



US 20050082534A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication** (10) **Pub. No.: US 2005/0082534 A1**

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(43) **Pub. Date:** **Apr. 21, 2005**

(54) **ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DISPLAY
DEVICE AND METHOD FOR
MANUFACTURING THE SAME**

Nov. 22, 2003 (KR) 2003-83391

Publication Classification

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(51) **Int. Cl. 7** **H01L 29/04**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **257/72**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

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(21) Appl. No.: **10/920,195**

(22) Filed: **Aug. 18, 2004**

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Oct. 16, 2003 (KR) 2003-72339

Provided is an organic light-emitting display device (OLED) and method of manufacturing the same. The OLED comprises a substrate and a thin film transistor, with source/drain electrodes, located at a predetermined area on the substrate. A passivation layer is located on the source/drain electrodes with a via hole exposing one of the source/drain electrodes. A first pixel electrode is located at the bottom of the via hole, electrically coupled to the exposed source/drain electrode, and extending onto the side wall of the via hole and the passivation layer. A planarization pattern fills the via hole in which the first pixel electrode is located and exposes the portion of the first pixel electrode on the passivation layer.

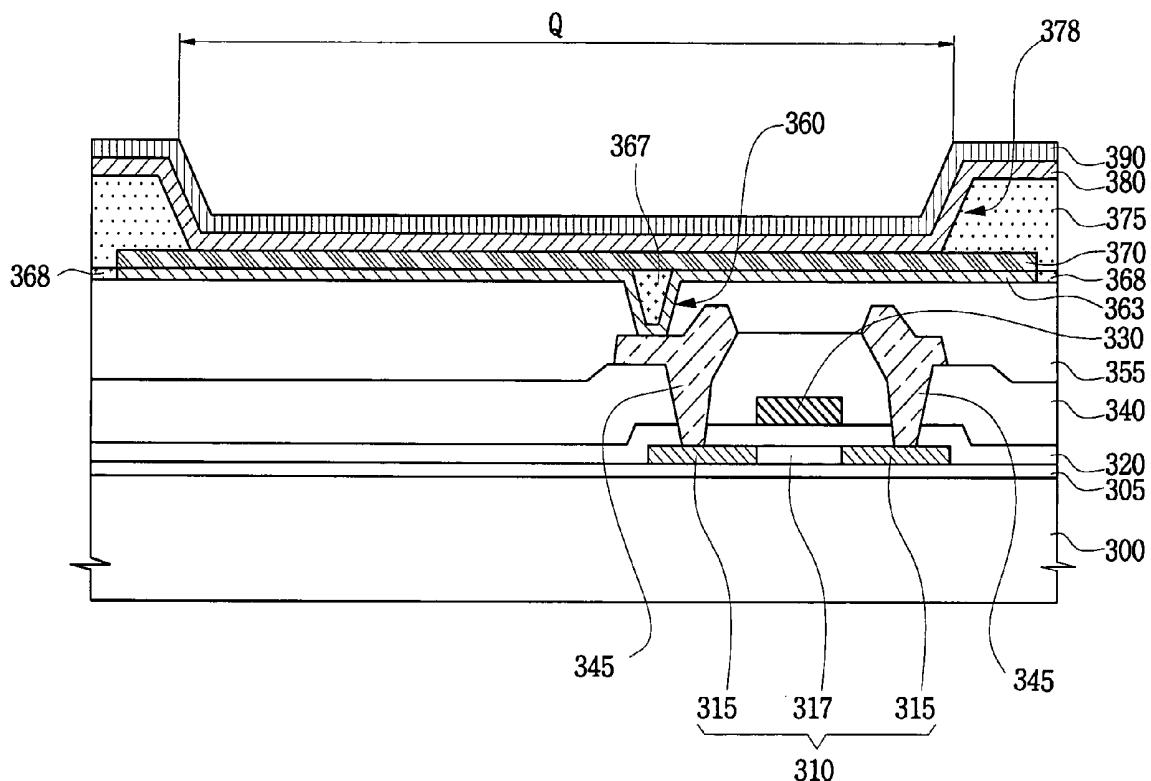


FIG. 1
(PRIOR ART)

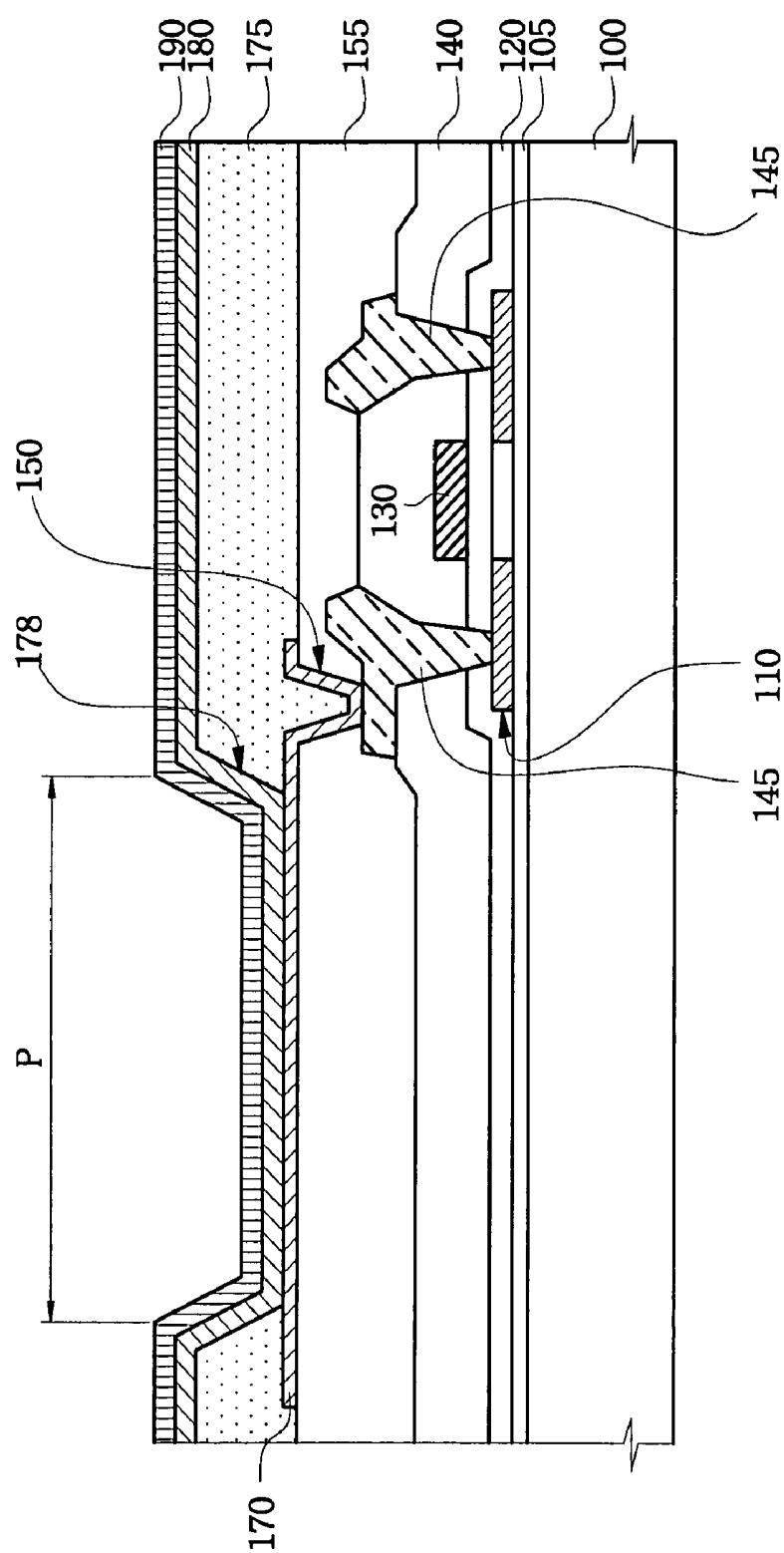


FIG. 2A

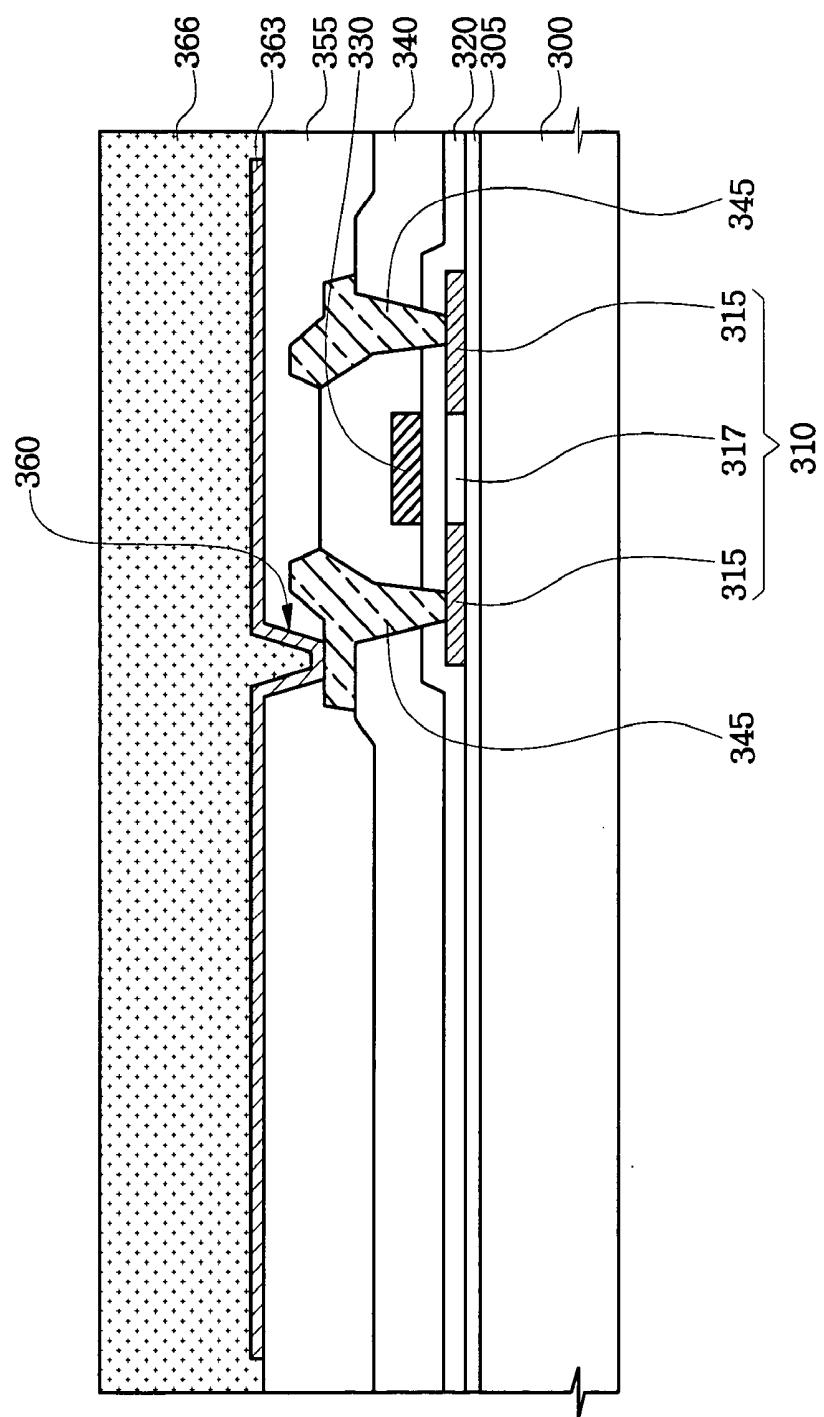


FIG. 2B

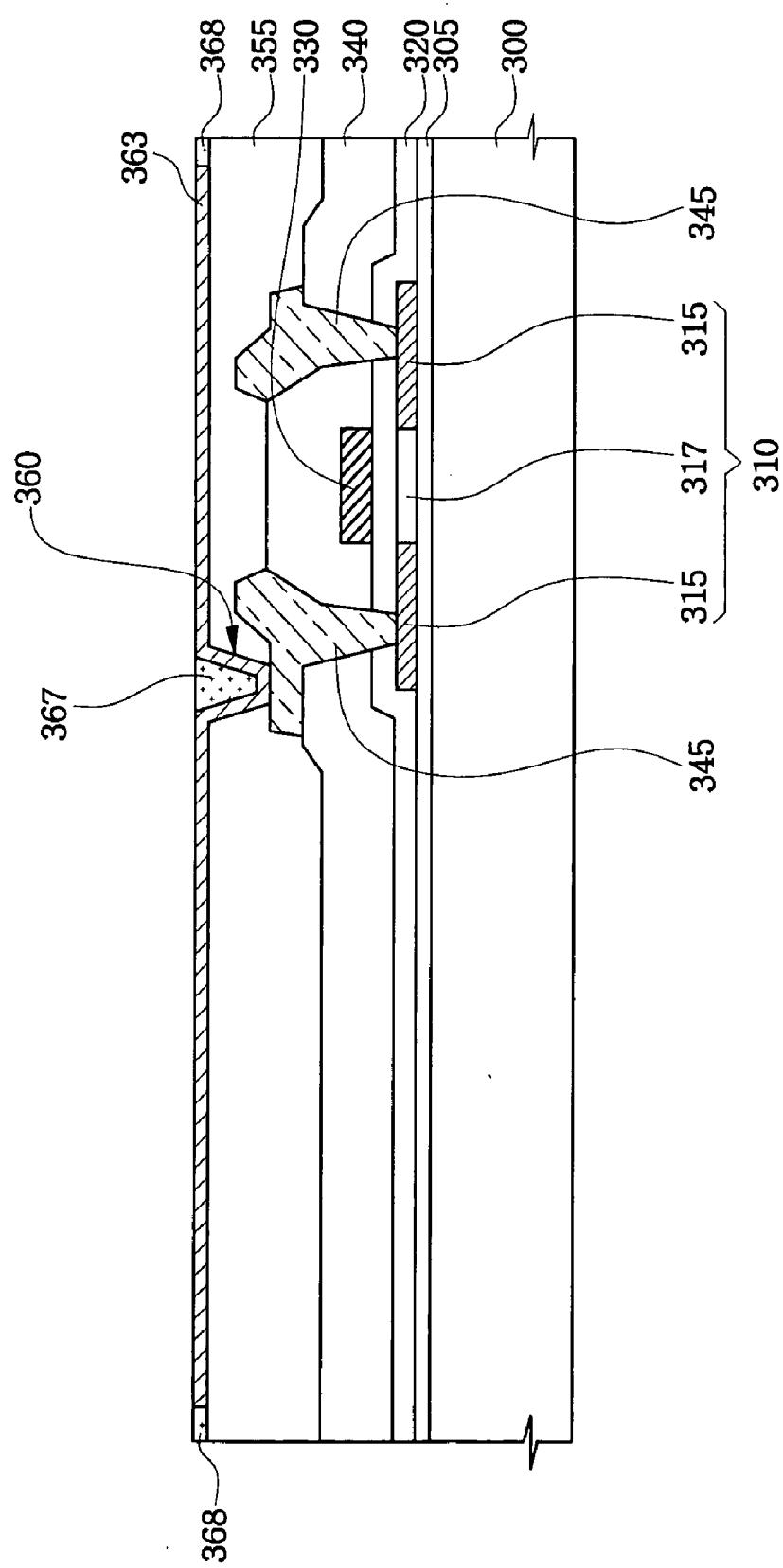


FIG. 2C

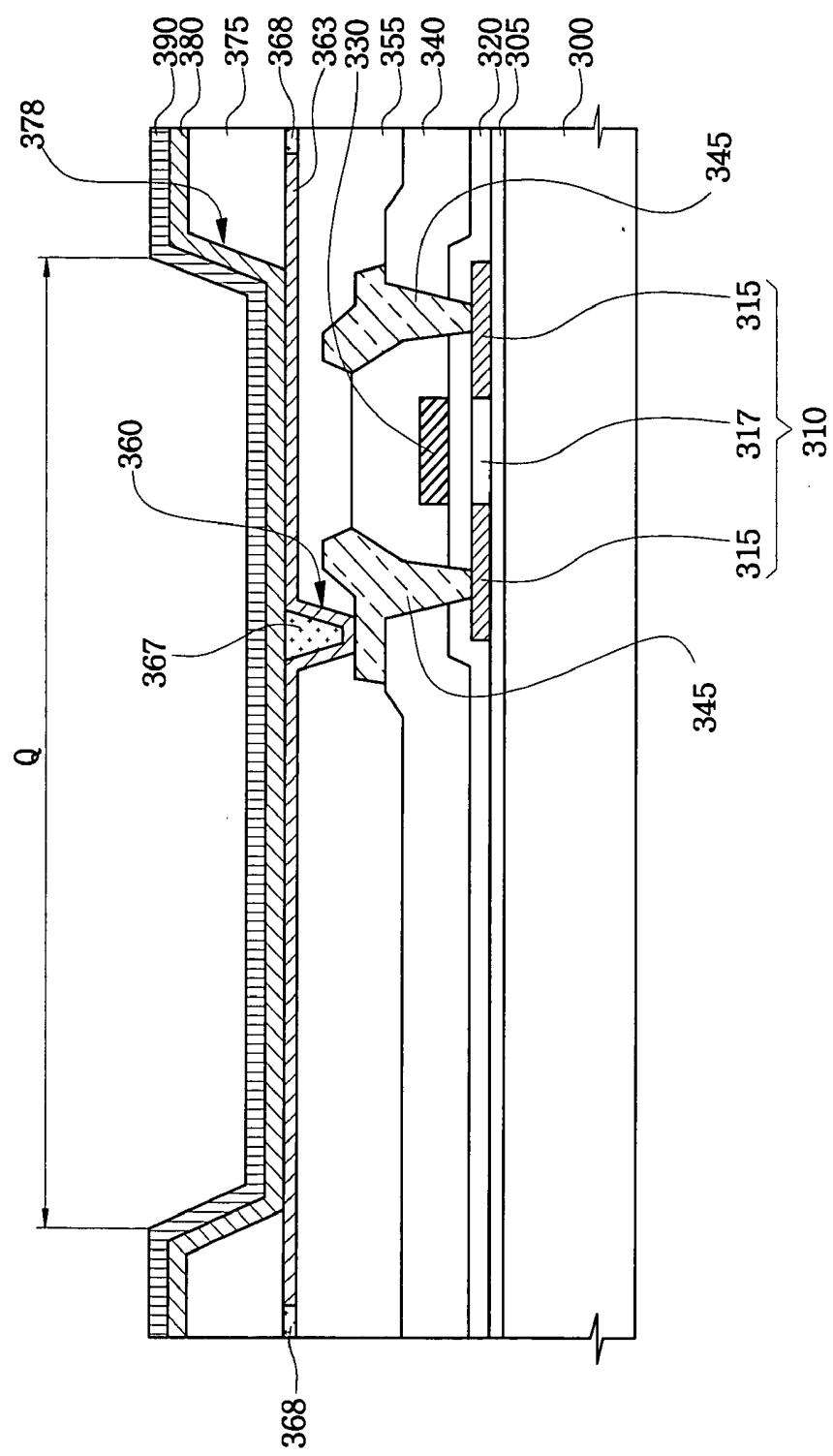
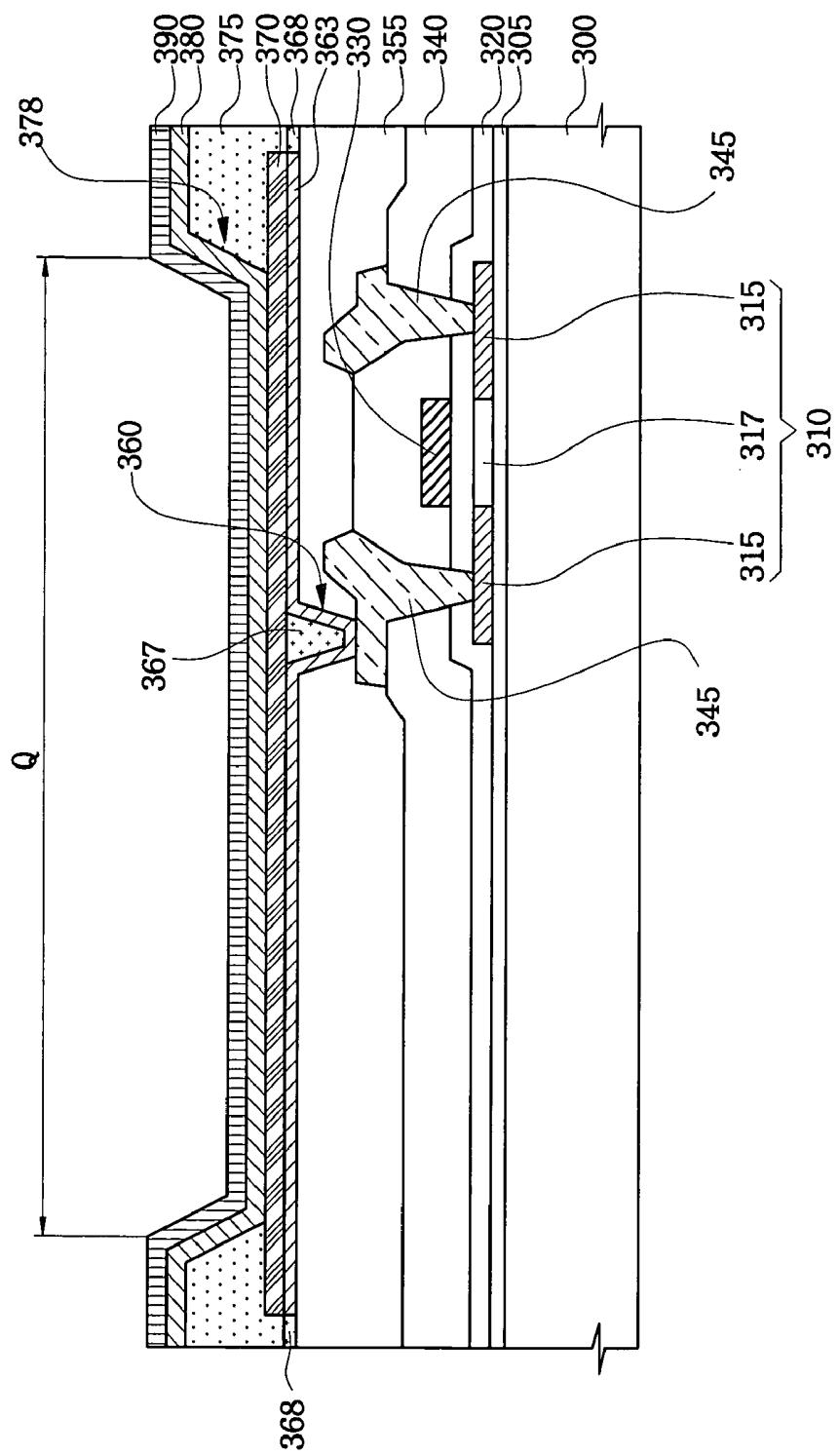


FIG. 3



ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DISPLAY DEVICE AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING THE SAME

[0001] This application claims the benefit of Korean Patent Applications No. 2003-72339, filed Oct. 16, 2003 and No. 2003-0083391, filed Nov. 22, 2003, which are hereby incorporated by reference for all purposes as if fully set forth herein.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] 1. Field of the Invention

[0003] The present invention relates to an organic light-emitting display (OLED) and method of manufacturing the same and, more particularly, to an active matrix OLED and method of manufacturing the same.

[0004] 2. Discussion of the Related Art

[0005] An (OLED) is an emissive display device that electrically excites fluorescent organic compounds to emit light. OLEDs are either passive-matrix type or active-matrix type, depending upon the method utilized to drive the display pixels, which are arranged in a matrix. The active-matrix OLED consumes less power than the passive-matrix OLED, thus providing the capability to create a larger display area at a higher resolution.

[0006] FIG. 1 shows a cross-sectional view of a conventional passive-matrix OLED and a method for manufacturing the same.

[0007] Referring to FIG. 1, a buffer layer 105 is formed on an insulating substrate 100. Utilizing a conventional method, a driving thin film transistor (TFT) is then formed on buffer layer 105 by sequentially forming an active layer 110, a gate insulating layer 120, a gate electrode 130, an interlayer 140, and source/drain electrodes 145. A planarization layer 155 is formed on the entire surface of the substrate, which includes the driving TFT. A via hole 150 is then formed in the planarization layer 155 to expose any one of the source/drain electrodes 145.

[0008] A pixel electrode 170 is then formed within the via hole 150 to contact the exposed source/drain electrodes 145. Since the pixel electrode 170 is formed along the bottom and side wall of the via hole 150, it has a recessed region in the via hole 150.

[0009] A pixel defining layer 175, formed to cover pixel electrode 170, has an opening 178 spaced from the via hole 150, at a predetermined distance, in order to expose pixel electrode 170. An organic emission layer 180 is formed on the pixel electrode 170, exposed by the opening 178, and an opposite electrode 190 is formed on the organic emission layer 180, thereby forming an organic light-emitting diode. This organic light-emitting diode is connected to, and driven by, the driving TFT through the via hole 150.

[0010] With this method of manufacturing an OLED, the pixel defining layer 175 is formed to cover the pixel electrode 170 recessed in the via hole 150. Here, the pixel defining layer 175 has an opening 178 spaced from the via hole 150 at a predetermined distance. The organic emission layer 180 is not located over the recessed portion of pixel electrode 170 in order to prevent recession and deterioration of the organic emission layer 180. However, because the

opening 178 is formed and spaced from the via hole 150 at a predetermined distance, an opening area (P), which is defined by the opening 178, is limited, and the resultant aperture ratio of the opening area (P) to the unit pixel area is also limited. These limitations are greater in a top-emitting OLED, which emits light from organic emission layer 180 in a direction away from the substrate 100.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0011] Accordingly, the present invention is directed to an OLED and a method of manufacturing an OLED that substantially obviates one or more of the problems due to limitations and disadvantages of the related art.

[0012] The present invention provides an OLED and a method for manufacturing an OLED that prevents a limitation of the aperture ratio due to a via hole.

[0013] Additional features and advantages of the invention will be set forth in the description which follows, and in part will be apparent from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention.

[0014] To achieve these and other advantages and in accordance with the present invention, as embodied and broadly described, one aspect of the present invention provides an OLED comprising a substrate and a TFT, with source/drain electrodes, located at a predetermined area on the substrate. A passivation layer is located on the source/drain electrodes with a via hole exposing one of the source/drain electrodes. A first pixel electrode is located at the bottom of the via hole, electrically coupled to the exposed source/drain electrode, and extending onto the side wall of the via hole and the passivation layer. A planarization pattern fills the via hole in which the first pixel electrode is located and exposes the portion of the first pixel electrode on the passivation layer.

[0015] The present invention also provides a method for manufacturing such an OLED. It forms a thin film transistor, having source/drain electrodes, at a predetermined area on the substrate. A passivation layer is formed on the source/drain electrodes and a via hole is formed to expose one of the source/drain electrodes. A first pixel electrode is formed on the exposed source/drain electrode, the side wall of the via hole, and the passivation layer. A planarization layer is formed on the first pixel electrode and a planarization pattern is formed to fill the via hole in which the first pixel electrode is located and expose the portion of the first pixel electrode that is on the passivation layer.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0016] The accompanying drawings, which are included to provide a further understanding of the invention and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate embodiments of the invention and together with the description serve to explain the principles of the invention.

[0017] FIG. 1 shows a cross-sectional view of a conventional passive-matrix OLED and method for manufacturing the same.

[0018] FIGS. 2A, 2B, and 2C show cross-sectional views of an active-matrix OLED and method for manufacturing the same in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

[0019] FIG. 3 shows a cross sectional view of an active-matrix OLED and a method for manufacturing the same in accordance with another exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATED EMBODIMENTS

[0020] Reference will now be made in detail to an embodiment of the present invention, example of which is illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

[0021] FIGS. 2A, 2B, and 2C show cross-sectional views of an OLED and method for manufacturing the same in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. The OLED includes at least one unit pixel, which is shown in the cross sectional views.

[0022] FIG. 2A shows a substrate 300, which may be an insulating substrate. A buffer layer 305 is formed on the substrate 300 to protect a thin film transistor, which is formed in a subsequent process, from an impurity such as an alkali metal ion outdiffused from the substrate. It can be formed of a silicon oxide layer, a silicon nitride layer or a double layer stacking the two layers.

[0023] An active layer 310 is formed on a predetermined area of the buffer layer 305. The active layer 310 includes source/drain regions 315 and a channel region 317 interposed between the source/drain regions 315. The active layer 310 can be formed of an amorphous silicon layer, a polycrystalline silicon layer, or other similar substance. A gate insulating layer 320 is formed on the active layer 310 and buffer layer 305, and a gate electrode 330 is formed on the gate insulating layer 320 to correspond to the channel region 317. An interlayer 340 is formed on the gate electrode 330 and the gate insulating layer 320, and contact holes, which expose source/drain regions 315, are formed in the interlayer 340 and the gate insulating layer 320.

[0024] Source/drain electrodes 345, which are connected with the source/drain regions 315 exposed by the contact holes, are then formed on the interlayer 340. A passivation layer 355 is formed on the source/drain electrodes 345, and a via hole 360, which exposes one of the source/drain electrodes 345, is then formed in the passivation layer 355.

[0025] Then, a first pixel electrode 363 is formed on the passivation layer 355 that the via hole 360 was just formed in. The first pixel electrode can be formed by various processes including depositing conductive material using a sputtering process, a vacuum deposition process, or a shadow mask, and then patterning that deposited conductive material using a photolithography process. The first pixel electrode 363 is coupled with the source/drain electrode 345 by the via hole 360, and it is also located on side wall of the via hole 360 and on the passivation layer 355. Further, the first pixel electrode 363 may be located over any portion of the area which the thin film transistor is formed on.

[0026] The first pixel electrode 363 may be formed as an anode or a cathode. If formed as anode, it is formed using ITO (Indium Tin Oxide) or IZO (Indium Zinc Oxide), which are transparent conductive layers. Alternatively, if the first pixel electrode 363 is formed as the cathode, it is formed using one material selected from the group consisting of Al, Cr, AlNd and Ni.

[0027] A planarization layer 366 is then formed on the first pixel electrode 363 at a thickness that ensures that at least the via hole 360 is completely filled. The planarization layer 366 can reduce topology generated by its underlying pattern, and it may be formed of one material selected from the group consisting of benzocyclobutene (BCB), phenolic resin, acryl resin, polyimide resin, SOG, and other similar material. The planarization layer 366 may be formed using a wet coating method.

[0028] Referring to FIG. 2B, the planarization layer 366 (as shown in FIG. 2A) is etched until the portion of the first pixel electrode 363 on the passivation layer 355 is exposed. Accordingly, a planarization pattern 367 filling the via hole 360, which the first pixel electrode 363 is located in, is formed. Planarization patterns 368 are also formed at each end of the pixel electrode 363 on the portion of the passivation layer not covered by the pixel electrode 363. It is preferable that the upper surface of the planarization pattern 367 be coplanar with the upper portion of the first pixel electrode 363. Similarly, it is preferred that the planarization patterns 368 be coplanar with pixel electrode 363. Alternatively, the planarization patterns 368 may be at a lower plane than pixel electrode 363. The etching may be performed using a dry etching method. Furthermore, etching gas used in the dry etching method may be mixed gas of SF₆ and O₂, and the volume ratio of the gases may be 5:3, respectively.

[0029] Referring to FIG. 2C, a pixel defining layer 375 may be formed on the substrate having the planarization pattern 367. The pixel defining layer 375 has an opening 378 that exposes at least the first pixel electrode 363. An organic functional layer 380, which has at least an organic emission layer, is formed on the exposed portion of first pixel electrode 363. The organic functional layer 380 can further comprise a charge injecting layer, a charge transporting layer, or a charge injecting layer and a charge transporting layer.

[0030] Because the planarization pattern 367 fills the via hole 360, the organic functional layer 380 can now be formed on the substrate, including on the portion where the via hole 360 is located. Accordingly, deterioration generated by possible bending of the organic functional layer 380 is controlled by the planarization pattern 367. Thus the opening 378 can be formed without regard to the position of the via hole 360. In other words, the opening 378 can be located not only over the via hole 360, but also over the area where the thin film transistor is formed. As a result, the opening area (Q), which is defined by the opening 378, can be expanded and, correspondingly, the aperture ratio of the opening area to the unit pixel area can be increased. The improvement is more effective in a top-emitting OLED that emits light from the organic emission layer, which is formed in a subsequent process, in a direction away from the substrate. This improvement may be enhanced when the upper surface of the planarization pattern 367 is coplanar with the upper surface of the portion of the first pixel electrode 363.

[0031] An opposite electrode 390 is next formed on the organic functional layer 380. The opposite electrode 390 is formed as cathode when the first pixel electrode 363 is formed as anode, and it is formed as anode when the first pixel electrode 363 is formed as cathode.

[0032] FIG. 3 shows a cross-sectional view of an OLED and method for manufacturing the same in accordance with

another exemplary embodiment of the present invention. The OLED according to this second exemplary embodiment is the same as the OLED of the previous exemplary embodiment except as follows.

[0033] Referring to **FIG. 3**, a second pixel electrode **370** is formed on the first pixel electrode **363** before the pixel defining layer **375** is formed. The second pixel electrode **370** is located on the planarization pattern **367** and the first pixel electrode **363**. The second pixel electrode **370** is electrically coupled to the first pixel electrode **363** and, through the first pixel electrode **363**, to the source/drain electrode **345**. The electrical connection between the organic functional layer **380** and the first pixel electrode **363** can be improved by the second pixel electrode **370**. Preferably, the second pixel electrode **370** is formed on the entire surface of the first pixel electrode **363**. Furthermore, as with the first pixel electrode **363**, the second pixel electrode **370** may be formed over the any portion of the area where the thin film transistor is formed.

[0034] The second pixel electrode **370** is formed as an anode or a cathode. If formed as the anode, the first pixel electrode **363** and the second pixel electrode **370** are formed using ITO (Indium Tin Oxide) or IZO (Indium Zinc Oxide) or other similar materials, which are transparent conductive layers. Alternatively, the first pixel electrode **363** can be formed using one material selected from the group consisting of Al, Ag, MoW, AlNd and Ti, and the second pixel electrode **370** can be formed using ITO or IZO. Preferably, the first pixel electrode **363** is formed using AlNd. In this case, the first pixel electrode **363** may work as a reflecting plate.

[0035] On the other hand, if the second pixel electrode **370** is formed as cathode, it is formed of conductive material, such as Al, Ni, Cr, AlNd, and other similar materials. The first pixel electrode **363** is formed of such materials as Al, Ag, MoW, AlNd, Ti and other similar materials.

[0036] As described above, according to the exemplary embodiments of the present invention, the organic functional layer can also be formed over the via hole by forming the planarization pattern filling that via hole. This permits an increase in the aperture ratio because the opening of the pixel defining layer may be formed without regard to the position of the via hole. Furthermore, adding the second pixel electrode on the first pixel electrode enhances the electrical connection between the first pixel electrode and the organic functional layer.

[0037] It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variation can be made in the present invention without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Thus, it is intended that the present invention cover the modifications and variations of this invention provided they come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. An organic light-emitting display (OLED) device, comprising:
 - a substrate;
 - a thin film transistor, having source/drain electrodes, located on the substrate;

a passivation layer located on the source/drain electrodes and having a via hole exposing one of the source/drain electrodes;

a first pixel electrode formed on the passivation layer, electrically coupled to the exposed source/drain electrode through the via hole; and

a planarization pattern filling the via hole and exposing the portion of the first pixel electrode on the passivation layer.

2. The OLED device of claim 1, further comprising:

a pixel defining layer located on the first pixel electrode and having an opening that exposes the first pixel electrode;

an organic layer located on the first pixel electrode exposed in the opening and having an organic emission layer; and

an opposite electrode located on the organic layer.

3. The OLED device of claim 1, wherein the planarization pattern and the first pixel electrode on the passivation layer are coplanar in upper surface.

4. The OLED device of claim 1, wherein the planarization pattern is formed of one material selected from a group consisting of benzocyclobutene, phenolic resin, acryl resin, polyimide resin, and SOG.

5. The OLED device of claim 1, wherein the first pixel electrode is also located over any portion of the area where the thin film transistor is located.

6. The OLED device of claim 1, wherein the first pixel electrode is formed of indium tin oxide or indium zinc oxide.

7. The OLED device of claim 1, wherein the first pixel electrode is formed of one material selected from a group consisting of Al, Ni, Cr and AlNd.

8. The OLED device of claim 1, further comprising a second pixel electrode located on the planarization pattern and the first pixel electrode.

9. The OLED device of claim 8, further comprising:

a pixel defining layer located on the second pixel electrode and having an opening which exposes the second pixel electrode;

an organic layer located on the second pixel electrode exposed in the opening and having an organic emission layer; and

an opposite electrode located on the organic layer.

10. The OLED device of claim 8, wherein the second pixel electrode is located on the entire surface of the first pixel electrode.

11. The OLED device of claim 8, wherein the second pixel electrode is formed of one of indium tin oxide, indium zinc oxide, or other similar material.

12. The OLED device of claim 8, wherein the second pixel electrode is formed of one material selected from a group consisting of Al, Ni, Cr and AlNd.

13. The OLED device of claim 8, wherein the first pixel electrode is formed of one material selected from a group consisting of Al, Ag, MoW, AlNd, and Ti.

14. The OLED device of claim 11, wherein the first pixel electrode is formed of one of indium tin oxide, indium zinc oxide, or other similar material.

15. The OLED device of claim 11, wherein the first pixel electrode is formed of one material selected from a group consisting of Al, Ag, MoW, AlNd, and Ti.

16. An organic light-emitting display device (OLED), comprising:

a substrate;

a thin film transistor, having source/drain electrodes, located at a predetermined area on the substrate;

a passivation layer located on the source/drain electrodes and having a via hole exposing one of the source/drain electrodes;

a first pixel electrode electrically coupled to the exposed source/drain electrode through the via hole and extending onto the side wall of the via hole and the passivation layer; and

a planarization pattern on the passivation layer, located at each end of the first pixel electrode.

17. The OLED device of claim 16, wherein the planarization pattern at each end of the first pixel electrode is coplanar with the first pixel electrode.

18. The OLED device of in claim 16, wherein the planarization pattern at each end of the first pixel electrode is below the plane of the first pixel electrode.

19. A method for manufacturing an organic light-emitting display device, comprising:

forming a thin film transistor having source/drain electrodes, on a substrate;

forming a passivation layer on the source/drain electrodes;

forming a via hole exposing one of the source/drain electrodes, in the passivation layer;

forming a first pixel electrode on the passivation layer that is coupled to the exposed source/drain electrode and extends to the side wall of the via hole;

forming a planarization layer on the first pixel electrode; and

forming a planarization pattern filling the via hole in which the first pixel electrode is located and exposing the portion of the first pixel electrode on the passivation layer.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising: forming a second pixel electrode on the planarization pattern and the exposed portion of the first pixel electrode.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the planarization layer is formed using a wet coating process.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein the planarization pattern is formed so that upper surfaces of both the planarization pattern and the portion of the first pixel electrode on the passivation layer are coplanar.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the upper surfaces of both the planarization pattern and portion of the first pixel electrode on the passivation layer are made coplanar by an etchback method.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	有机发光显示装置及其制造方法		
公开(公告)号	US20050082534A1	公开(公告)日	2005-04-21
申请号	US10/920195	申请日	2004-08-18
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	KIM HYUN MU 朴相IL KIM IEE GON		
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发明人	KIM, MU-HYUN PARK, SANG-IL KIM, IEE-GON		
IPC分类号	C09K11/06 H01L27/32 H01L29/04 H01L51/52 H05B33/08 H05B33/10 H05B33/12		
CPC分类号	H01L51/5215 H01L27/3248		
优先权	1020030083391 2003-11-22 KR 1020030072339 2003-10-16 KR		
其他公开文献	US7893438		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

提供一种有机发光显示装置 (OLED) 及其制造方法。 OLED包括衬底和薄膜晶体管，其具有源/漏电极，位于衬底上的预定区域。钝化层位于源/漏电极上，通孔暴露出源/漏电极之一。第一像素电极位于通孔的底部，电连接到暴露出的源/漏电极，并延伸到通孔和钝化层的侧壁上。平坦化图 368 填充第一像素电极所在的通孔，并暴露第一像素电极的部分在钝化层上。

