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(54) **ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DIODE
DISPLAY AND MANUFACTURING METHOD
THEREOF**

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Aug. 11, 2005, now Pat. No. 7,345,314.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An organic light emitting diode display includes an insulating layer, a stress buffer disposed on the insulating layer, a first electrode disposed on the stress buffer, an organic light emitting member disposed on the first electrode, and a second electrode disposed on the organic light emitting member.

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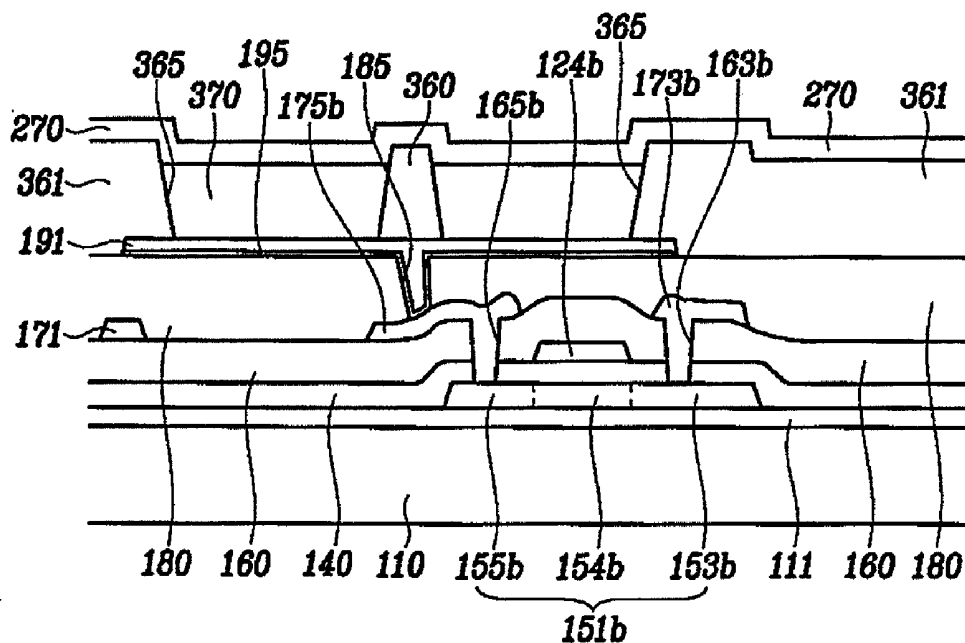


FIG. 1

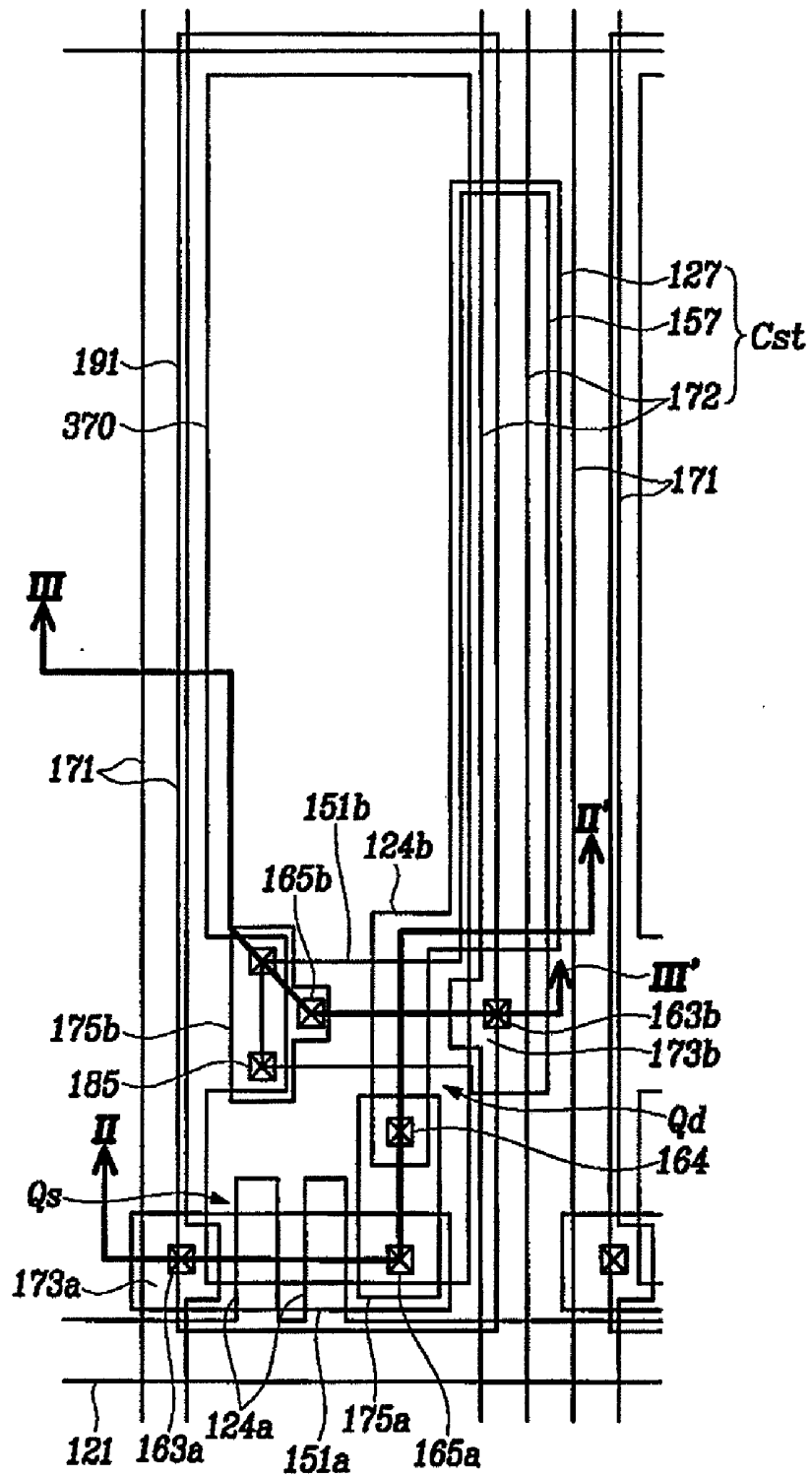


FIG. 2

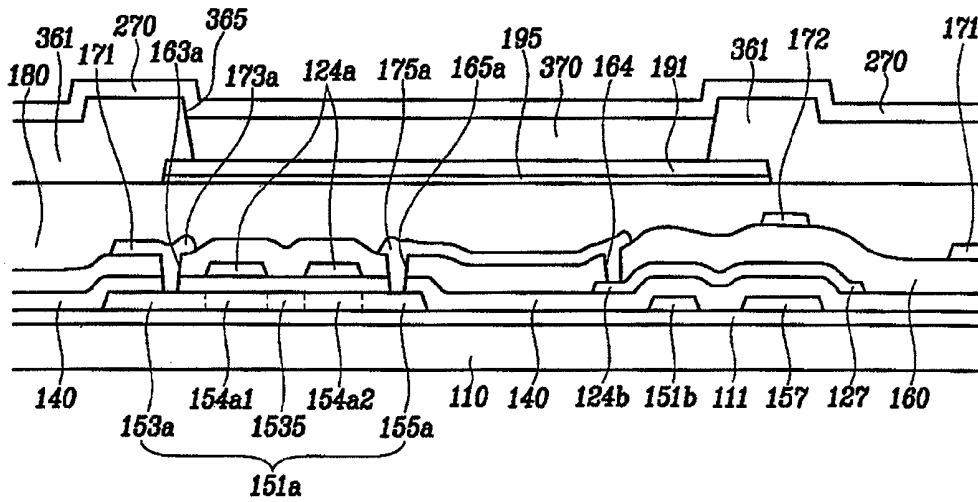


FIG. 3

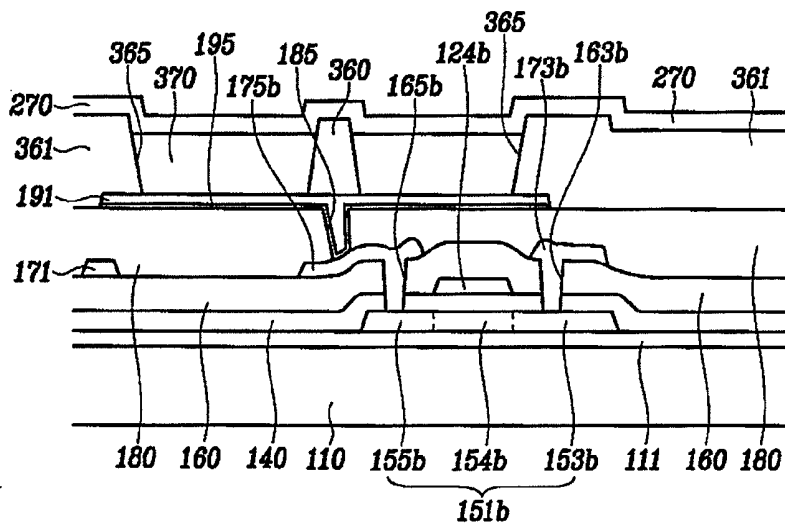


FIG. 7A

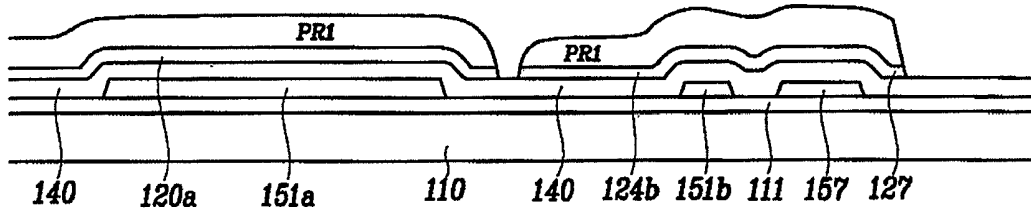


FIG. 7B

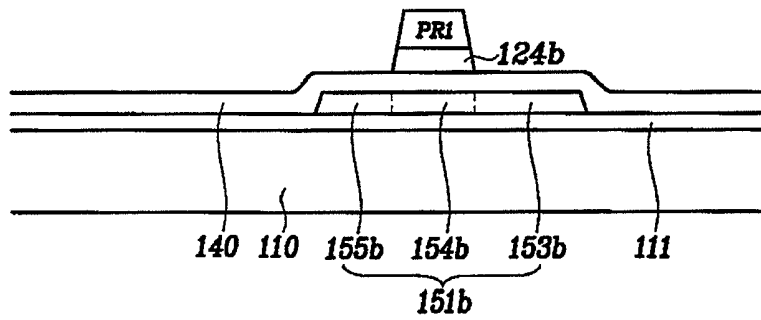


FIG. 8

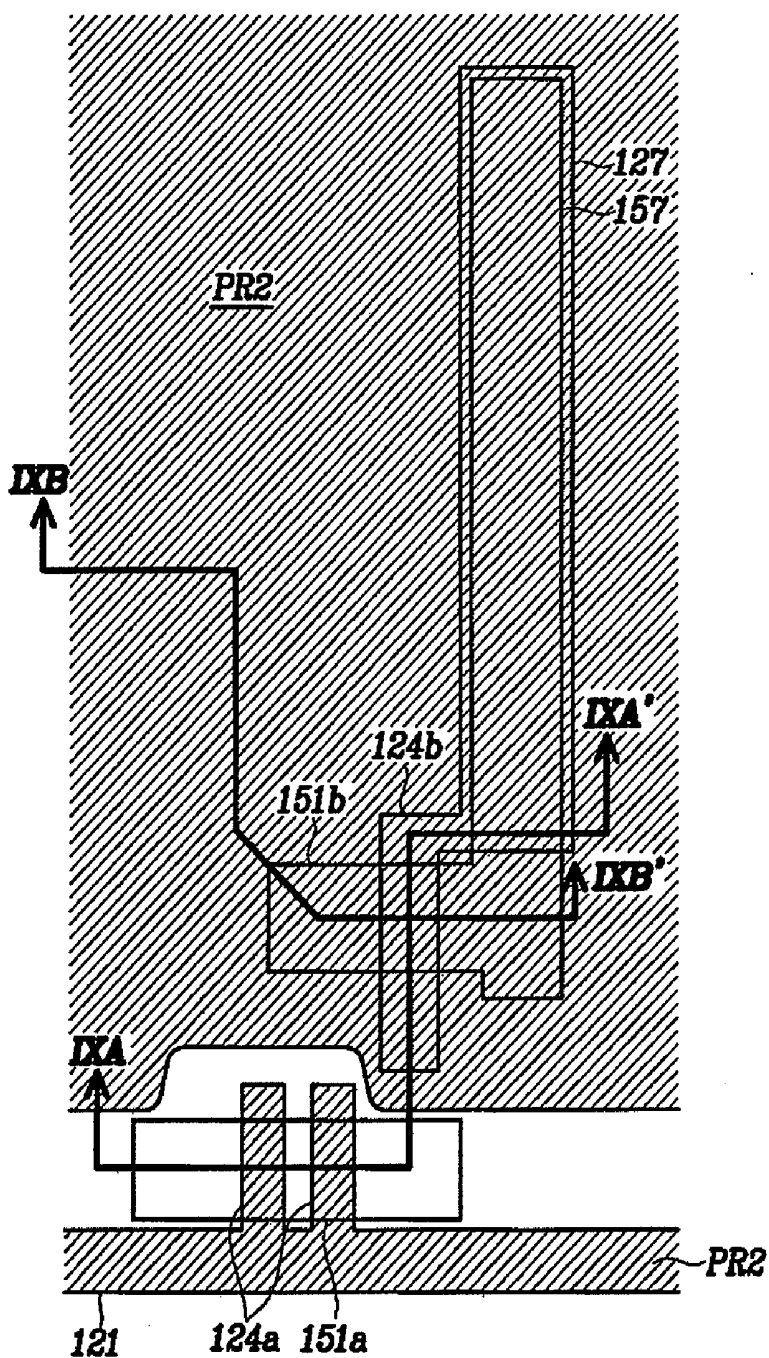


FIG. 9A

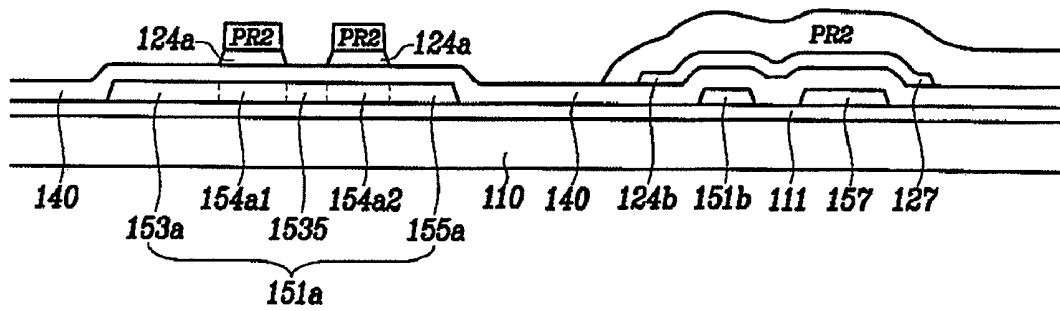


FIG. 9B

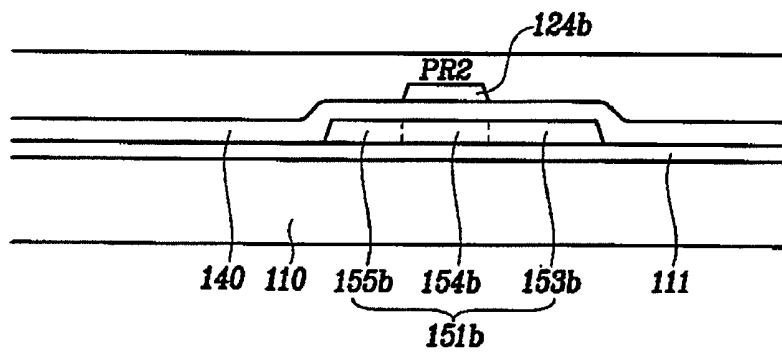


FIG.10

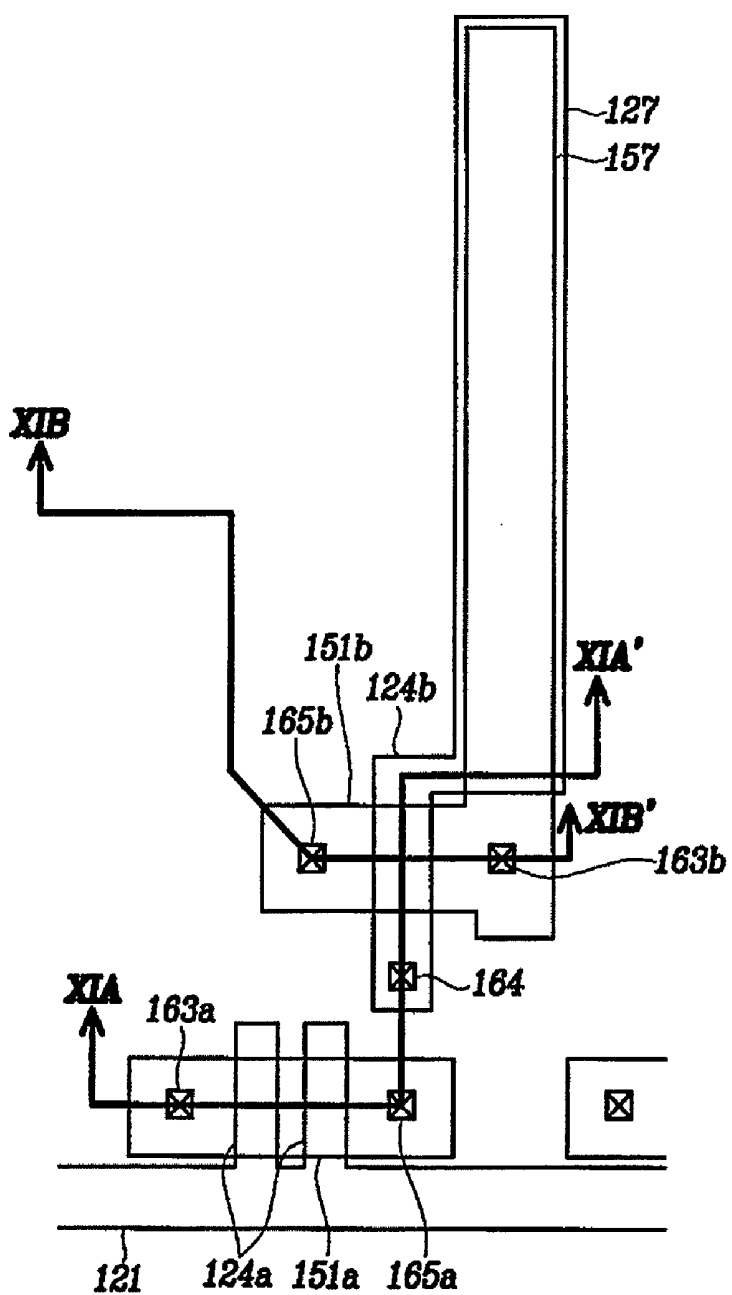


FIG.11A

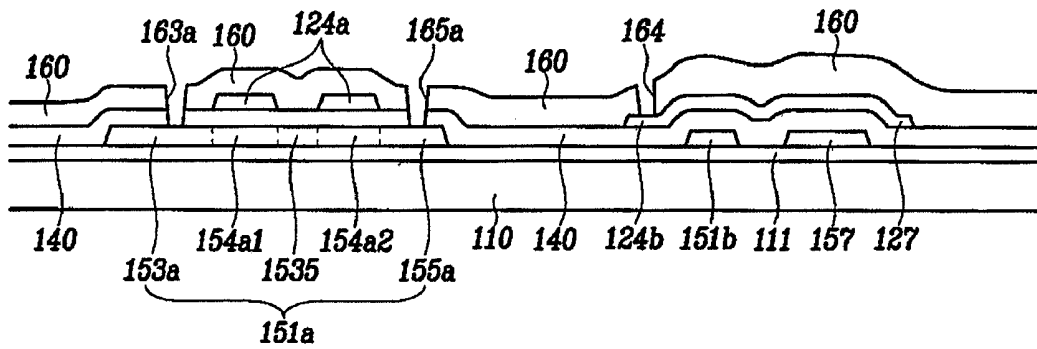


FIG.11B

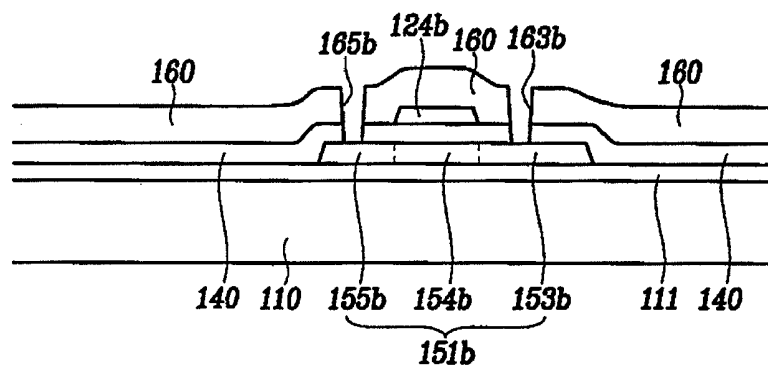


FIG.12

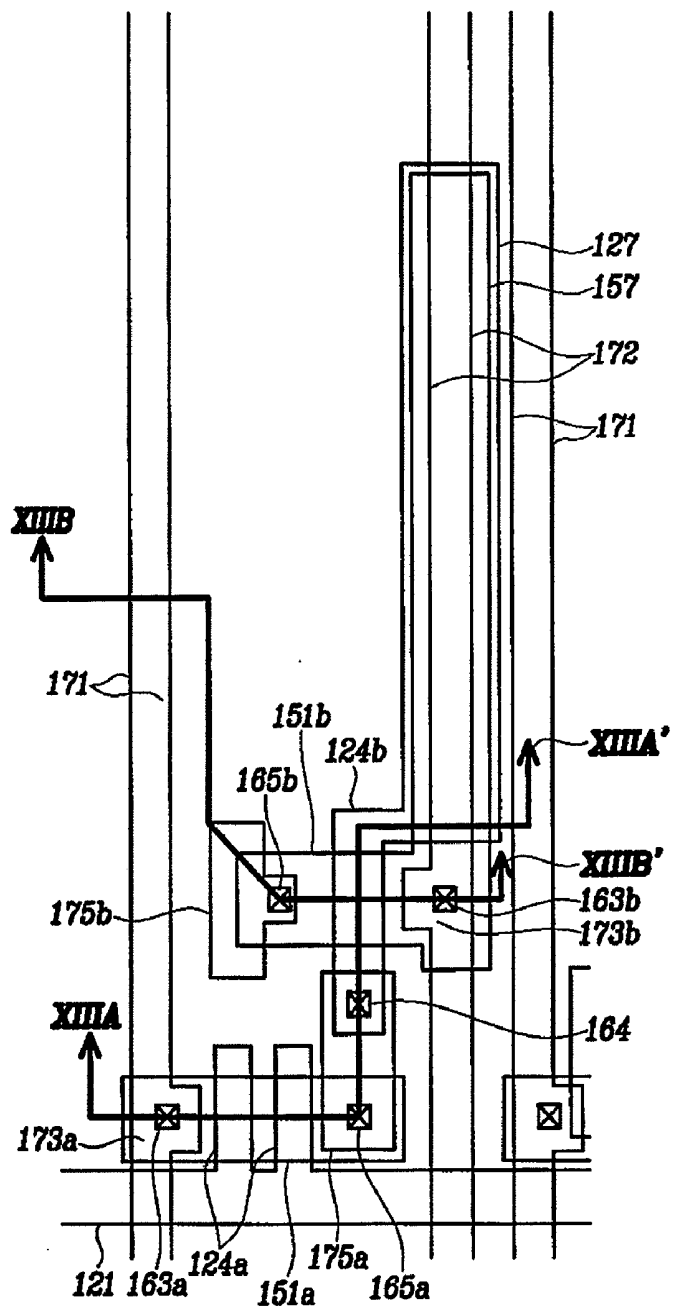


FIG.13A

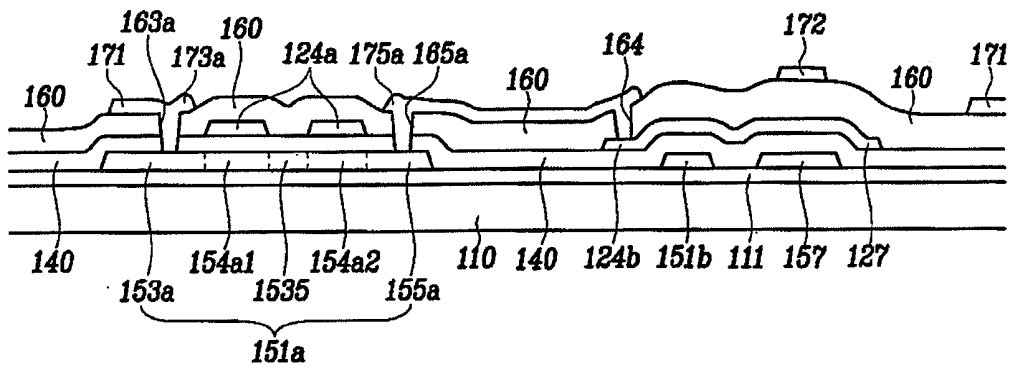


FIG.13B

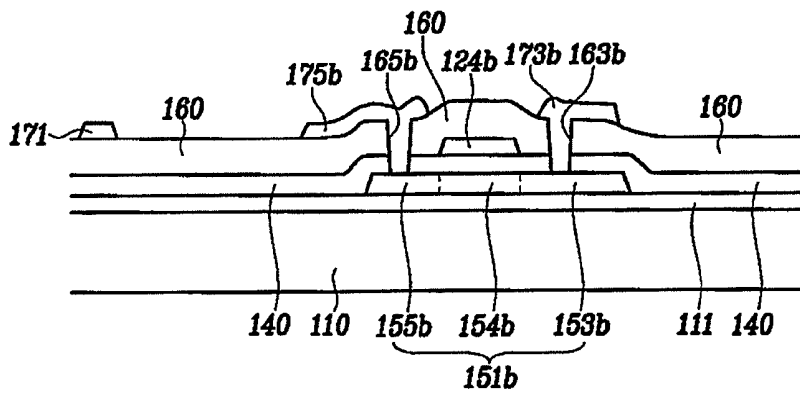


FIG.15A

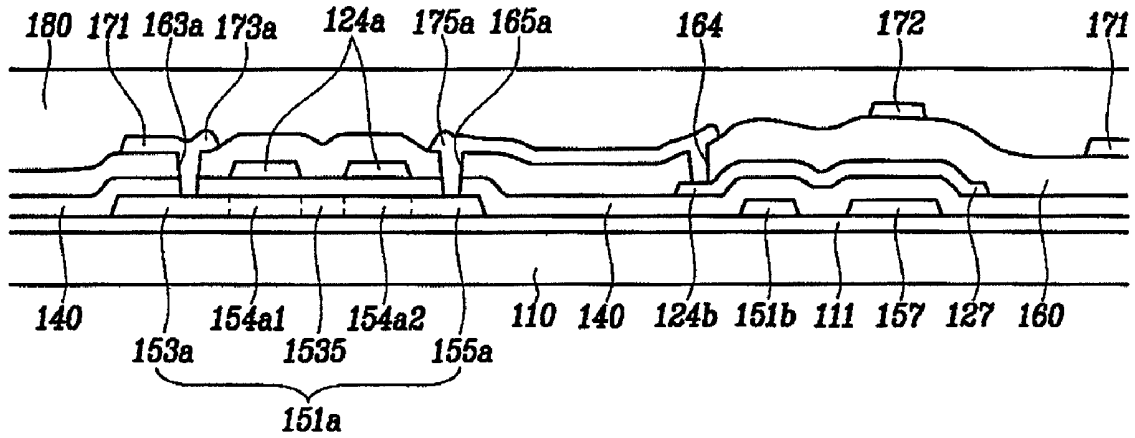


FIG.15B

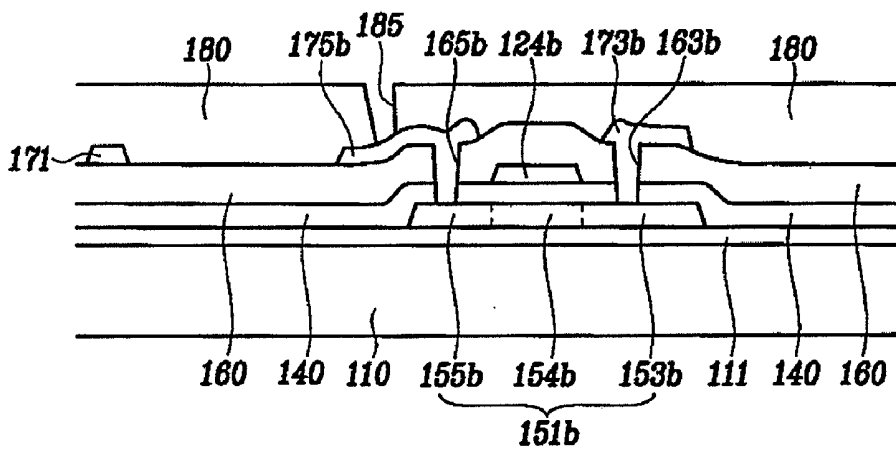


FIG.17A

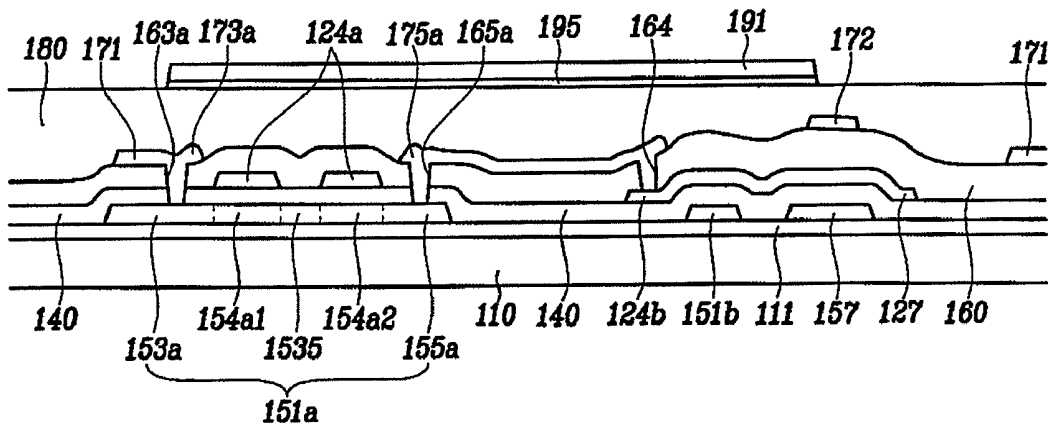


FIG.17B

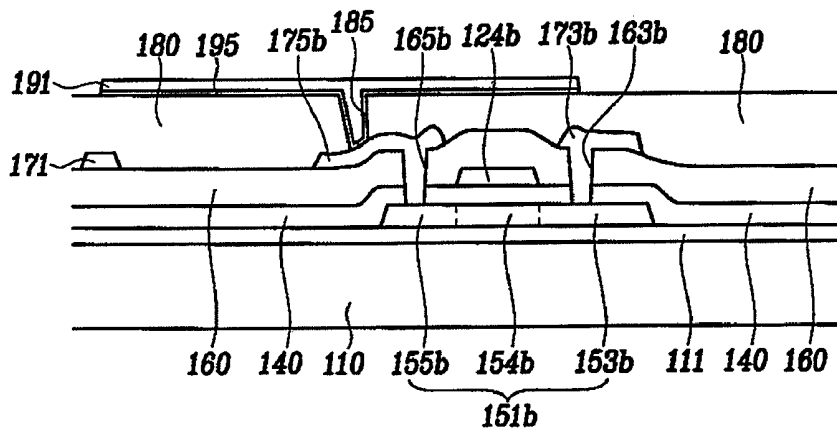


FIG.18

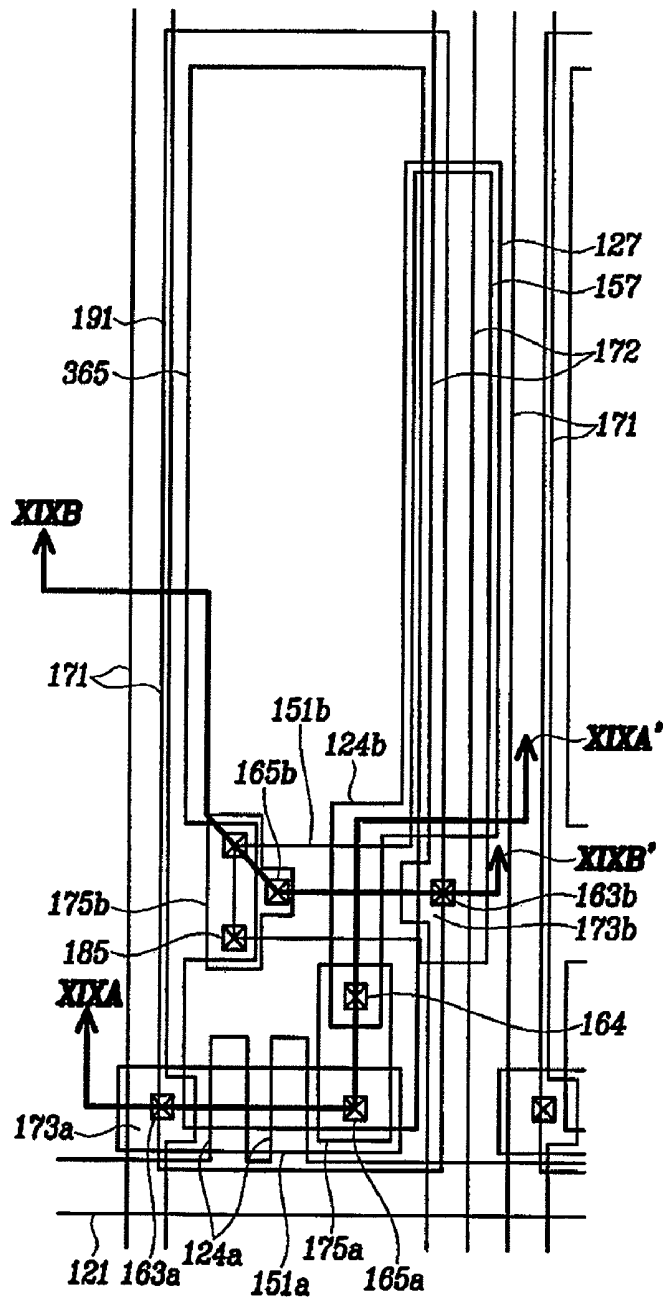


FIG.19A

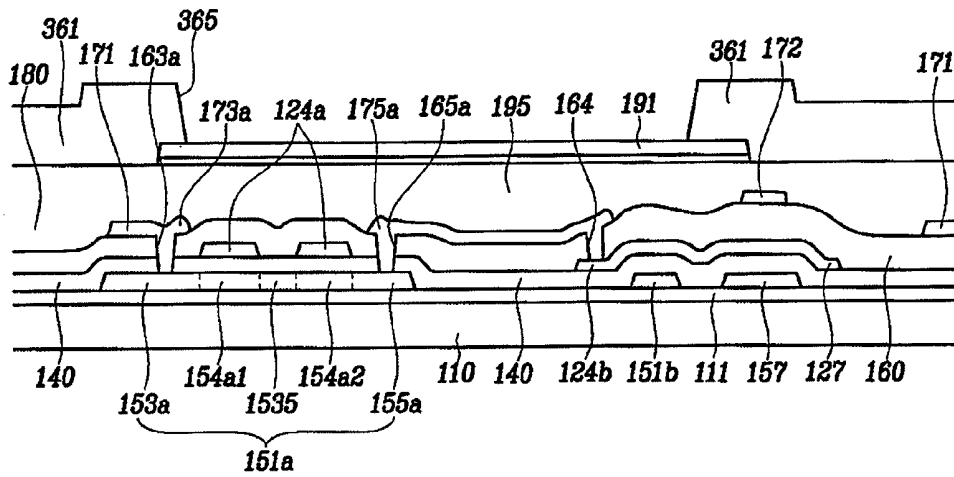


FIG.19B

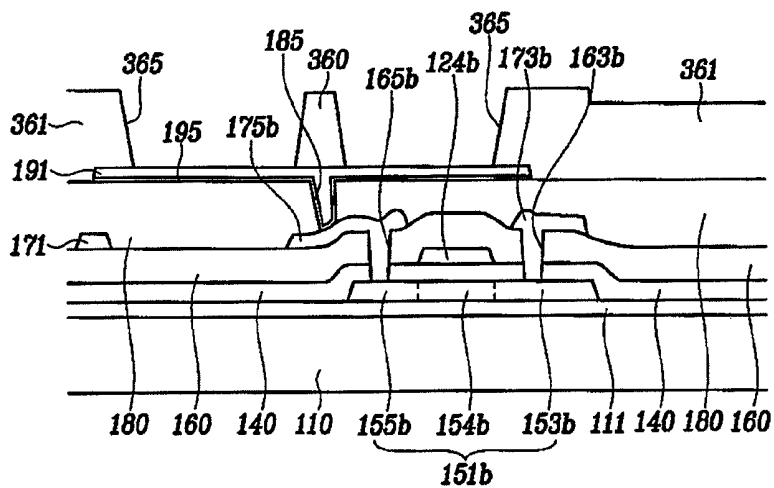


FIG.20

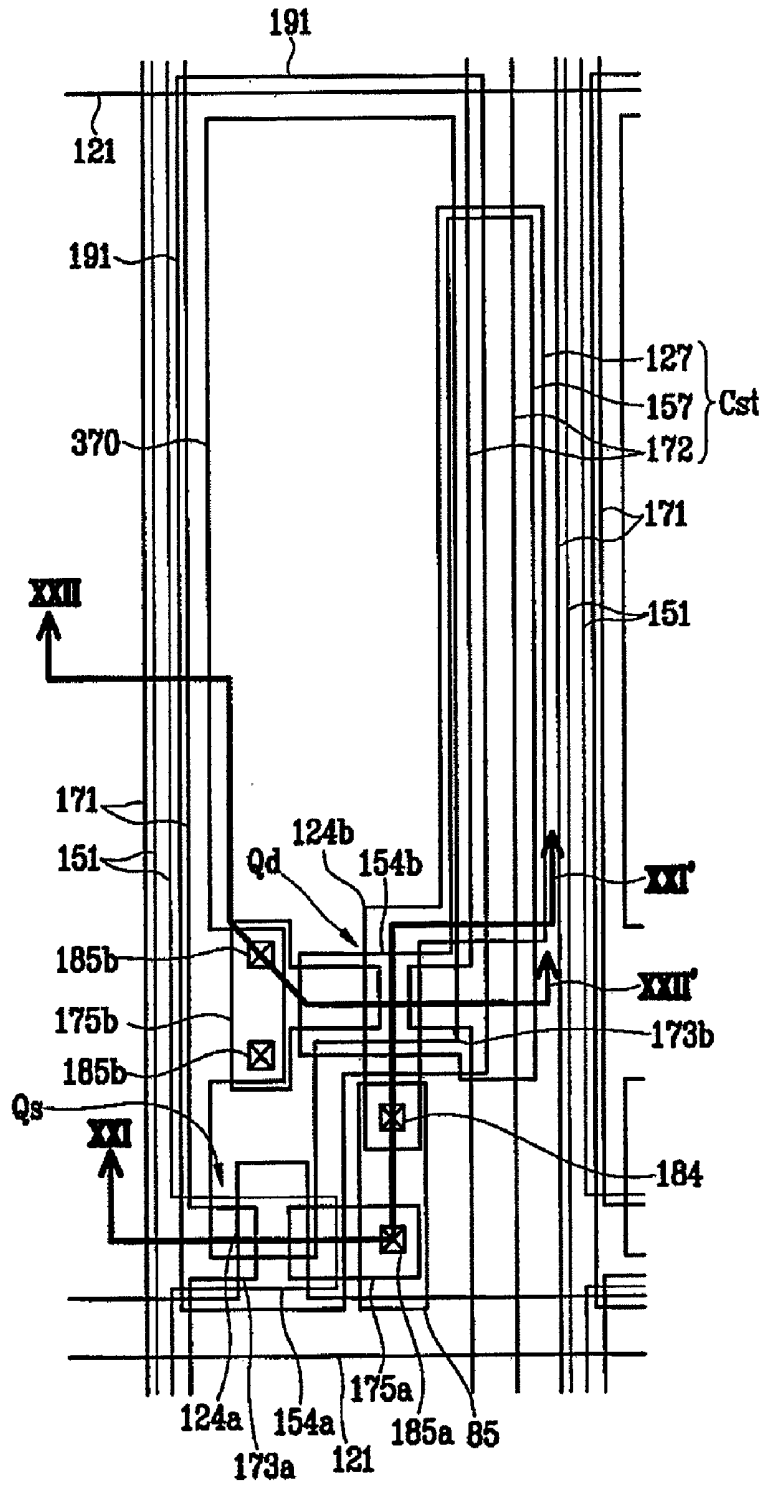


FIG.21

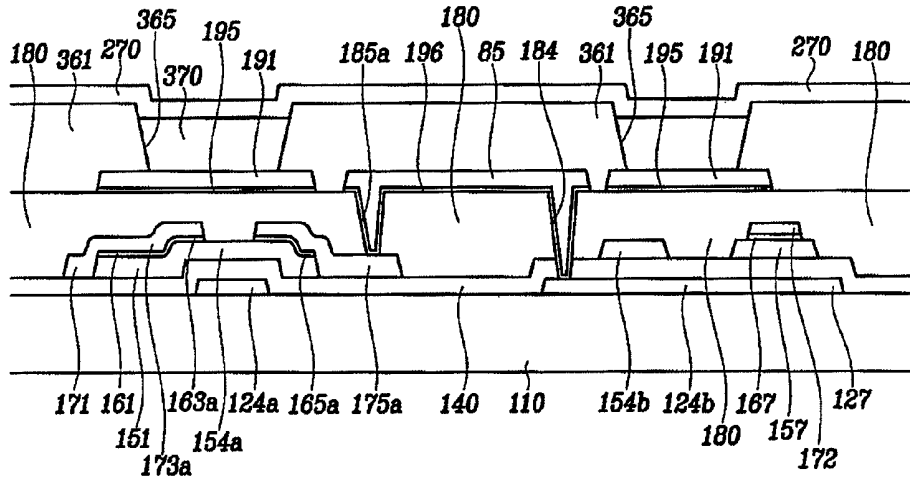


FIG.22

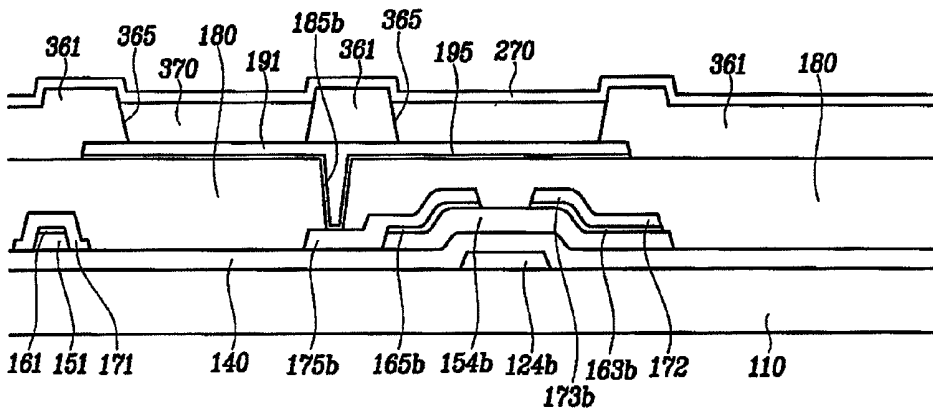


FIG. 23

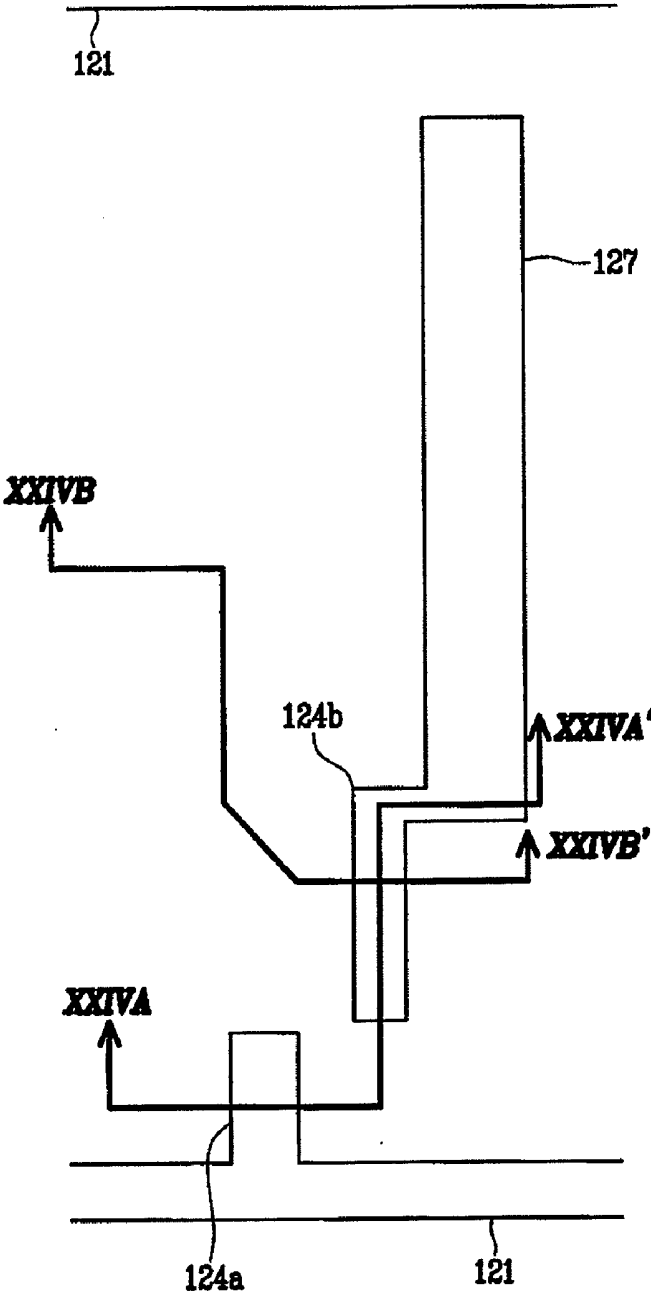


FIG.24A

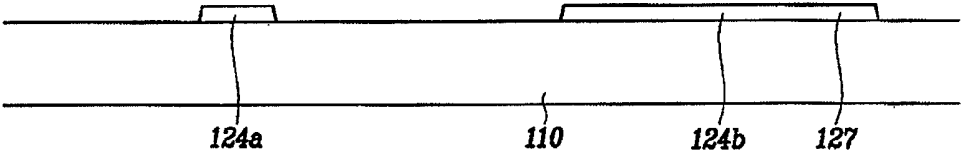


FIG.24B

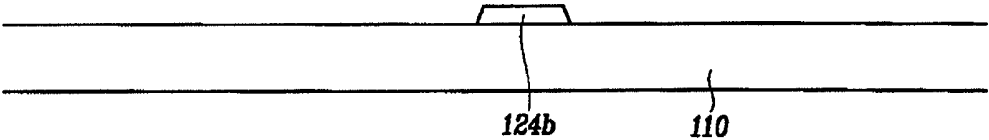


FIG.25

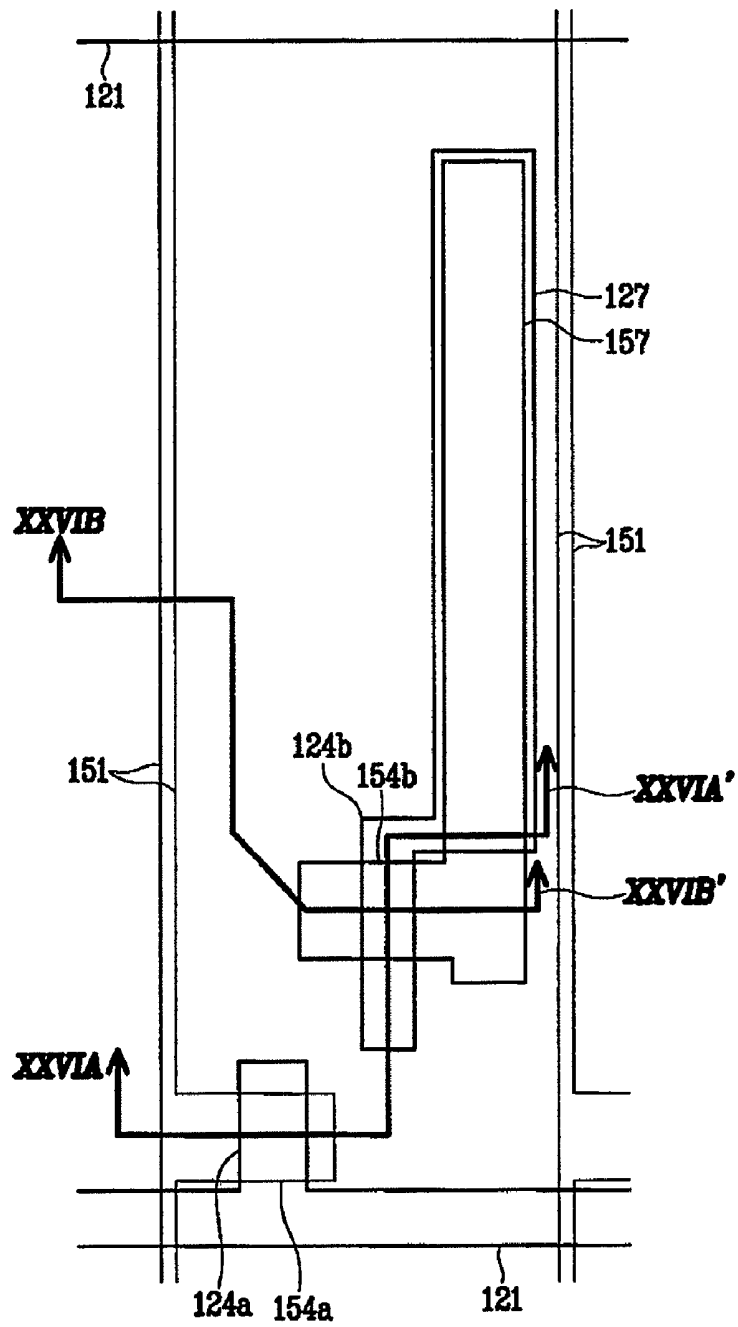


FIG.26A

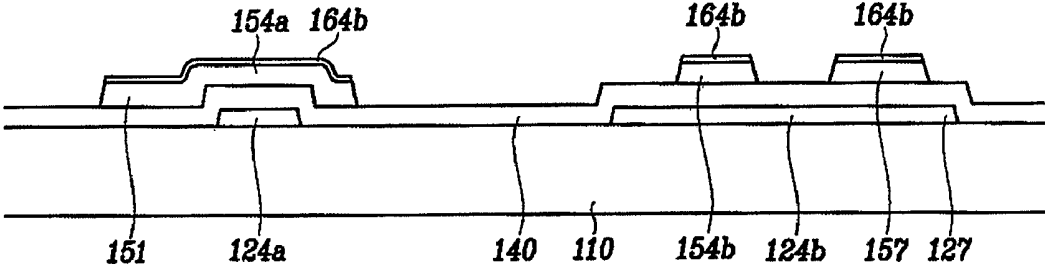


FIG.26B

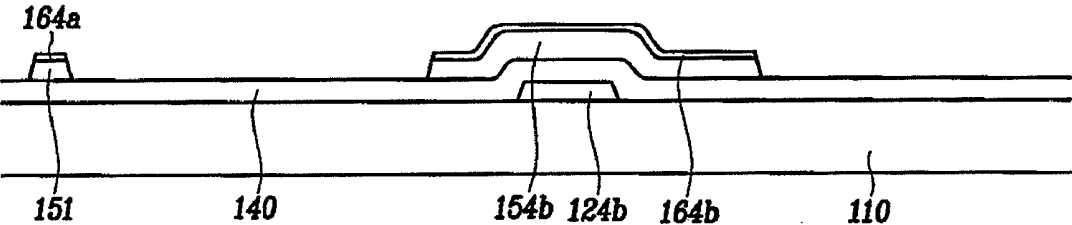


FIG. 27

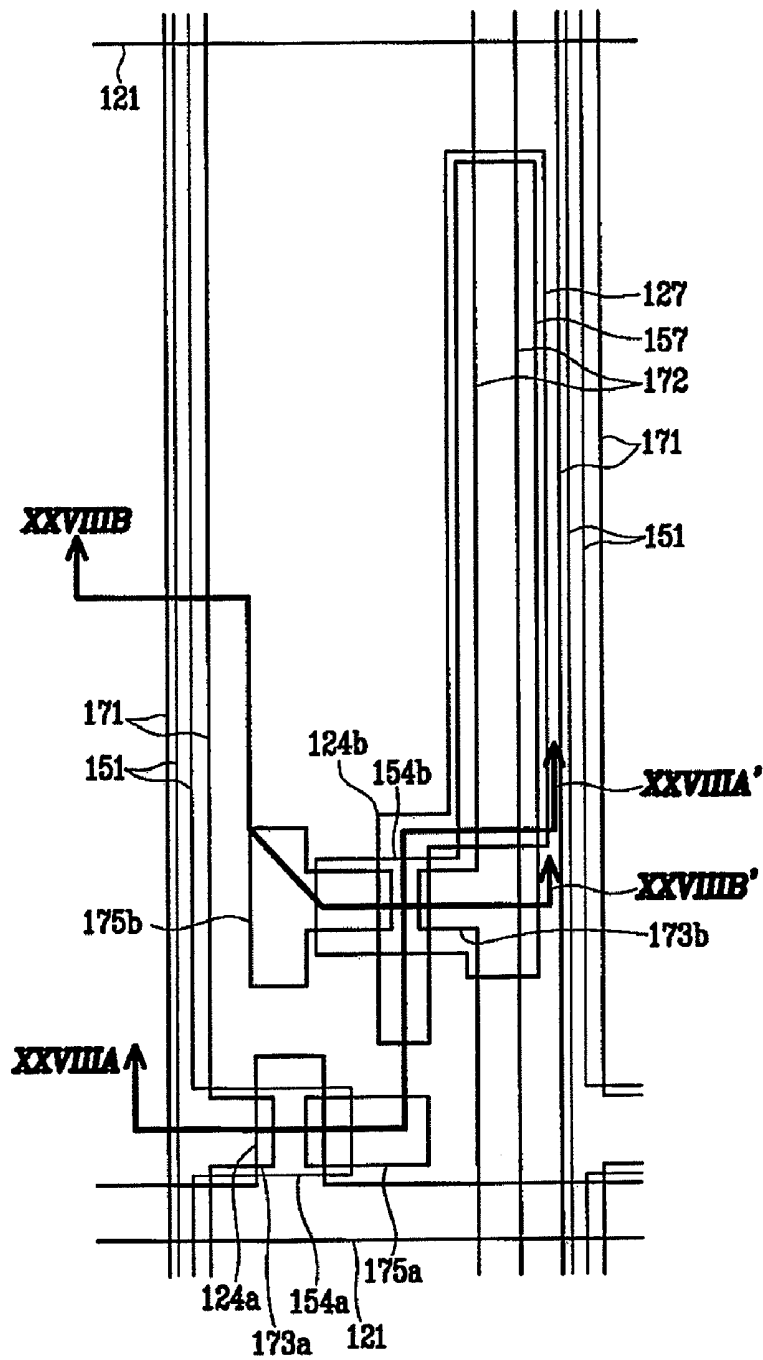


FIG.28A

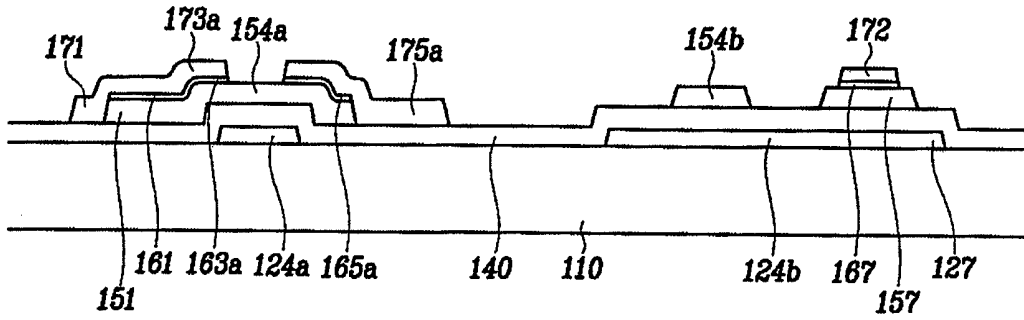


FIG.28B

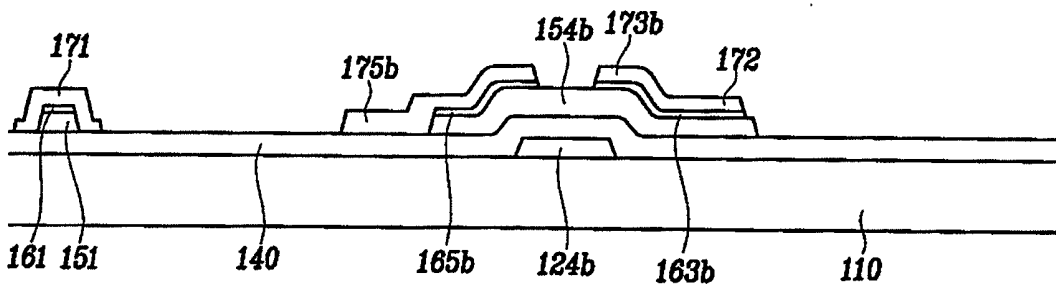


FIG.29

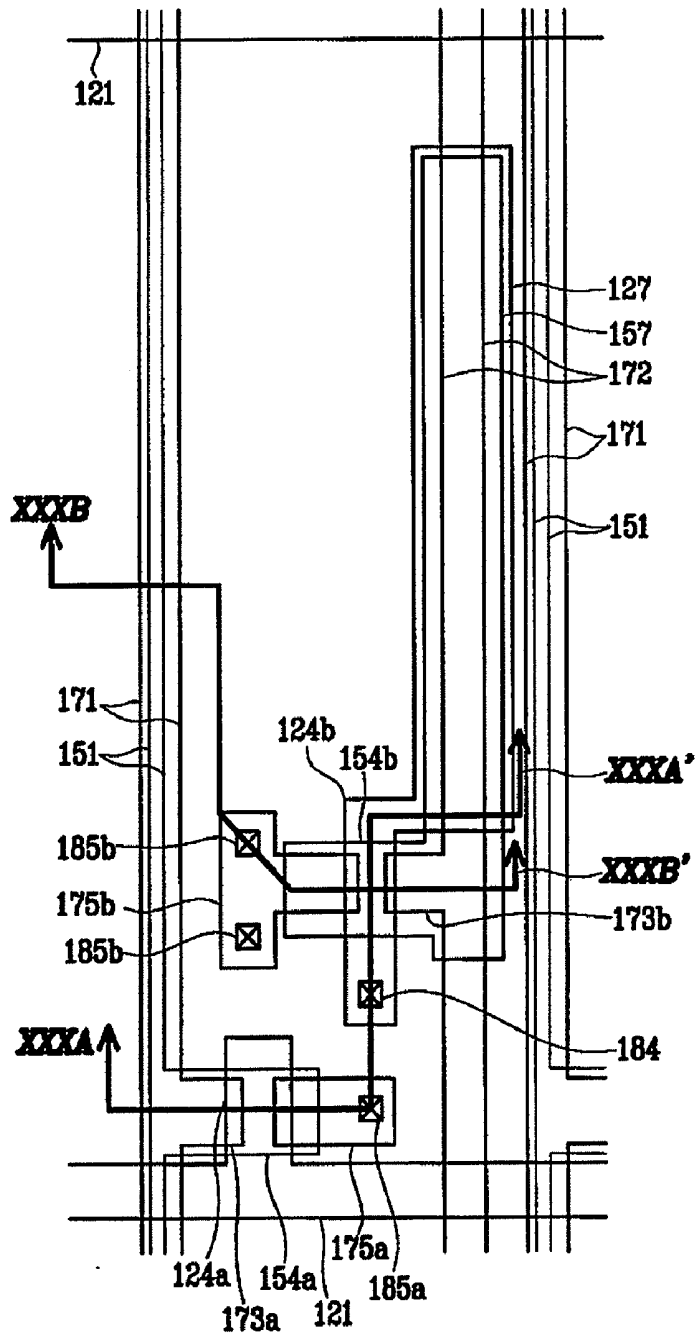


FIG. 30A

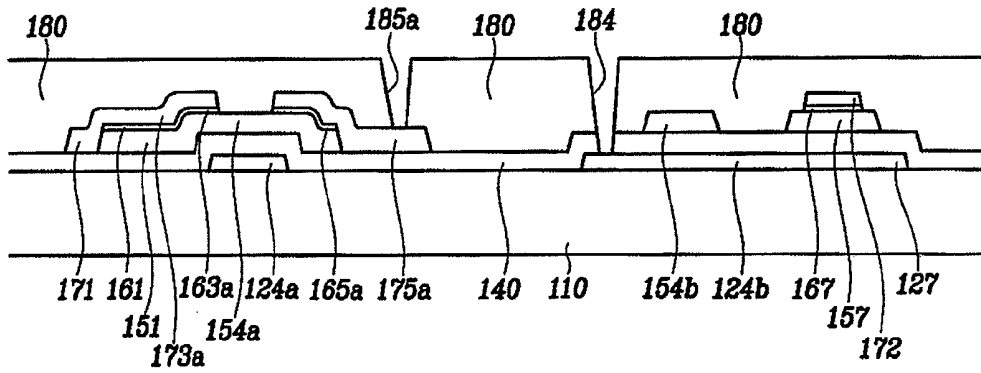


FIG. 30B

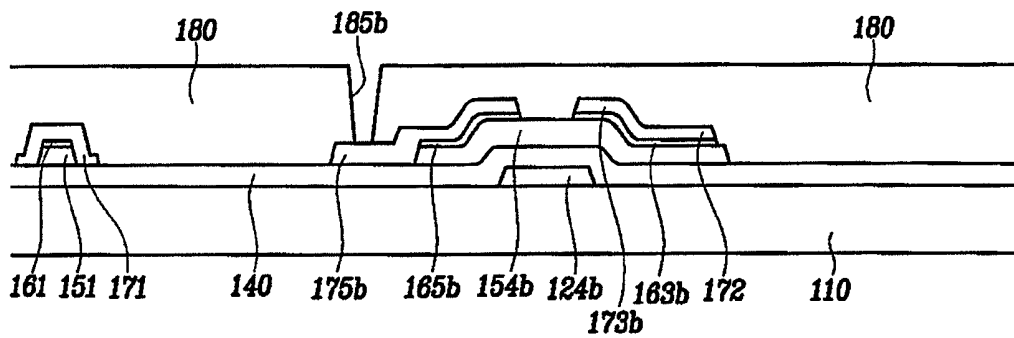


FIG. 31

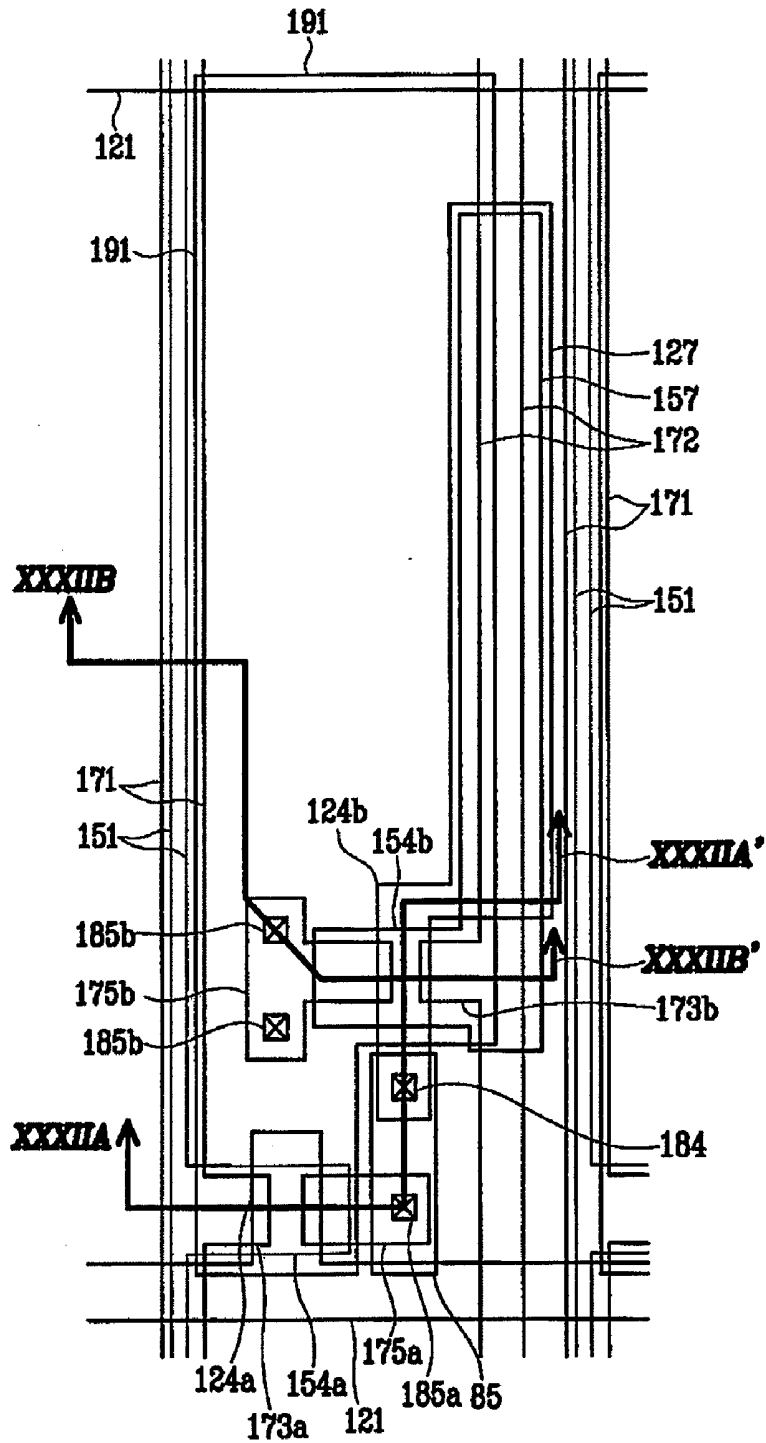


FIG.32A

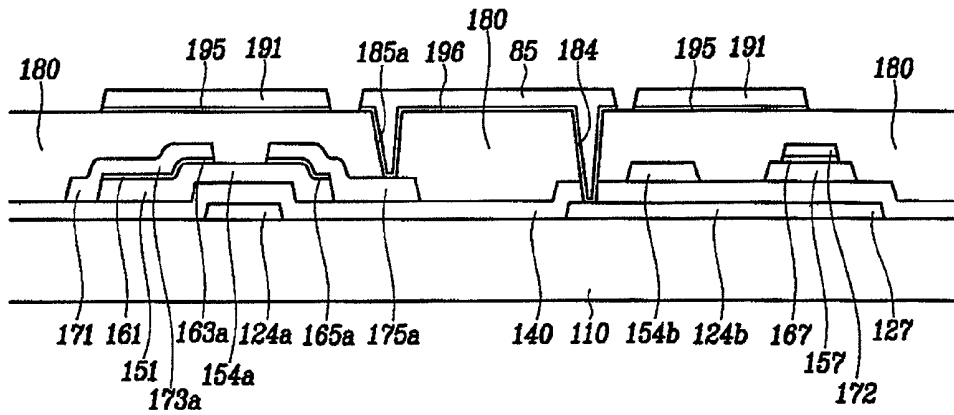


FIG.32B

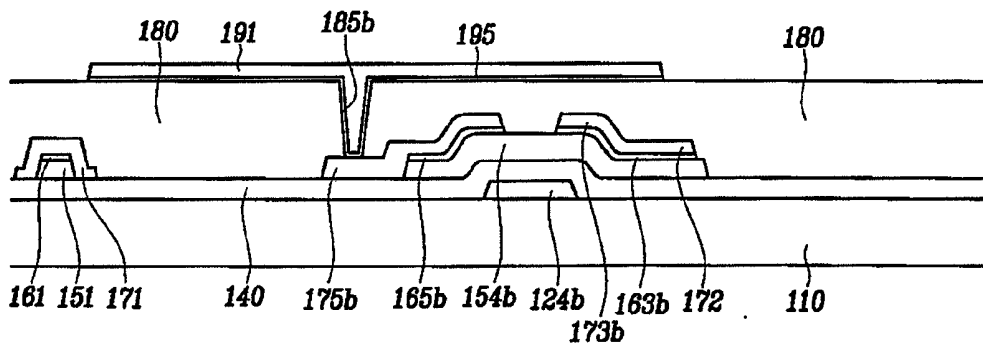


FIG. 33

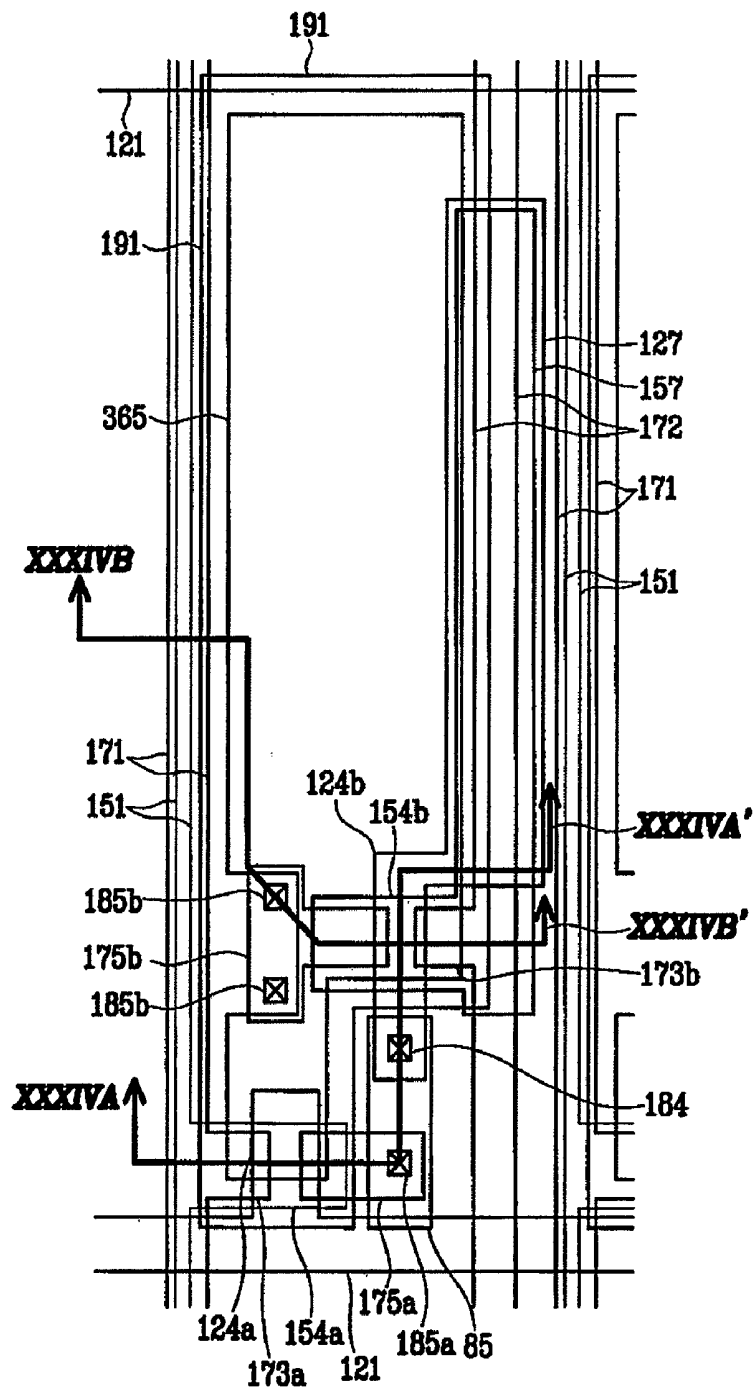


FIG.34A

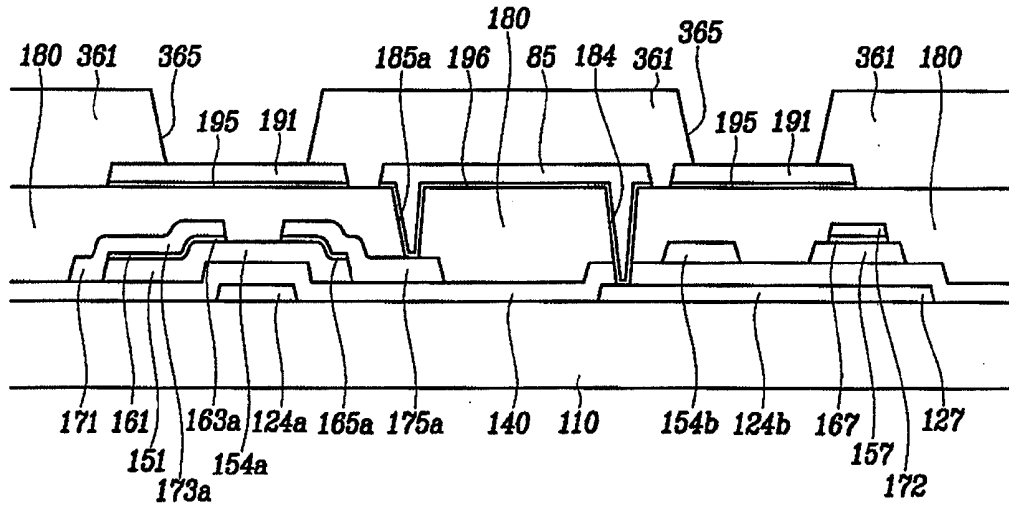
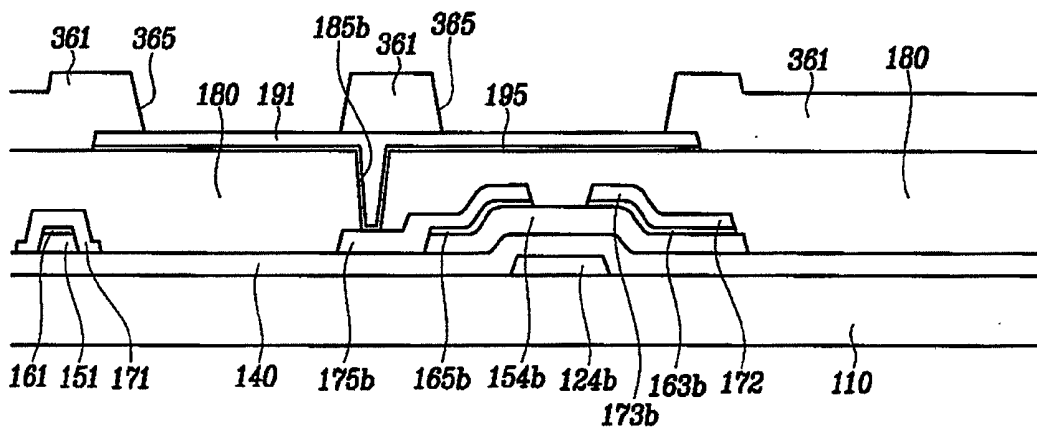


FIG.34B



**ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DIODE DISPLAY
AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF****CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATIONS**

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 11/202,340 filed on Aug. 11, 2005, which claims priority to Korean Patent Application No. 2004-63470 filed on Aug. 12, 2004, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] 1. Technical Field

[0003] The present disclosure relates to an organic light emitting diode display and manufacturing method thereof, and more particularly to an organic light emitting diode display having a stress buffer.

[0004] 2. Discussion of Related Art

[0005] An organic light emitting diode (OLED) display is a self emissive display device, which displays images by exciting an emissive organic material to emit light. The OLED display includes an anode (i.e., hole injection electrode), a cathode (i.e., electron injection electrode), and an organic light emission layer interposed therebetween. When the holes and the electrons are injected into the light emission layer, they recombine to form excitons, which emit light when they change from an excited state to a ground state.

[0006] A plurality of pixels of the OLED display, each of the plurality of pixels including an anode, a cathode, and a light emission layer, are arranged in a matrix and driven in passive matrix (or simple matrix) addressing or active matrix addressing.

[0007] A passive matrix type OLED display includes a plurality of anode lines, a plurality of cathode lines intersecting the anode lines, and a plurality of pixels. Each of the plurality of pixels includes a light emission layer. In the passive matrix type OLED display, light emission of a pixel located at the intersection of selected signal lines occurs when one of the anode lines and one of the cathode lines are selected.

[0008] The active matrix type OLED display includes a plurality of pixels. Each of the plurality of pixels in the active matrix type OLED includes a switching transistor, a driving transistor, a storage capacitor, an anode, a cathode, and a light emission layer. The active matrix type OLED display further includes a plurality of gate lines transmitting gate signals and a plurality of data lines transmitting data voltages. The switching transistor is connected to one of the gate lines and one of the data lines, and transmits the data voltage from the data line in response to the gate signal. The driving transistor receives the data voltage from the switching transistor and drives a current having a magnitude determined based on the data voltage. The current from the driving transistor enters the light emission layer to cause light emission having an intensity based on the current. The storage capacitor is connected to the data voltage to maintain the data voltage. A gray scaling of the active matrix type OLED display is accomplished by controlling the data voltages to adjust the current driven by the driving transistor. The color representation of the OLED display is obtained by providing red, green and blue light emission layers.

[0009] The OLED display includes top emission type and bottom emission type based on a light emitting direction. The top emission type OLED display includes a transparent cathode made of, for example, indium tin oxide (ITO) or indium zinc oxide (IZO) and an opaque anode. The bottom emission type OLED display includes an opaque cathode and a transparent anode. Positions of the anode and the cathode can be altered.

[0010] The anode and cathode electrodes of an OLED display can be formed on an insulating layer that includes a flat surface for step coverage. The electrodes contacting the insulating layer can be cracked during a manufacturing process. The crack can also expand into the insulating layer, thereby reducing the productivity of OLED display.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0011] According to an embodiment of the present invention, an organic light emitting diode display includes an insulating layer, a stress buffer disposed on the insulating layer, a first electrode disposed on the stress buffer, an organic light emitting member disposed on the first electrode, and a second electrode disposed on the organic light emitting member.

[0012] The insulating layer may include an organic material that may be hardened by heat.

[0013] The stress buffer may have a thermal expansion coefficient between a thermal expansion coefficient of the insulating layer and a thermal expansion coefficient of the first electrode.

[0014] The stress buffer may include at least one of ITO, IZO, or Mo and the first electrode may include at least one of Cr, Al, or Ag.

[0015] When the first electrode includes Cr, the stress buffer may include at least one of Si, W, or Mo. When the first electrode includes Ag, the stress buffer may include at least one of Si, W, Mo, Cr, Ge, Nb, Ti, Pt, Ni, Au, or Cu. When the first electrode comprises Al, the stress buffer may include at least one of Si, W, Mo, Cr, Ge, Nb, Ti, Pt, Ni, Au, Cu, or Mn.

[0016] The first electrode may include a reflective material and the second electrode may include a transparent material.

[0017] The organic light emitting diode display may further include a third electrode disposed between the first electrode and the organic light emitting member and having a higher work function than the first electrode. The third electrode may include ITO or IZO.

[0018] The stress buffer may have substantially the same planar shape as the first electrode.

[0019] The organic light emitting diode display may further include a gate line transmitting a gate signal, a data line transmitting a data signal, a driving voltage line transmitting a driving voltage, a switching transistor coupled to the gate line and the data line, and a driving transistor coupled to the switching transistor, the driving voltage line, and the first electrode.

[0020] The organic light emitting diode display may further include a connecting member disposed on the insulating layer and connecting the switching transistor and the driving transistor.

[0021] According to an embodiment of the present invention, an organic light emitting diode display includes a thin film transistor, an insulating layer disposed on the thin film transistor, a conductive member disposed on the insulating layer, a first electrode disposed on the conductive member, an organic light emitting member disposed on the first electrode, and a second electrode disposed on the organic light emitting member, wherein the conductive member has a thermal expansion coefficient between a thermal expansion coefficient of the insulating layer and a thermal expansion coefficient of the first electrode.

[0022] The insulating layer may include an organic material hardened by heat.

[0023] The conductive member may include at least one of ITO, IZO, or Mo and the first electrode may include at least one of Cr, Al, or Ag.

[0024] According to an embodiment of the present invention, a method of manufacturing an organic light emitting diode display includes forming an insulating layer, forming a stress buffer on the insulating layer, forming a first electrode on the stress buffer, forming an organic light emitting member on the first electrode, and forming a second electrode on the organic light emitting member.

[0025] The method may further include hardening the insulating layer at a temperature of about 200° C. to about 300° C.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0026] Preferred embodiments of the present disclosure can be understood in more detail from the following descriptions taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

[0027] FIG. 1 is a layout view of an OLED display according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0028] FIGS. 2 and 3 are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 1 taken along the lines II-II' and III-III', respectively;

[0029] FIGS. 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 are layout views of intermediate steps of manufacturing an OLED display shown in FIGS. 1-3 according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0030] FIGS. 5A and 5B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 4 taken along the lines VA-VA' and VB-VB', respectively;

[0031] FIGS. 7A and 7B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 6 taken along the lines VIIA-VIIA' and VIIB-VIIB', respectively;

[0032] FIGS. 9A and 9B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 8 taken along the lines IXA-IXA' and IXB-IXB', respectively;

[0033] FIGS. 11A and 11B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 10 taken along the lines XIA-XIA' and XIB-XIB', respectively;

[0034] FIGS. 13A and 13B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 12 taken along the lines XIII A-XIII A' and XIII B-XIII B', respectively;

[0035] FIGS. 15A and 15B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 14 taken along the lines XV A-XV A' and XV B-XV B', respectively;

[0036] FIGS. 17A and 17B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 16 taken along the lines XVII A-XVII A' and XVII B-XVII B', respectively;

[0037] FIGS. 19A and 19B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 18 taken along the lines XIX A-XIX A' and XIX B-XIX B';

[0038] FIG. 20 is a layout view of an OLED display according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0039] FIGS. 21 and 22 are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 20 taken along the lines XXI-XXI' and XXII-XXII', respectively;

[0040] FIGS. 23, 25, 27, 29, 31 and 33 are layout views of intermediate steps of manufacturing an OLED display shown in FIGS. 20-22 according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0041] FIGS. 24A and 24B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 23 taken along the lines XXIV A-XXIV A' and XXIV B-XXIV B', respectively;

[0042] FIGS. 26A and 26B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 25 taken along the lines XXVI A-XXVI A' and XXVI B-XXVI B', respectively;

[0043] FIGS. 28A and 28B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 27 taken along the lines XXVIII A-XXVIII A' and XXVIII B-XXVIII B', respectively;

[0044] FIGS. 30A and 30B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 29 taken along the lines XXX A-XXX A' and XXX B-XXX B', respectively;

[0045] FIGS. 32A and 32B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 31 taken along the lines XXXII A-XXXII A' and XXXII B-XXXII B', respectively; and

[0046] FIGS. 34A and 34B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 33 taken along the lines XXXIV A-XXXIV A' and XXXIV B-XXXIV B', respectively.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0047] Preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described below in more detail with reference to the accompanying drawings. The present invention may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein.

[0048] In the drawings, the thickness of layers, films, panels, regions, etc. are exaggerated for clarity. Like numerals refer to like elements throughout. It will be understood that when an element such as a layer, film, region or substrate is referred to as being "on" another element, it can be directly on the other element or intervening elements may also be present.

[0049] An OLED display according to an embodiment of the present invention is described with reference to FIGS. 1-3. FIG. 1 is a layout view of an OLED display according to an embodiment of the present invention. FIGS. 2 and 3 are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 1 taken along the lines II-II' and III-III', respectively.

[0050] A blocking film 111 comprising, for example, silicon nitride (SiN_x) or silicon oxide (SiO_x) is formed on an insulating substrate 110. The insulating substrate 110 com-

prises, for example, transparent glass or plastic. The blocking film 111 may comprise a dual-layered structure.

[0051] A plurality of pairs of first and second semiconductor islands 151a and 151b comprising, for example, polysilicon are formed on the blocking film 111. Each of the semiconductor islands 151a and 151b includes a plurality of extrinsic regions containing N type or P type conductive impurity and at least one intrinsic region hardly containing conductive impurity.

[0052] The first semiconductor island 151a includes extrinsic regions including first source/drain regions 153a and 155a and an intermediate region 1535. The first source/drain regions 153a and 155a and the intermediate region 1535 are doped with N type conductive impurity and separated from one another. Intrinsic regions of the first semiconductor island 151a include a pair of first channel regions 154a1 and 154a2 disposed between the extrinsic regions 153a, 1535 and 155a.

[0053] Regarding a second semiconductor island 151b, extrinsic regions include second source/drain regions 153b and 155b, which are doped with P type conductive impurity and separated from one another. Intrinsic regions include a second channel region 154b disposed between the second source/drain regions 153b and 155b and a storage region 157. The storage region 157 extends upward from the second source/drain region 153b.

[0054] The extrinsic regions may further include lightly doped regions (not shown) disposed between the channel regions 154a1, 154a2 and 154b and the source/drain regions 153a, 155a, 153b and 155b. The lightly doped regions may be substituted with offset regions that contain substantially no impurity.

[0055] Alternatively, the extrinsic regions 153a and 155a of the first semiconductor islands 151a can be doped with P type conductive impurity, while the extrinsic regions 153b and 155b of the second semiconductor islands 151b are doped with N type conductive impurity. Examples of P type conductive impurity are boron (B) and gallium (Ga) and those of N type conductive impurity are phosphorous (P) and arsenic (As).

[0056] A gate insulating layer 140 comprising, for example, silicon nitride or silicon oxide is formed on the semiconductor islands 151a and 151b and the blocking film 111. A plurality of gate conductors include a plurality of gate lines 121 comprising first control electrodes 124a and a plurality of second control electrodes 124b. The plurality of gate conductors are formed on the gate insulating layer 140.

[0057] The gate lines 121 for transmitting gate signals extend substantially in a transverse direction. The first control electrodes 124a project upward from the gate line 121 and intersect the first semiconductor islands 151a for overlapping the first channel regions 154a1 and 154a2. Each gate line 121 may include an end portion having a large area for contacting another layer or an external driving circuit. The gate lines 121 may extend to be connected to a gate driving circuit (not shown) for generating the gate signals, which may be integrated on the substrate 110.

[0058] The second control electrodes 124b are separated from the gate lines 121 and overlap the second channel regions 154b. The second control electrodes 124b extend to

form storage electrodes 127 overlapping the storage regions 157 of the second semiconductor islands 151b.

[0059] The gate conductors 121 and 124b can be made of, for example, Al containing metal such as Al and Al alloy (e.g. Al—Nd), Ag containing metal such as Ag and Ag alloy, Cu containing metal such as Cu and Cu alloy, Mo containing metal such as Mo and Mo alloy, Cr, Ta, Ti, etc. The gate conductors 121 and 124b may have a multi-layered structure including two films having different physical characteristics. One of the two films can comprise a low resistivity metal including Al containing metal, Ag containing metal, and Cu containing metal for reducing signal delay or voltage drop. The other film can comprise a material such as Mo containing metal, Cr, Ta, or Ti, which has good physical, chemical, and electrical contact characteristics with other materials such as indium tin oxide (ITO) or indium zinc oxide (IZO). Examples of a combination of the two films are a lower Cr film and an upper Al (alloy) film and a lower Al (alloy) film and an upper Mo (alloy) film. Alternatively, the gate conductors 121 and 124b may comprise other various metals or conductors.

[0060] The lateral sides of the gate conductors 121 and 124b are inclined to a surface of the substrate 110, and the inclination angle thereof ranges about 30° to about 80°.

[0061] An interlayer insulating film 160 is formed on the gate conductors 121 and 124b. The interlayer insulating film 160 can comprise, for example, an inorganic insulator such as silicon nitride and silicon oxide, an organic insulator, or a low dielectric insulator. The organic insulator or the low dielectric insulator preferably has a dielectric constant less than about 4.0 and includes a-Si:C:O and a-Si:O:F formed by plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD). The organic insulator for the interlayer insulation 160 may have photosensitivity. The interlayer insulation 160 may have a flat surface.

[0062] The interlayer insulating film 160 has a plurality of contact holes 164 exposing the second control electrodes 124b. The interlayer insulating film 160 and the gate insulating layer 140 have a plurality of contact holes 163a, 163b, 165a and 165b exposing the source/drain regions 153a, 153b, 155a and 155b.

[0063] A plurality of data conductors including a plurality of data lines 171, a plurality of driving voltage lines 172, and a plurality of first and second output electrodes 175a and 175b are formed on the interlayer insulating film 160.

[0064] The data lines 171 for transmitting data signals extend substantially in a longitudinal direction and intersect the gate lines 121. Each data line 171 includes a plurality of first input electrodes 173a connected to the first source/drain regions 153a through the contact holes 163a. Each data line 171 may include an end portion having a large area for contacting another layer or an external driving circuit. The data lines 171 may extend to be directly connected to a data driving circuit (not shown) for generating data signals, which may be integrated on the substrate 110.

[0065] The driving voltage lines 172 for transmitting driving voltages extend substantially in the longitudinal direction and intersect the gate lines 121. Each driving voltage line 172 includes a plurality of second input electrodes 173b connected to the second source/drain regions 153b through the contact holes 163b. The driving voltage lines 171 overlap the storage electrodes 127 and they may be connected to each other.

[0066] The first output electrodes **175a** are separated from the data lines **171** and the driving voltage lines **172**. The first output electrodes **175a** are connected to the first source/drain regions **155a** through the contact holes **165a** and to the second control electrodes **124b** through the contact hole **164**.

[0067] The second output electrodes **175b** are separated from the data lines **171**, the driving voltage lines **172**, and the first output electrodes **175a**. The second output electrodes **175b** are connected to the second source/drain regions **155b** through the contact holes **165b**.

[0068] The data conductors **171**, **172**, **175a** and **175b** comprise, for example, a refractory metal including Mo, Cr, Ti, Ta or alloys thereof. They may have a multi-layered structure preferably including a refractory metal film and a low resistivity film. Examples of the multi-layered structure are a double-layered structure including a lower Cr film and an upper Al (alloy) film, a double-layered structure of a lower Mo (alloy) film and an upper Al (alloy) film, and a triple-layered structure of a lower Mo (alloy) film, an intermediate Al (alloy) film, and an upper Mo (alloy) film.

[0069] Like the gate conductors **121** and **124b**, the data conductors **171**, **172**, **175a** and **175b** have inclined edge profiles. The inclination angles thereof range about 30° to about 80°.

[0070] A passivation layer **180** is formed on the data conductors **171**, **172**, **175a** and **175b**. The passivation layer **180** preferably has a thickness of about 1.0 μm to about 10.0 μm. The passivation layer **180** comprises, for example, an organic insulator such as polyimide or poly-acryl capable of providing a flat surface. Alternatively, the passivation layer **180** may comprise an inorganic insulator, other organic insulators, or a low dielectric insulator.

[0071] The passivation layer **180** includes a plurality of contact holes **185** exposing the second output electrodes **175b**. The passivation layer **180** may further include a plurality of contact holes (not shown) exposing end portions of the data lines **171**. The passivation layer **180** and the interlayer insulating film **160** may include a plurality of contact holes (not shown) exposing end portions of the gate lines **121**.

[0072] A plurality of stress buffers **195** and a plurality of pixel electrodes **191** are sequentially formed on the passivation layer **180**. The pixel electrodes **191** and the stress buffers **195** are connected to the second output electrodes **175b** through the contact holes **185**.

[0073] The pixel electrodes **191** comprises, for example, a reflective conductor such as Cr, Al, Ag, or alloys thereof having reflectance higher than about 70% for visible light. A thickness of the pixel electrodes **191** may range from about 10 nm to about 100 nm.

[0074] The stress buffers **195** have substantially the same planar shape as the pixel electrodes **191** and have a thickness in a range from about 50 nm to about 500 nm. The stress buffers **195** comprise, for example, a material having a thermal expansion coefficient ranging between that of the passivation layer **180** and that of the pixel electrodes **191** from preventing the pixel electrodes **191** from being exfoliated or cracked from the passivation layer **180**.

[0075] The stress buffers **195** comprise, for example, ITO, IZO or Mo containing metal. Alternatively, the stress buffers **195** comprise at least one selected from Si, W, or Mo when Cr

is used for the pixel electrodes **191**. The stress buffers **195** may comprise at least one selected from Si, W, Mo, Cr, Ge, Nb, Ti, Pt, Ni, Au, or Cu when Ag is used for the pixel electrodes **191**. The stress buffers **195** may comprise at least one selected from Si, W, Mo, Cr, Ge, Nb, Ti, Pt, Ni, Au, Cu or Mn when Al is used for the pixel electrodes **191**.

[0076] A plurality of auxiliary electrodes (not shown) comprise, for example, a material such as ITO or IZO having a higher work function than the pixel electrodes **191**. The work function may be more than about 5 eV. The plurality of auxiliary electrodes may be formed on the pixel electrodes **191** for enhancing injection of the electrons.

[0077] A plurality of contact assistants (not shown) or connecting members (not shown) may be also formed on the passivation layer **180** such that they are connected to exposed end portions of the gate lines **121** or the data lines **171**.

[0078] A partition **361** is formed on the passivation layer **180**. The partition **361** surrounds the pixel electrodes **191** to define openings **365**. The partition may comprise organic or inorganic insulating materials. The partition **361** may be made of a photosensitive material containing black pigment. A black partition **361** may function as a light blocking member and the formation of the partition **361** may be simplified.

[0079] A plurality of light emitting members **370** are formed on the pixel electrodes **191** and formed in the openings **365** defined by the partition **361**. Each of the light emitting members **370** comprises, for example, an organic material emitting one of primary color lights, i.e., red, green and blue lights. The OLED display displays images by spatially adding monochromatic primary color lights emitted from the light emitting members **370**.

[0080] Each of the light emitting members **370** may have a multilayered structure including an emitting layer (not shown) for emitting light and auxiliary layers (not shown) for improving the efficiency of light emission of the emitting layer. The auxiliary layers may include an electron transport layer (not shown) and a hole transport layer (not shown) for improving the balance of the electrons and holes. The auxiliary layers may further include an electron injecting layer (not shown) and a hole injecting layer (not shown) for improving the injection of the electrons and holes.

[0081] A common electrode **270** is formed on the light emitting members **370** and the partition **361**. The common electrode **270** is supplied with the common voltage and may comprise a transparent material such as ITO and IZO.

[0082] In the above-described OLED display, a first semiconductor island **151a**, a first control electrode **124a** connected to a gate line **121**, a first input electrode **153a** connected to a data line **171**, and a first output electrode **155a** form a switching TFT Qs. The switching TFT Qs includes a channel formed in the channel regions **154a1** and **154a2** of the first semiconductor **151a**. A second semiconductor island **151b**, a second control electrode **124b** connected to a first output electrode **155a**, a second input electrode **153b** connected to a driving voltage line **172**, and a second output electrode **155b** connected to a pixel electrode **191** form a driving TFT Qd. The driving TFT Qd includes a channel formed in the channel region **154b** of the second semiconductor **151b**. A pixel electrode **191**, a light emitting member **370**, and the common electrode **270** form an organic light emitting diode having the pixel electrode **191** as an anode and

the common electrode **270** as a cathode or vice versa. The overlapping portions of a storage electrode **127**, a driving voltage line **172**, and a storage region **157** form a storage capacitor Cst.

[0083] The switching TFT Qs transmits data signals to the data line **171** in response to a gate signal from the gate line **121**. The driving TFT Qd drives a current having a magnitude based on the voltage difference between the second control electrode **124b** and the second output electrode **175b** upon receipt of the data signals. The voltage difference between the second control electrode **124b** and the second input electrode **173b** is stored in the storage capacitor Cst and maintained after the switching TFT Qs is turned off. The light emitting diode emits light having intensity based on the current driven by the driving TFT Qd. The monochromatic primary color lights emitted from the light emitting diodes are spatially added to display images.

[0084] The OLED display according to an embodiment, which includes opaque pixel electrodes **191** and a transparent common electrode **270**, emits light toward the top of the substrate **110**. This type of OLED display is referred to as a top emission OLED display. Alternatively, an embodiment of the present invention may be employed to a bottom emission OLED display. The bottom emission OLED display includes transparent pixel electrodes **191** and an opaque common electrode **270** and emits light toward the bottom of the substrate **110**.

[0085] The semiconductor islands **151a** and **151b** may comprise amorphous silicon without an intrinsic region. In this embodiment, ohmic contacts (not shown) may comprise amorphous silicon heavily doped with N type conductive impurity may be interposed between the semiconductor islands **151a** and **151b** and the data conductors **171**, **172**, **175a** and **175b**.

[0086] The gate electrodes **124a** and **124b** may be disposed under the semiconductor islands **151a** and **151b**, while the gate insulating layer **140** is interposed between the semiconductor islands **151a** and **151b** and the gate electrodes **124a** and **124b**. The data conductors **171**, **172**, **173b** and **175b** may be disposed directly on the gate insulating layer **140**.

[0087] In addition, the data conductors **171**, **172**, **173b** and **175b** may be disposed under the semiconductor islands **151a** and **151b** and may electrically contact the semiconductor islands **151a** and **151b**.

[0088] A method of manufacturing the OLED display shown in FIGS. 1-3 according to an embodiment of the present invention is described with reference to FIGS. 4-19B as well as FIGS. 1-3.

[0089] FIGS. 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 are layout views of intermediate steps of a manufacturing an OLED display shown in FIGS. 1-3 according to an embodiment of the present invention. FIGS. 5A and 5B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 4 taken along the lines VA-VA' and VB-VB', respectively. FIGS. 7A and 7B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 6 taken along the lines VIIA-VIIA' and VIIB-VIIB', respectively. FIGS. 9A and 9B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 8 taken along the lines IXA-IXA' and IXB-IXB', respectively. FIGS. 11A and 11B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 10 taken along the lines XIA-XIA' and XIB-XIB', respectively. FIGS. 13A and 13B are sectional views of

the OLED display shown in FIG. 12 taken along the lines XIII A-XIII A' and XIII B-XIII B', respectively. FIGS. 15A and 15B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 14 taken along the lines XV A-XV A' and XV B-XV B', respectively. FIGS. 17A and 17B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 16 taken along the lines XVII A-XVII A' and XVII B-XVII B', respectively. FIGS. 19A and 19B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 18 taken along the lines XIX A-XIX A' and XIX B-XIX B'.

[0090] A blocking layer **111** is formed on an insulating substrate **110**. A semiconductor layer comprising amorphous silicon is deposited on the blocking layer **111** preferably by LTCVD (low temperature chemical vapor deposition), PECVD (plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition) or sputtering.

[0091] The semiconductor layer is crystallized into polysilicon and photo-etched to form a plurality of pairs of first and second semiconductor islands **151a** and **151b** as shown in FIGS. 4-5B.

[0092] Referring to FIGS. 6-7B, a gate metal layer is deposited on the gate insulating layer **140**. A first photoresist PR1 is formed on the gate metal layer. The gate metal layer is etched using the first photoresist PR1 as an etch mask to form a plurality of gate electrodes **124b** including storage electrodes **127** and a plurality of gate metal members **120a**. P type conductive impurity is introduced into portions of the second semiconductor islands **151b**. The second semiconductor islands **151b** are covered with the gate electrodes **124b** and the first photoresist PR1 to form a plurality of P type conductive extrinsic regions **153b** and **155b**. The first semiconductor islands **151a** are covered with the first photoresist PR1 and the gate metal members **120a** to be protected from impurity implantation.

[0093] Referring to FIGS. 8-9B, the first photoresist PR1 is removed and a second photoresist PR2 is formed. The gate metal members **120a** are etched using the second photoresist PR2 as an etch mask to form a plurality of gate lines **121** including gate electrodes **124a**. N type conductive impurity is injected into portions of the first semiconductor islands **151a**. The first semiconductor islands **151a** are not covered with the gate lines **121** and the gate electrodes **124b** as well as the second photoresist PR2, to form a plurality of N type extrinsic regions **153a** and **155a**. At this time, the second semiconductor islands **151b** are covered with the second photoresist PR2 to be protected from impurity implantation.

[0094] Referring to FIGS. 10-11B, an interlayer insulating film **160** is deposited. The interlayer insulating film **160** and the gate insulating layer **140** are photo-etched to form a plurality of contact holes **163a**, **163b**, **165a** and **165b** exposing the extrinsic regions **153a**, **155a**, **153b** and **155b**, respectively, and to form a plurality of contact holes **164** exposing the gate electrodes **124b**.

[0095] Referring to FIGS. 12-13B, a plurality of data conductors including a plurality of data lines **171** including first input (e.g., source) electrodes **173a**, a plurality of driving voltage lines **172** including second input (e.g., source) electrodes **173b**, and a plurality of first and second output (e.g., drain) electrodes **175a** and **175b** are formed on the interlayer insulating layer **160**.

[0096] Referring to FIGS. 14-15B, a passivation layer **180** comprising, for example, an organic material such as poly-

imide or acryl is deposited by spin coating, roll coating, cap coating, etc. The passivation layer **180** is patterned by lithography to form a plurality of contact holes **185** exposing the second output electrodes **175b**.

[0097] Referring to FIGS. **16-17B**, a lower conductive layer **195** and an upper conductive layer **191** are sequentially deposited on the passivation layer **180** by sputtering or electron beam evaporation. The upper conductive layer **191** comprises, for example, a reflective metal such as Al, Ag, or Cr. The lower conductive layer **195** comprises, for example, ITO, IZO, or Mo, which has a thermal expansion coefficient ranging between that of the passivation layer **180** and that of a material of the upper conductive layer **191**.

[0098] An additional conductive layer for auxiliary electrodes (not shown) may be deposited on the upper conductive layer **191** by sputtering or ion plating. The additional conductive layer may comprise ITO or IZO and may have a thickness of about 5 nm to about 500 nm.

[0099] The upper and the lower conductive layers (as well as the additional conductive layer) are patterned by lithography and etched to form a plurality of pixel electrodes **191**, a plurality of connecting members, and a plurality of stress buffers **195**. According to an embodiment of the present invention, the patterning of the upper and the lower conductive layers is performed under a single etch condition.

[0100] Heat treatment under a temperature of about 200° C. to about 300° C. for hardening the passivation layer **180** may be performed before a deposition of the lower conductive layer **195**, or after the lower and the upper conductive layers **195**, **191** are deposited. Although the hardening after the passivation layer **180** may expand the pixel electrodes **191** and the passivation layer **180** as well as the stress buffers **195**, there is no exfoliation and no crack of the pixel electrodes **191** due to the stress caused by the difference in the thermal expansion rate since the stress buffers **195** have a thermal expansion coefficient between that of the passivation layer **180** and that of the pixel electrodes **191**.

[0101] Referring to FIGS. **18-19B**, an insulating layer is deposited and patterned to form a partition **361** having openings **365** on the pixel electrodes **191** and the passivation layer **180**.

[0102] Referring to FIGS. **1-3**, a plurality of organic light emitting members **370** preferably including multiple layers (not shown) are formed in the openings **365** on the pixel electrodes **191** by deposition or inkjet printing processes following a masking process. A common electrode **270** is formed on the light emitting members **370** and the partitions **361**.

[0103] Experiments were performed for a Cr pixel electrode **191** and an organic passivation layer **180** comprising a material having a product name "PC455R1." A heat treatment process for hardening the passivation layer **180** was performed at a temperature of about 230° C. No crack and no exfoliation was observed for buffer members **195** comprising IZO having a thickness from about 90 nm to about 360 nm. There were very few observed cracks and exfoliation for buffer members **195** comprising Mo having a thickness from about 100 nm to about 350 nm. The thermal expansion coefficient of PC455R1 and Cr are $2.0-2.3 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$. and $4.9 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$., respectively, and the thermal expansion coefficient of Mo is $4.8 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$.

[0104] An OLED display according to an embodiment of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to FIGS. **20-22**.

[0105] FIG. **20** is a layout view of an OLED display according to an embodiment of the present invention. FIGS. **21** and **22** are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. **20** taken along the lines XXI-XXI' and XXII-XXII', respectively.

[0106] A plurality of gate conductors include a plurality of gate lines **121** including first control electrodes **124a** and a plurality of second control electrodes **124b**. The plurality of gate conductors are formed on an insulating substrate **110** such as transparent glass or plastic.

[0107] The gate lines **121** for transmitting gate signals extend substantially in a transverse direction. Each gate line **121** may further include an end portion having an area for contacting another layer or an external driving circuit. The first control electrodes **124a** project from the gate line **121**. The gate lines **121** may extend to be directly connected to a gate driving circuit (not shown) for generating the gate signals, which may be integrated on the substrate **110**.

[0108] Each of the second control electrodes **124b** is separated from the gate lines **121**, and includes a storage electrode **127** extending upwardly.

[0109] The gate conductors **121** and **124b** comprise, for example, an Al containing metal, an Ag containing metal, a Cu containing metal, a Mo containing metal, Cr, Ta, Ti, etc. The gate conductors **121** and **124b** may have a multi-layered structure including two films having different physical characteristics. One of the two films may comprise a low resistivity metal including an Al containing metal, an Ag containing metal, and a Cu containing metal for reducing signal delay or voltage drop. The other film may comprise a material such as a Mo containing metal, Cr, Ta, or Ti, which has good physical, chemical, and electrical contact characteristics with other materials such as ITO or IZO. Examples of a combination are a lower Cr film and an upper Al (alloy) film or a lower Al (alloy) film and an upper Mo (alloy) film. Alternatively, the gate conductors **121** and **124b** may comprise other various metals or conductors.

[0110] The lateral sides of the gate conductors **121** and **124b** are inclined relative to a surface of the substrate **110**, and the inclination angle thereof ranges from about 30° to about 80°.

[0111] A gate insulating layer **140** may comprise silicon nitride or silicon oxide, and is formed on the gate conductors **121** and **124b**.

[0112] A plurality of semiconductor stripes and islands **151** and **154b** comprising, for example, hydrogenated amorphous silicon (abbreviated to "a-Si") or polysilicon are formed on the gate insulating layer **140**. Each semiconductor stripe **151** extends substantially in the longitudinal direction and includes a plurality of projections **154a** branched out toward the first gate electrodes **124a**. Each semiconductor island **154b** intersects the second control electrodes **124b** and includes an extension **157** overlapping a storage electrode **127**.

[0113] A plurality of pairs of ohmic contact stripes and islands **161** and **165a** and a plurality of pairs of ohmic contact islands **163b** and **165b** are formed on the semiconductor

stripes and islands **151** and **154b**, respectively. The ohmic contacts **161**, **163b**, **165a** and **165b** comprise, for example, silicide or n+ hydrogenated a-Si heavily doped with N type conductive impurity such as phosphorous. The ohmic contacts **161** and **165a** are located in pairs on the semiconductor stripes **151**, and the ohmic contacts **163b** and **165b** are located in pairs on the second semiconductor islands **154b**.

[0114] A plurality of data conductors including a plurality of data lines **171**, a plurality of driving voltage lines **172**, and a plurality of first and second output electrodes **175a** and **175b** are formed on the ohmic contacts **161**, **163b**, **165b** and **165b** and the gate insulating layer **140**.

[0115] The data lines **171** for transmitting data signals extend substantially in the longitudinal direction and intersect the gate lines **121**. Each data line **171** includes a plurality of first input electrodes **173a** extending toward the first control electrodes **124a**. Each data line **171** may further include an end portion having an area for contacting another layer or an external driving circuit. The data lines **171** may extend to be directly connected to a data driving circuit (not shown) for generating data signals, which may be integrated on the substrate **110**.

[0116] The driving voltage lines **172** for transmitting driving voltages extend substantially in the longitudinal direction and intersect the gate lines **121**. Each driving voltage line **172** includes a plurality of second input electrodes **173b** extending toward the second control electrodes **124b**. The driving voltage lines **172** overlap the storage electrodes **127**. The driving voltage lines **172** and the storage electrodes **127** may be connected to each other.

[0117] The first and the second output electrodes **175a** and **175b** are separated from each other. The first and the second output electrodes **175a** and **175b** are separated from the data lines **171** and the driving voltage lines **172**. Each pair of the first input electrodes **173a** and the first output electrodes **175a** are disposed opposite each other with respect to a first control electrode **124a**. Each pair of the second input electrodes **173b** and the second output electrodes **175b** are disposed opposite each other with respect to a second control electrode **124b**.

[0118] The data conductors **171**, **172**, **175a** and **175b** comprise, for example, a refractory metal including Mo, Cr, Ti, Ta or alloys thereof. The data conductors **171**, **172**, **175a** and **175b** may have a multi-layered structure including a refractory metal film and a low resistivity film. Examples of the multi-layered structure are a double-layered structure including a lower Cr film and an upper Al (alloy) film, or a double-layered structure of a lower Mo (alloy) film and an upper Al (alloy) film. Alternatively, the data conductors **171**, **172**, **175a** and **175b** may have a triple-layered structure of a lower Mo (alloy) film, an intermediate Al (alloy) film, and an upper Mo (alloy) film.

[0119] Like the gate conductors **121** and **124b**, the data conductors **171**, **172**, **175a** and **175b** have inclined edge profiles, and the inclination angles thereof range from about 30° to about 80°.

[0120] The ohmic contacts **161**, **163b**, **165b** and **165b** are interposed between the underlying semiconductor stripes and islands **151** and **154b** and the overlying data conductors **171**, **172**, **175a** and **175b**, thereby reducing the contact resistance therebetween. The semiconductor stripes and island **151** and **154b** include a plurality of exposed portions, which are not

covered with the data conductors **171**, **172**, **175a** and **175b**, such as portions disposed between the input electrodes **173a** and **173b** and the output electrodes **175a** and **175b**.

[0121] A passivation layer **180** is formed on the data conductors **171**, **172**, **175a** and **175b** and the exposed portions of the semiconductor stripes and islands **151** and **154b**. The passivation layer **180** may comprise an organic insulator or a low dielectric insulator. The low dielectric insulator and the organic insulator may comprise a dielectric constant less than about 4.0, and includes a-Si:C:O and a-Si:O:F formed by plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD). The organic insulator for the passivation layer **180** may have photosensitivity. The passivation **180** may have a flat surface. The passivation layer **180** may include a lower film of an inorganic insulator and an upper film of an organic insulator for having good insulating characteristics of the organic insulator while preventing the exposed portions of the semiconductor stripes and islands **151** and **154b** from being damaged by the organic insulator.

[0122] The passivation layer **180** has a plurality of contact holes **182**, **185a** and **185b** exposing the end portions of the data lines **171**, the first output electrodes **175a**, and the second output electrodes **175b**, respectively. The passivation layer **180** and the gate insulating layer **140** have a plurality of contact holes **181** and **184** exposing the end portions of the gate lines **121** and the second control electrodes **124b**, respectively.

[0123] A plurality of stress buffers **195** and **196** are formed on the passivation layer **180** and a plurality of pixel electrodes **191** and a plurality of connecting members **85** are formed on the stress buffers **195** and **196**, respectively.

[0124] The pixel electrodes **191** and the connecting members **85** may comprise, for example, a reflective conductor such as Cr, Al, Ag, or alloys thereof. The stress buffers **195** and **196** may comprise, for example, a material having a thermal expansion coefficient ranging from that of the passivation layer **180** to that of the pixel electrodes **191**, which includes ITO, IZO or Mo containing metal.

[0125] The pixel electrodes **191** and the stress buffers **195** thereunder are connected to the second output electrodes **175b** through the contact holes **185b**. The connecting members **85** and the stress buffers **196** thereunder are connected to the second control electrodes **124b** and the first output electrodes **175a** through the contact holes **184** and **185b**.

[0126] A partition **361** having a plurality of openings **365**, a plurality of light emitting members **370**, and a common electrode **270** are formed on the pixel electrodes **191** and the passivation layer **180** like the OLED display shown in FIGS. 1-3.

[0127] The semiconductor stripes and islands **151** and **154b**, if it is made of polysilicon, include intrinsic regions (not shown) disposed under the gate electrodes **124a** and **124b** and extrinsic regions (not shown) disposed opposite each other with respect to the intrinsic regions. The extrinsic regions are electrically connected to the input electrodes **173a** and **173b** and the output electrodes **175a** and **175b**, and the ohmic contacts **161**, **163b**, **165a** and **165b** may be omitted.

[0128] A method of manufacturing the OLED display shown in FIGS. 20-22 according to an embodiment of the present invention is described with reference to FIGS. 23-34B as well as FIGS. 20-22.

[0129] FIGS. 23, 25, 27, 29, 31 and 33 are layout views of intermediate steps of manufacturing an OLED display shown in FIGS. 20-22 according to an embodiment of the present invention. FIGS. 24A and 24B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 23 taken along the lines XXIVA-XXIVA' and XXIVB-XXIVB', respectively. FIGS. 26A and 26B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 25 taken along the lines XXVIA-XXVIA' and XXVIB-XXVIB', respectively. FIGS. 28A and 28B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 27 taken along the lines XXVIA-XXVIA' and XXVIB-XXVIB', respectively. FIGS. 30A and 30B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 29 taken along the lines XXXA-XXXA' and XXXB-XXXB', respectively. FIGS. 32A and 32B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 31 taken along the lines XXXIIA-XXXIIA' and XXXIIB-XXXIIB', respectively. FIGS. 34A and 34B are sectional views of the OLED display shown in FIG. 33 taken along the lines XXXIVA-XXXIVA' and XXXIVB-XXXIVB', respectively.

[0130] Referring to FIGS. 23-24B, a plurality of gate conductors include a plurality of gate lines 121 including first control electrodes 124a and a plurality of second control electrodes 124b including storage electrodes 127. The plurality of gate conductors are formed on an insulating substrate 110 such as transparent glass or plastic.

[0131] Referring to FIGS. 25-26B, after sequential deposition of a gate insulating layer 140, an intrinsic a-Si layer, and an extrinsic a-Si layer on the gate insulating layer 140, the extrinsic a-Si layer and the intrinsic a-Si layer are patterned by lithography and are etched to form a plurality of extrinsic semiconductor stripes and islands 164a and 164b and a plurality of intrinsic semiconductor stripes and islands 151 and 154b. Each of the semiconductor stripes 151 includes a plurality of projections 154a.

[0132] Referring to FIGS. 27-28B, a plurality of data conductors are formed on the gate insulating layer 140 and the extrinsic semiconductor stripes and islands 164a and 164b. The data conductors include a plurality of data lines 171 including first input (e.g., source) electrodes 173a, a plurality of driving voltage lines 172 including second input (e.g., source) electrodes 173b, and a plurality of first and second output (e.g., drain) electrodes 175a and 175b.

[0133] Thereafter, portions of the extrinsic semiconductor stripes 164a and 164b, which are not covered with the data conductors 171, 172, 175a and 175b, are removed by an etch process. The etch process forms a plurality of ohmic contact stripes 161 including projections 163a and a plurality of ohmic contact islands 163b, 165a and 165b and exposes portions of the intrinsic semiconductor stripes and islands 151 and 154b. Oxygen plasma treatment may be performed to stabilize the exposed surfaces of the semiconductor stripes and islands 151 and 154b.

[0134] Referring to FIGS. 29-30B, a passivation layer 180 comprising, for example, an organic material is deposited and patterned by lithography and etched to form a plurality of contact holes 184, 185a and 185b. The plurality of contact holes 184, 185a and 185b expose the second gate electrodes 121b, the first drain electrodes 175a, and the second drain electrodes 175b, respectively.

[0135] Referring to FIGS. 31-32B, a lower conductive layer comprising, for example, a reflective metal such as Al,

Ag, or Cr and an upper conductive layer comprising, for example, ITO, IZO, or Mo are sequentially deposited on the passivation layer 180. The lower conductive layer and the upper conductive layer are patterned by lithography and etched to form a plurality of stress buffers 195 and 196, a plurality of pixel electrodes 191, and a plurality of connecting members 85.

[0136] Referring to FIGS. 33-34B, a partition 361 having openings 365 is formed on the pixel electrodes 191, the connecting members 85, and the passivation layer 180.

[0137] A plurality of organic light emitting members 370 and a common electrode 270 are sequentially formed on the pixel electrodes 191 as shown in FIGS. 20-22. The stress buffers 195 and 196 can be employed to a simple matrix OLED display.

[0138] Although preferred embodiments have been described herein with reference to the accompanying drawings, it is to be understood that the present invention is not limited to those precise embodiments, and that various other changes and modifications may be affected therein by one of ordinary skill in the related art without departing from the scope or spirit of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. An organic light emitting diode display comprising:

an insulating layer;

a stress buffer disposed on the insulating layer;

a first electrode disposed on the stress buffer;

an organic light emitting member disposed on the first electrode; and

a second electrode disposed on the organic light emitting member,

wherein the stress buffer comprises at least one of ITO, IZO, or Mo.

2. The organic light emitting diode display of claim 1, wherein the insulating layer comprises an organic material.

3. The organic light emitting diode display of claim 2, wherein the insulating layer is hardened by heat.

4. The organic light emitting diode display of claim 1, wherein the stress buffer has a thermal expansion coefficient between a thermal expansion coefficient of the insulating layer and a thermal expansion coefficient of the first electrode.

5. The organic light emitting diode display of claim 1, wherein the first electrode comprises at least one of Cr, Al, or Ag.

6. The organic light emitting diode display of claim 1, wherein the first electrode comprises a reflective material and the second electrode comprises a transparent material.

7. The organic light emitting diode display of claim 6, further comprising a third electrode disposed between the first electrode and the organic light emitting member.

8. The organic light emitting diode display of claim 7, wherein the third electrode has a higher work function than the first electrode.

9. The organic light emitting diode display of claim 7, wherein the third electrode comprises ITO or IZO.

10. The organic light emitting diode display of claim 1, wherein the stress buffer has substantially the same planar shape as the first electrode.

11. The organic light emitting diode display of claim 1, further comprising:

- a gate line transmitting a gate signal;
- a data line transmitting a data signal;
- a driving voltage line transmitting a driving voltage;
- a switching transistor coupled to the gate line and the data line; and
- a driving transistor coupled to the switching transistor, the driving voltage line, and the first electrode.

12. The organic light emitting diode display of claim 11, further comprising a connecting member disposed on the insulating layer and connecting the switching transistor and the driving transistor.

13. The organic light emitting diode display of claim 1, further comprising a thin film transistor disposed below the insulating layer.

14. The organic light emitting diode display of claim 13, wherein the insulating layer comprises an organic material hardened by heat.

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专利名称(译)	有机发光二极管显示器及其制造方法		
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摘要(译)

有机发光二极管显示器包括绝缘层，设置在绝缘层上的应力缓冲层，设置在应力缓冲层上的第一电极，设置在第一电极上的有机发光构件，以及设置在有机发光体上的第二电极会员。

