially the same layer as the tacky layer 210 shown in FIG. 1. More specifically,

the second tacky layer 212 is kept tacky even after being peeled off. The tack strength between the second tacky layer 212 and the second substrate 200 or the fourth substrate 400 is weaker than the adhesive strength between one of the pair of electrodes and the organic material included in the light emitting element 110. In the case where the light emitting layer 110 includes a stack of a plurality of organic materials, the tack strength between the second tacky layer 212 and the second substrate 200 or the fourth substrate 400 is weaker than the adhesive strength between the plurality of organic materials in the stack. The "tack strength between the second tacky layer 212 and the second substrate 200 or the fourth substrate 400" encompasses the tack strength in the case where another layer is located between the second tacky layer 212 and the second substrate 200 or the fourth substrate 400.

As described above, the display device 22 includes the third substrate 300 and the fourth substrate 400 respectively on outer sides of the first substrate 100 and the second substrate 200, which have the light emitting element 110 therebetween. The first substrate 100 and the third substrate 300 have the first tacky layer 211 therebetween, and the second substrate 200 and the fourth substrate 400 have the second tacky layer 212 therebetween. Owing to this structure, the display device 22 more absorbs an external impact. This decreases display faults such as light emission faults, non-uniform display or the like.

Embodiment 3

With reference to FIG. 9 and FIG. 10, a layer structure and a device structure of a display device 30 in embodiment 3 according to the present will be described. The display device 30 in embodiment 3 is an organic EL display device having a "white+CF structure". In the display device 30, a pair of substrates having a light emitting element 110 therebetween (i.e., the first substrate 100 and the second substrate 200) are assembled together with a first tacky layer 213. In a top emission-type organic EL display device, if a gap between the light emitting element and the color filters is too large, a problem of so-called color mixing occurs; namely, light released from a light emitting element of one pixel is output to the outside of the display device after passing a color filter corresponding to a color of a pixel adjacent to the one pixel. Therefore, the first tacky layer 213 is required to have a thickness with which color mixing does not occur.

[Layer Structure of the Display Device 30]

FIG. 9 shows a layer structure of the display device 30 in embodiment 3 according to the present invention. As shown in FIG. 9, the display device 30 includes the first substrate 100, the light emitting element 110 located on the first substrate 100, the first tacky layer 213 located on the light emitting element 110 and having a thickness of 10 μm or less, and the second substrate 200 located to face the first substrate 100 while having the light emitting element 110 and the first tacky layer 213 therebetween. The thickness of the first tacky layer 213 is 10 μm or less, so that the gap between the light emitting element 110 and color filters 181 through 183 located on the second substrate 200 is sufficiently small to suppress color mixing.

The first tacky layer 213 may be substantially the same layer as the tacky layer 210 shown in FIG. 1. More specifically, the first tacky layer 213 is kept tacky even after being peeled off. The tack strength between the first tacky layer 213 and the light emitting element 110 or the second substrate 200 is weaker than the adhesive strength between

one of the pair of electrodes and the organic material included in the light emitting element 110. In the case where the light emitting layer 110 includes a stack of a plurality of organic materials, the tack strength between the first tacky layer 213 and the light emitting element 110 or the second substrate 200 is weaker than the adhesive strength between the plurality of organic materials in the stack. The “tack strength between the first tacky layer 213 and the light emitting element 110 or the second substrate 200” encompasses the tack strength in the case where another layer is located between the first tacky layer 213 and the light emitting element 110 or the second substrate 200. The first substrate 100, the light emitting element 110 and the second substrate 200 may be those described in embodiment 1.

[Device Structure of the Display Device 30]

A structure of the display device 30 in embodiment 3 according to the present invention will be described in detail. A plan view of the display device 30 is substantially the same as FIG. 2. Therefore, the plan view is omitted and only the cross-sectional view is provided.

FIG. 10 is a cross-sectional view of the display device 30 in embodiment 3 according to the present invention. As shown in FIG. 10, the display device 30 is similar to the display device 10 shown in FIG. 3. Unlike the display device 10, however, the display device 30 does not include any tacky layer or any substrate on a surface of the second substrate 200 opposite to a surface thereof facing the light emitting element 110, but includes the first tacky layer 213, instead of the sealing member 150 and the filler 160, between the first substrate 100 and the second substrate 200. In other words, the first substrate 100 and the components provided thereon, and the second substrate 200 and the components provided thereon, are assembled together with the first tacky layer 213. The thickness of the first tacky layer 213 is set to 10 μm in the display area 130, so that the gap between the light emitting element 110 and the color filters 181 through 183 is sufficiently small to suppress color mixing.

In the display area 130, a protective layer 120 is located between the first tacky layer 213 and the light emitting element 110, and the color filters 181 through 183, a light blocking layer 121 and overcoat layer 230 are located between the first tacky layer 213 and the second substrate 200. Regarding the display area 130, the tack strength between the first tacky layer 213 and the protective layer 120 may be referred to as the tack strength between the first tacky layer 213 and the light emitting element 110, and the tack strength between the first tacky layer 213 and the overcoat layer 230 may be referred to as the tack strength between the first tacky layer 213 and the second substrate 200.

In the peripheral area 140, an underlying barrier layer 102 and the protective layer 120 are located between the first tacky layer 213 and the first substrate 100. Regarding the peripheral area 140, the tack strength between the first tacky layer 213 and the protective layer 120 may be referred to as the tack strength between the first tacky layer 213 and the first substrate 100.

As described above, with the display device 30 in embodiment 3 according to the present invention, even if an external impact is applied to the display device 30, the first tacky layer 213 is peeled off from the protective layer 120 or the overcoat layer 230 to absorb the impact. The first tacky layer 213 and the protective layer 120 or the overcoat layer 230, even if being peeled off from each other by the impact, are re-attached to each other. Therefore, the external appearance of the display device 30 is kept normal. Since it

is not necessary to use a filler, the manufacturing process is shortened and the material costs are decreased.

Modification 1 of Embodiment 3

FIG. 11 is a cross-sectional view of a display device 31 in modification 1 of embodiment 3 according to the present invention. In modification 1 of embodiment 3, the first substrate 100 and the second substrate 200 are assembled together with the first tacky layer 213 and also with a first adhesive layer 253.

The display device 31 shown in FIG. 11 is similar to the display device 30 shown in FIG. 3. Unlike the display device 30, however, the display device 31 includes the first adhesive layer 253 located between the first substrate 100 and the second substrate 200 so as to enclose the first tacky layer 213. Unlike the tacky layer 213, the first adhesive layer 253 is cured after the first substrate 100 and the second substrate 200 are assembled together while having the first adhesive layer 253 therebetween. Therefore, the first substrate 100 and the second substrate 200 are fixed to each other with the first adhesive layer 253. Like in the modification of embodiment 1, the adhesive layer 253 does not necessarily need to completely enclose the first tacky layer 213. The adhesive layer 253 may be located in the display area 130.

As described above, the display device 31 includes the first adhesive layer 253. This increases the force that keeps the first substrate 100 and the second substrate 200 together. Even if, for example, a large external impact is applied to the display device 31, the first substrate 100 and the second substrate 200 are prevented from being completely peeled off from each other.

Modification 2 of Embodiment 3

FIG. 12 is a cross-sectional view of a display device 32 in modification 2 of embodiment 3 according to the present invention. In modification 2 of embodiment 3, the display device 32 includes the first tacky layer 213 located between the first substrate 100 and the second substrate 200 and also includes a second tacky layer 214 and a third substrate 300 that are located on a surface of the first substrate 100 opposite to a surface thereof facing the first tacky layer 213.

The display device 32 shown in FIG. 12 is similar to the display device 31 shown in FIG. 11. Unlike the display device 31, however, the display device 32 includes the second tacky layer 214 located on the surface of the first substrate 100 opposite to the surface thereof on which the light emitting element 110 is provided, the third substrate 300 located to face the first substrate 100 while having the second tacky layer 214 therebetween, and a second adhesive layer 254 located between the first substrate 100 and the third substrate 300 so as to enclose the second tacky layer 214.

The second tacky layer 214 may be substantially the same layer as the tacky layer 210 shown in FIG. 1. More specifically, the second tacky layer 214 is kept tacky even after being peeled off. The tack strength between the second tacky layer 214 and the first substrate 100 or the third substrate 300 is weaker than the adhesive strength between one of the pair of electrodes and the organic material included in the light emitting element 110. In the case where the light emitting layer 110 includes a stack of a plurality of organic materials, the tack strength between the second tacky layer 214 and the first substrate 100 or the third substrate 300 is weaker than the adhesive strength between the plurality of organic materials in the stack. The “tack strength between the second

13

tacky layer **214** and the first substrate **100** or the third substrate **300**" encompasses the tack strength in the case where another layer is located between the second tacky layer **214** and the first substrate **100** or the third substrate **300**.

Modification 3 of Embodiment 3

FIG. **13** is a cross-sectional view of a display device **33** in modification 3 of embodiment 3 according to the present invention. In modification 3 of embodiment 3, the display device **33** includes the first tacky layer **213**, the second tacky layer **214**, and also includes a third tacky layer **215** and a fourth substrate **400** that are located on the second substrate **200** side.

The display device **33** shown in FIG. **13** is similar to the display device **32** shown in FIG. **12**. Unlike the display device **32**, however, the display device **33** includes the third tacky layer **215** located on the surface of the second substrate **200** opposite to the surface thereof facing the light emitting element **110**, the fourth substrate **400** located to face the second substrate **200** while having the third tacky layer **215** therebetween, and a third adhesive layer **255** located between the second substrate **200** and the fourth substrate **400** so as to enclose the third tacky layer **215**.

The third tacky layer **215** may be substantially the same layer as the tacky layer **210** shown in FIG. **1**. More specifically, the third tacky layer **215** is kept tacky even after being peeled off. The tack strength between the third tacky layer **215** and the second substrate **200** or the fourth substrate **400** is weaker than the adhesive strength between one of the pair of electrodes and the organic material included in the light emitting element **110**. In the case where the light emitting layer **110** includes a stack of a plurality of organic materials, the tack strength between the third tacky layer **215** and the second substrate **200** or the fourth substrate **400** is weaker than the adhesive strength between the plurality of organic materials in the stack. The "tack strength between the third tacky layer **215** and the second substrate **200** or the fourth substrate **400**" encompasses the tack strength in the case where another layer is located between the third tacky layer **215** and the second substrate **200** or the fourth substrate **400**.

As described above, the display device **32** includes the first tacky layer **213** located between the first substrate **100** and the second substrate **200**, which has the light emitting element **110** therebetween, and also includes the second tacky layer **214** and the third substrate **300** that are located on the surface of the first substrate **100** opposite to the surface thereof facing the first tacky layer **213**. The display device **33** includes the first tacky layer **213**, the second tacky layer **214** and the third substrate **300** as described above, and also includes the third tacky layer **215** and the fourth substrate **400** that are located on the surface of the second substrate **200** opposite to the surface thereof facing the light emitting element **110**. Owing to such a structure, an external impact is more absorbed. This decreases display faults such as light emission faults, non-uniform display or the like.

Modification 4 of Embodiment 3

FIG. **14** is a cross-sectional view of a display device **34** in modification 4 of embodiment 3 according to the present invention. In modification 4 of embodiment 3, the display device **34** includes a touch sensor **600** on a surface of the fourth substrate **400** opposite to a surface thereof on which the third tacky layer **215** is provided. The display device **34** shown in FIG. **14** include the touch sensor **34** in addition to

14

the components of the display device **33** shown in FIG. **13**. The present invention is not limited to having such a structure. The touch sensor may be provided in a display device having a structure shown in any of the embodiments and modifications described above. For example, the touch sensor may be provided on a surface of the third substrate **300** (FIG. **3**) opposite to a surface thereof on which the tacky layer **210** is provided.

In the case where the touch sensor is provided by use of a tacky layer, the organic light emitting layer is protected with no change in the structure of the light emitting element. Since the organic light emitting layer is isolated from the tacky layer by the second substrate **200**, the tacky material is usable with no consideration of the influence on the organic light emitting layer.

The present invention is not limited to any of the above-described embodiments, and may be appropriately varied without departing from the gist of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A display device, comprising:

a first substrate;

a light emitting element located on the first substrate and including a pair of electrodes and one organic layer or a plurality of organic layers located between the pair of electrodes;

a second substrate located to face the first substrate;

a third substrate located on a surface of the second substrate opposite to a surface thereof facing the light emitting element;

a tacky layer located between the second substrate and the third substrate, a tack strength between the tacky layer and the second substrate or the third substrate being weaker than an adhesive strength between one of the pair of electrodes and the one organic layer or an adhesive strength between the plurality of organic layers, and

an adhesive layer between the second substrate and the third substrate so as to enclose the tacky layer.

2. The display device according to claim 1, wherein the tacky layer is kept tacky after being peeled off.

3. The display device according to claim 1, further comprising a touch sensor located on the third substrate.

4. A display device, comprising:

a first substrate;

a light emitting element located on the first substrate and including a pair of electrodes and one organic layer or a plurality of organic layers located between the pair of electrodes;

a second substrate located to face the first substrate;

a third substrate located on a surface of the first substrate opposite to a surface thereof having the light emitting element located thereon;

a first tacky layer located between the first substrate and the third substrate, a tack strength between the first tacky layer and the first substrate or the third substrate being weaker than an adhesive strength between one of the pair of electrodes and the one organic layer or an adhesive strength between the plurality of organic layers, and

a first adhesive layer between the first substrate and the third substrate so as to enclose the first tacky layer.

5. The display device according to claim 4, wherein the first tacky layer is kept tacky after being peeled off.

15

6. The display device according to claim 4, further comprising:

a fourth substrate located on a surface of the second substrate opposite to a surface thereof facing the light emitting element; and

a third tacky layer located between the second substrate and the fourth substrate.

7. The display device according to claim 6, wherein the third tacky layer is kept tacky after being peeled off.

8. The display device according to claim 7, wherein a tack strength between the third tacky layer and the second substrate or the fourth substrate is weaker than an adhesive strength between one of the pair of electrodes and the one organic layer or an adhesive strength between the plurality of organic layers.

9. The display device according to claim 8, further comprising a third adhesive layer located between the second substrate and the fourth substrate so as to enclose the third tacky layer.

10. The display device according to claim 6, further comprising a touch sensor located on the fourth substrate.

11. A display device, comprising:

a first substrate having a light emitting element located on a surface thereon, the light emitting element including a pair of electrodes and one organic layer or a plurality of organic layers located between the pair of electrodes;

a second substrate located to face the surface of the first substrate having the light emitting element located thereon;

a first tacky layer located between the first substrate and the second substrate and having a thickness of 10 μm or

16

less, a tack strength between of the first tacky layer and the first substrate or the second substrate being weaker than an adhesive strength between one of the pair of electrodes and the one organic layer or an adhesive strength between the plurality of organic layers, and

a first adhesive layer between the first substrate and the second substrate so as to enclose the first tacky layer.

12. The display device according to claim 11, wherein the first tacky layer is kept tacky after being peeled off.

13. The display device according to claim 11, further comprising:

a third substrate located on a surface of the first substrate opposite to the surface thereof having the light emitting element located thereon; and

a second tacky layer located between the first substrate and the third substrate.

14. The display device according to claim 13, wherein the second tacky layer is kept tacky after being peeled off.

15. The display device according to claim 14, wherein a tack strength between the second tacky layer and the first substrate or the third substrate is weaker than an adhesive strength between one of the pair of electrodes and the one organic layer or an adhesive strength between the plurality of organic layers.

16. The display device according to claim 15, further comprising a second adhesive layer located between the first substrate and the third substrate so as to enclose the second tacky layer.

* * * * *

