



(12) **United States Patent**
Lee

- (54) **ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY AND
FABRICATING METHOD OF THE SAME**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **313/504; 313/512**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 313/498-512
See application file for complete search history.

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FIG. 1A

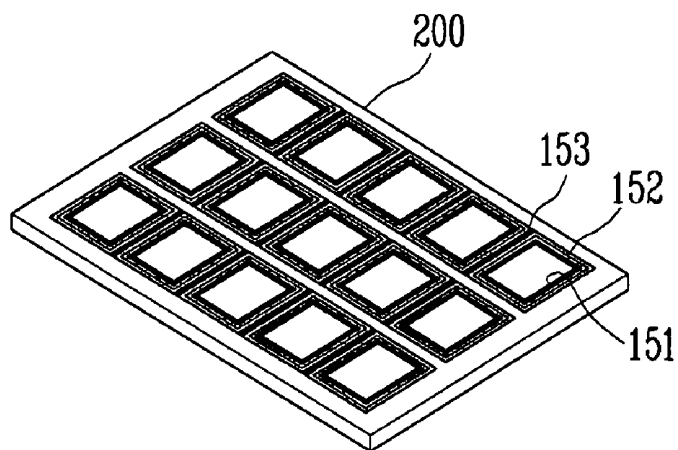


FIG. 1B

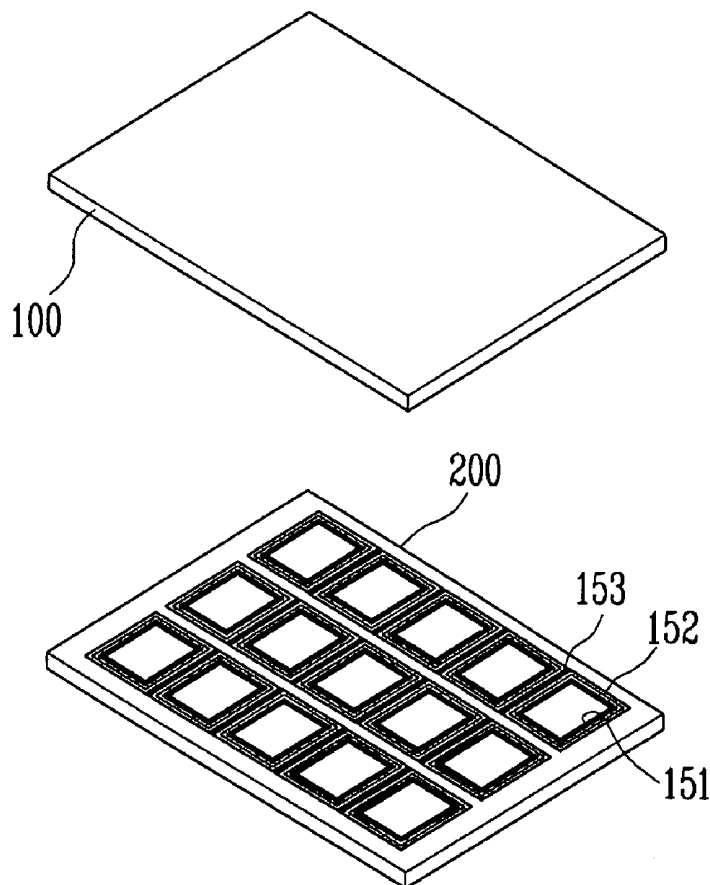


FIG. 1C

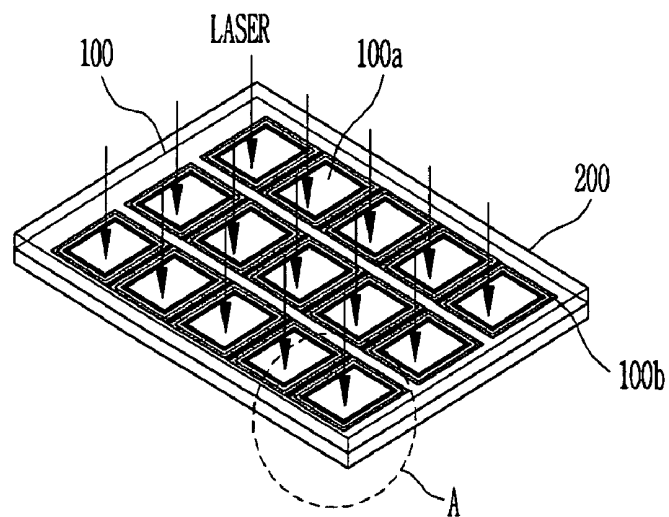


FIG. 1D

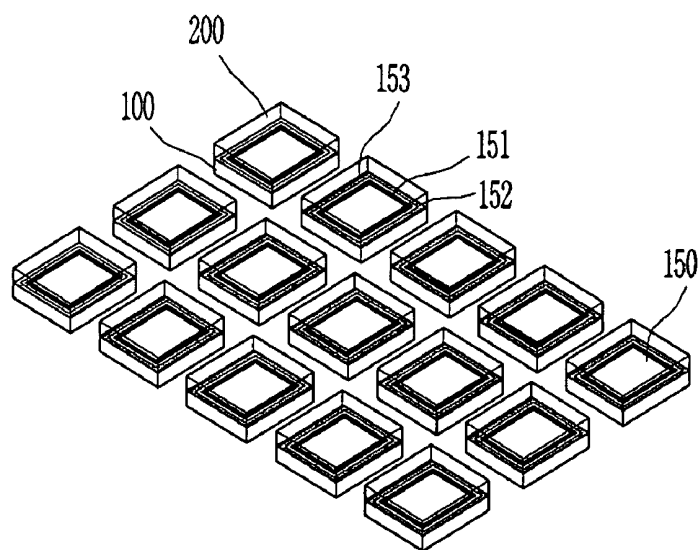


FIG. 2

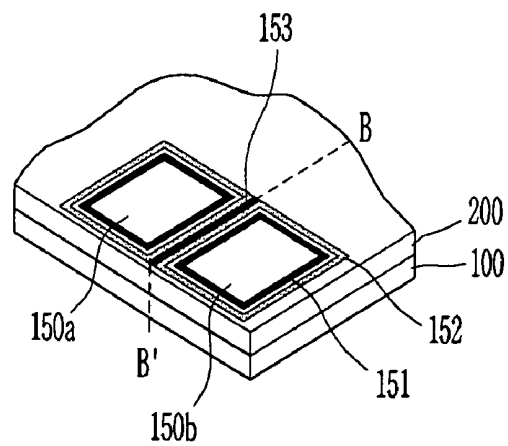


FIG. 3

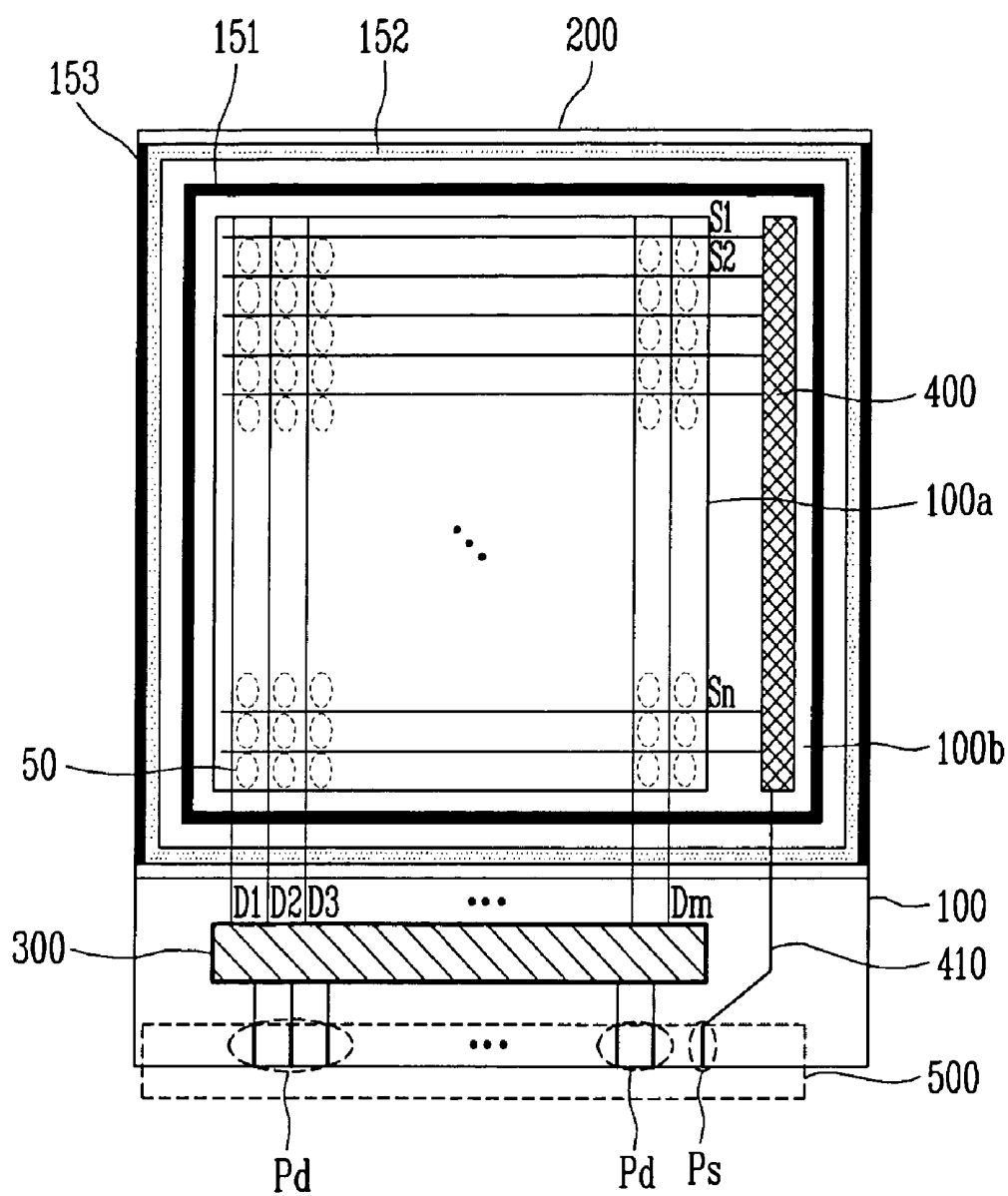


FIG. 4

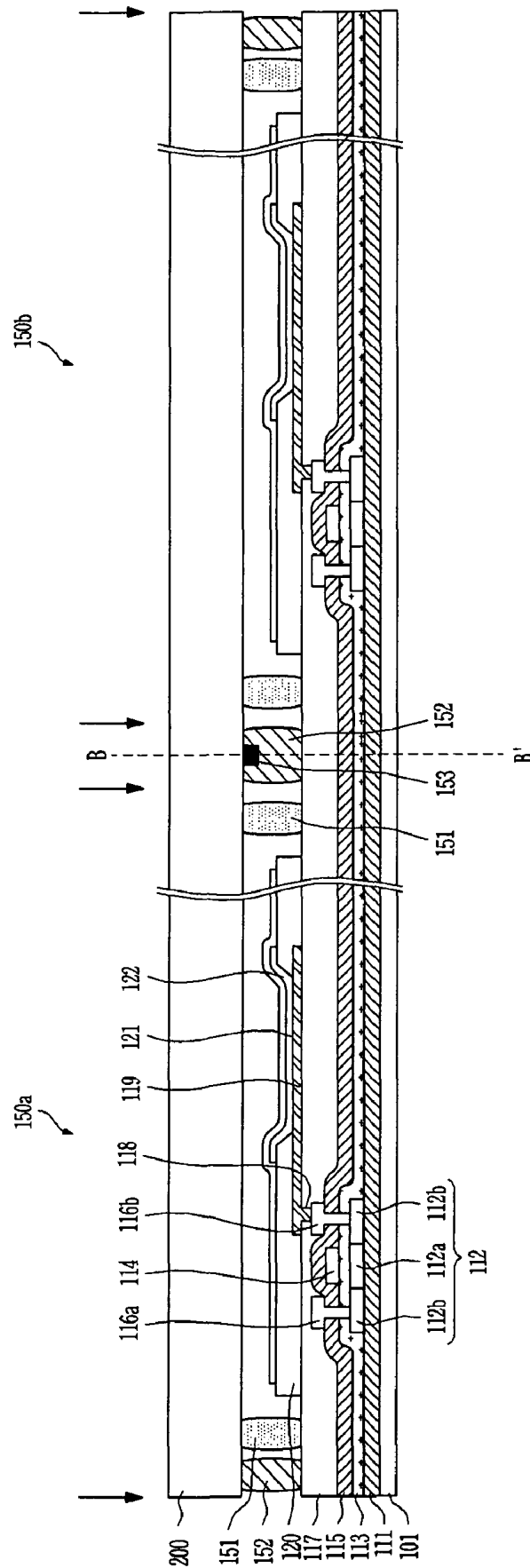
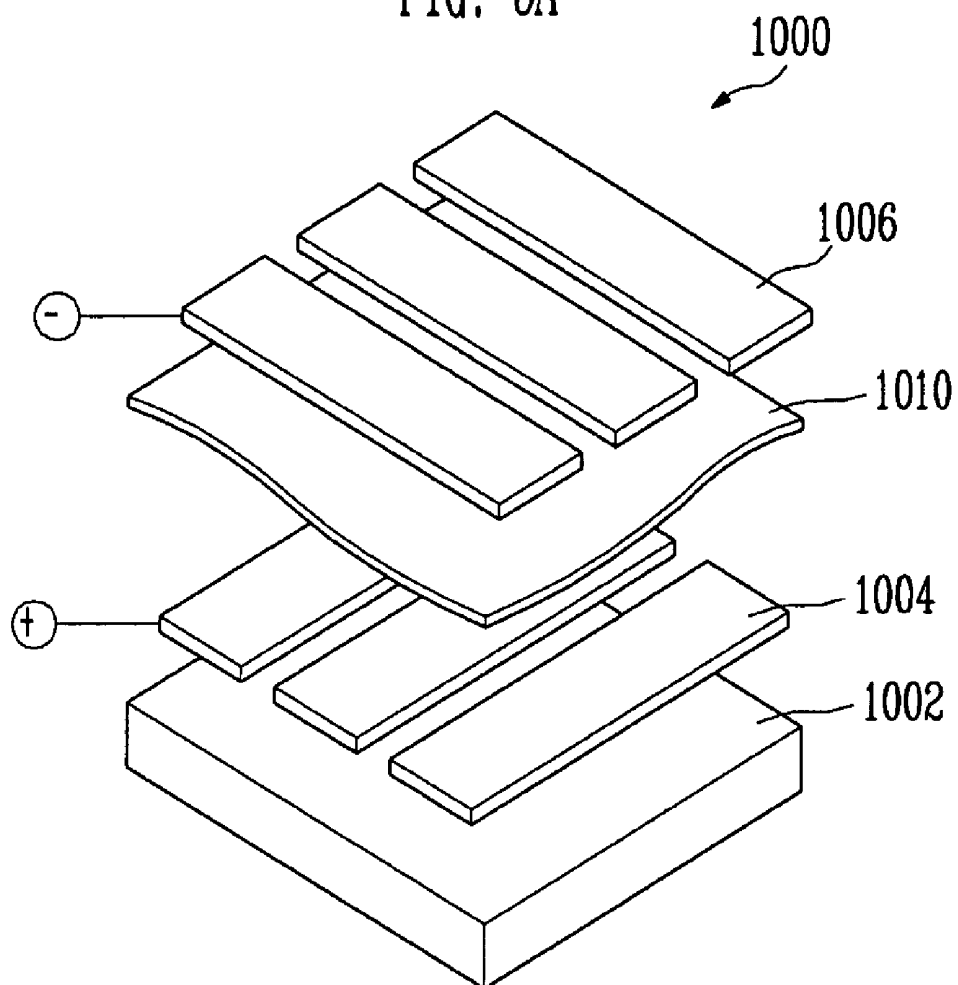


FIG. 5A



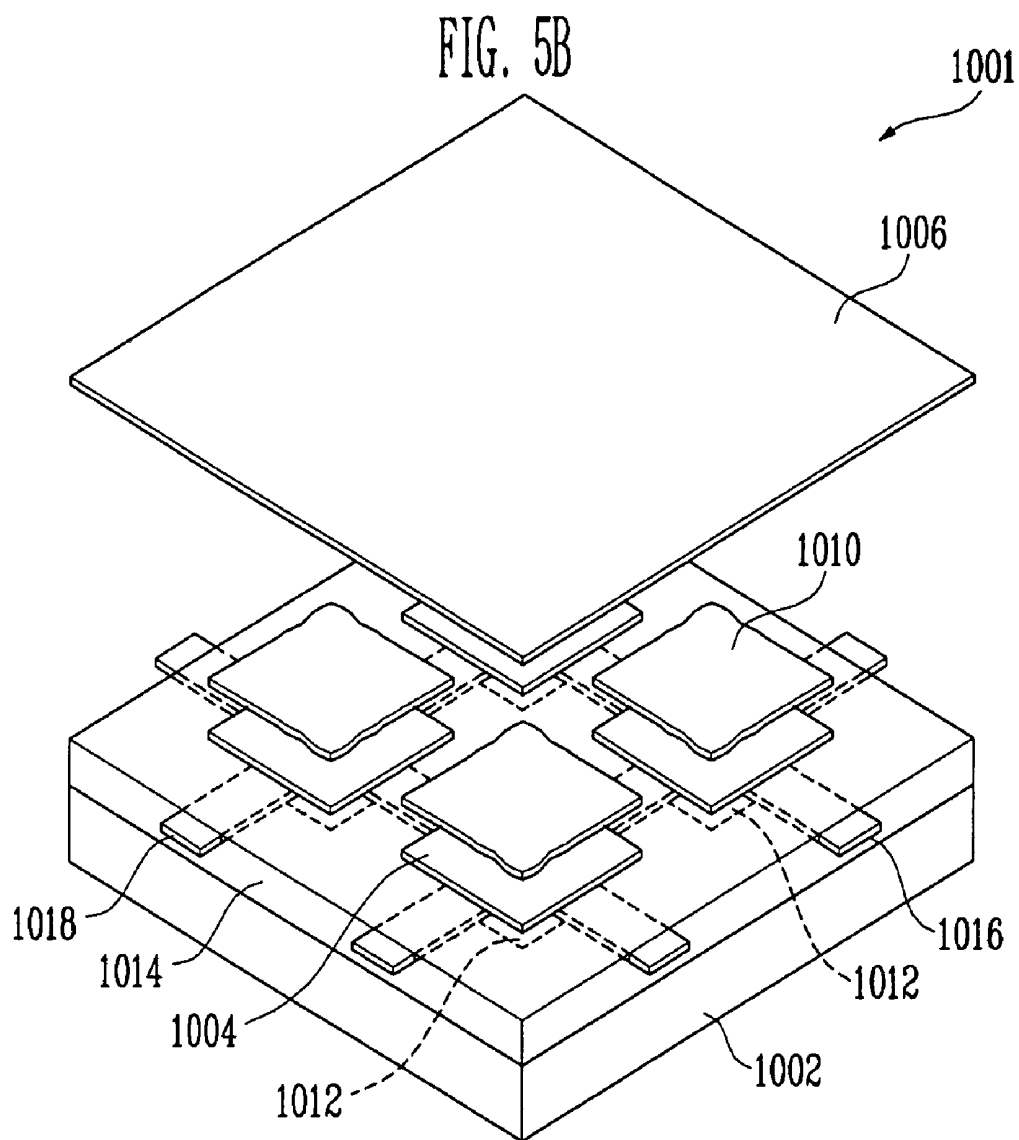


FIG. 5C

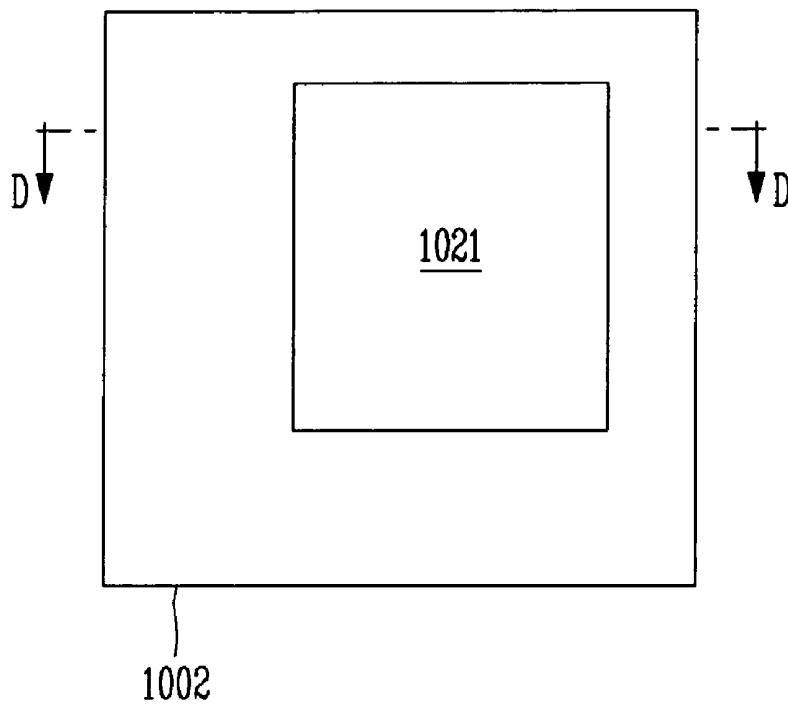


FIG. 5D

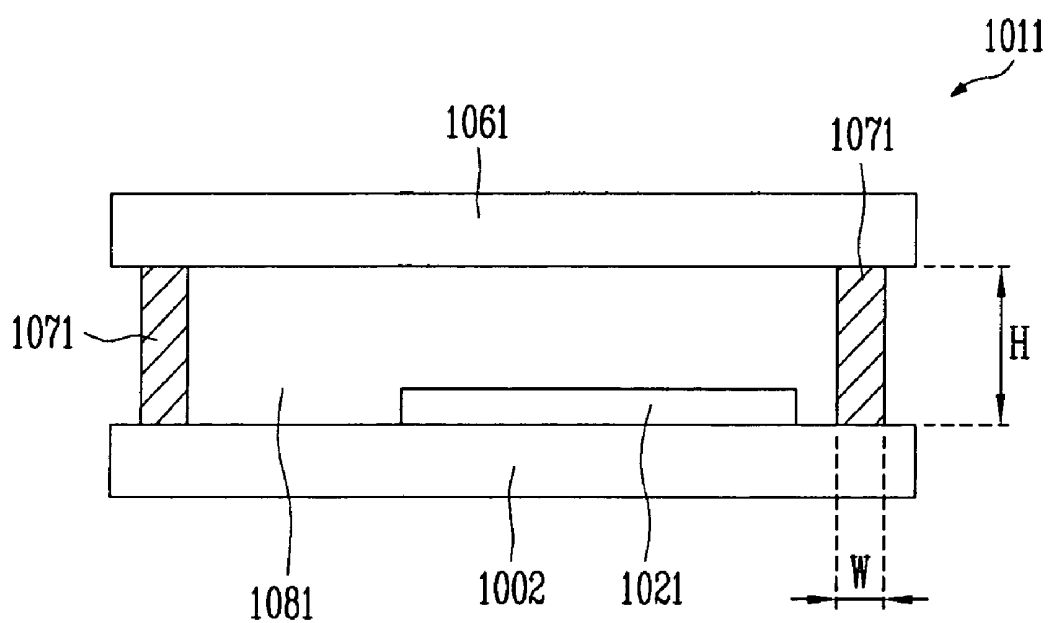
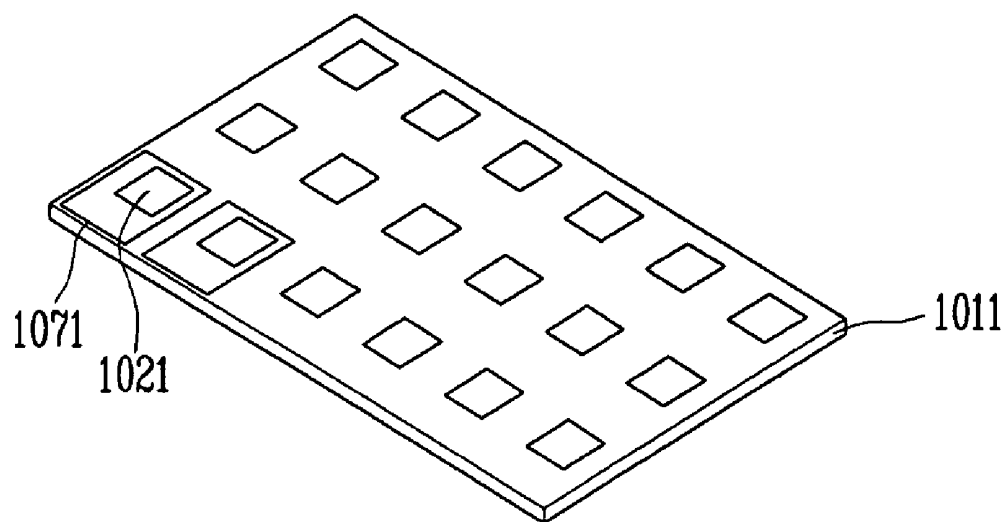


FIG. 5E



**ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY AND
FABRICATING METHOD OF THE SAME****CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATIONS**

This application claims the benefit of Korean Patent Application No. 10-2006-0008769, filed on Jan. 27, 2006 in the Korean Intellectual Property Office, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. This application is related to and incorporates herein by reference the entire contents of the following concurrently filed applications:

BACKGROUND**1. Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to organic light emitting display devices and, more particularly, to packaging such devices.

2. Discussion of Related Art

In recent years, organic light emitting display using organic light emitting diode has been watched. The organic light emitting display is an emissive display, which electrically excites organic compound having fluorescent characteristic to emit light. The organic light emitting display can drive with a low voltage, has excellent light-emission, a wide angle of visibility, and a high-speed response. The organic light

Title	Atty. Docket No.	Filing Date	Application No.
ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DISPLAY DEVICE AND METHOD OF FABRICATING THE SAME	SDISHN.043AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DISPLAY DEVICE AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME	SDISHN.045AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY DEVICE	SDISHN.048AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DISPLAY DEVICE WITH FRIT SEAL AND REINFORCING STRUCTURE	SDISHN.051AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY DEVICE METHOD OF FABRICATING THE SAME	SDISHN.052AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY AND METHOD OF FABRICATING THE SAME	SDISHN.053AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DISPLAY DEVICE WITH FRIT SEAL AND REINFORCING STRUCTURE BONDED TO FRAME	SDISHN.054AUS		
METHOD FOR PACKAGING ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY WITH FRIT SEAL AND REINFORCING STRUCTURE	SDISHN.055AUS		
METHOD FOR PACKAGING ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY WITH FRIT SEAL AND REINFORCING STRUCTURE	SDISHN.056AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DISPLAY DEVICE AND THE PREPARATION METHOD OF THE SAME	SDISHN.060AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DISPLAY AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME	SDISHN.062AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY AND FABRICATING METHOD OF THE SAME	SDISHN.063AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY DEVICE AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF	SDISHN.064AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DISPLAY DEVICE AND MANUFACTURING METHOD OF THE SAME	SDISHN.066AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY AND FABRICATING METHOD OF THE SAME	SDISHN.067AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY AND METHOD OF FABRICATING THE SAME	SDISW.017AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY DEVICE METHOD OF FABRICATING THE SAME	SDISW.018AUS		
ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DISPLAY AND METHOD OF FABRICATING THE SAME	SDISW.020AUS		

emitting display includes a plurality of pixels formed on a substrate. Each of the pixels includes an organic light emitting diode and a thin film transistor (TFT) for driving the organic light emitting diode. Since such an organic light emitting diode is susceptible to oxygen and water, a sealing structure has been proposed to prevent the oxygen and moisture from contacting the organic material by covering a deposition substrate with a metal cap having absorbent or a sealing glass substrate. U.S. Pat. No. 6,998,776 discloses a structure for sealing an organic light emitting diode with a frit.

SUMMARY OF CERTAIN INVENTIVE ASPECTS

An aspect of the invention provides an organic light emitting display device, which may comprises: a first substrate comprising a first side surface; a second substrate comprising a first side surface and opposing the first substrate; an array of organic light-emitting pixels interposed between the first and second substrates; a frit seal interposed between the first substrate and the second substrate while surrounding the array, wherein the frit seal, the first substrate and the second substrate together define an enclosed space in which the array is located; and a first structure interposed between the first substrate and the second substrate and located outside the enclosed space, the first structure contacting the frit seal, the first substrate and the second substrate, wherein the first structure comprises a first side surface, and wherein the first side surface along with the first side surface of the first and second forms a generally smooth surface.

In the foregoing device, the generally smooth surface may be substantially free of a step. The first side surface of the first structure may contact the first side surfaces of the first and second substrates. The first structure may be made of a material substantially different from the first and second substrates. The generally smooth surface may be substantially planar. The first side surface of the first structure may have a roughness which is substantially the same as that of at least one of the first side surfaces of the first and second substrates. The first structure may further comprise a portion configured to block a light beam.

Still in the foregoing device, the first substrate may comprise a second side surface, the second substrate comprises a second side surface, wherein the device may further comprise a second structure comprising a second side surface, which faces generally the same direction as the second side surfaces of the first and second substrates, wherein the second structure may be interposed between the first and second substrates outside the enclosed space. The second surface of the second structure along with the second surfaces of the first and second substrates may form a second side of the device, and wherein the second side may comprise a stepped surface. The second surface of the second structure along with the second surfaces of the first and second substrates may form a substantially smooth surface. The frit seal may comprise one or more materials selected from the group consisting of magnesium oxide (MgO), calcium oxide (CaO), barium oxide (BaO), lithium oxide (Li₂O), sodium oxide (Na₂O), potassium oxide (K₂O), boron oxide (B₂O₃), vanadium oxide (V₂O₅), zinc oxide (ZnO), tellurium oxide (TeO₂), aluminum oxide (Al₂O₃), silicon dioxide (SiO₂), lead oxide (PbO), tin oxide (SnO), phosphorous oxide (P₂O₅), ruthenium oxide (Ru₂O), rubidium oxide (Rb₂O), rhodium oxide (Rh₂O), ferrite oxide (Fe₂O₃), copper oxide (CuO), titanium oxide (TiO₂), tungsten oxide (WO₃), bismuth oxide (Bi₂O₃), antimony oxide (Sb₂O₃), lead-borate glass, tin-phosphate glass, vanadate glass, and borosilicate.

Another aspect of the invention provides a method of making an organic light-emitting display device, which may comprise: providing a unfinished product comprising: a first substrate, a second substrate opposing the first substrate, a first array of organic light-emitting pixels interposed between the first substrate and second substrate, a first frit seal interposed between the first substrate and second substrate and surrounding the first array, wherein the first frit seal, the first substrate and the second substrate together define a first enclosed space in which the first array is located, the first frit seal comprising a first segment, a second array of organic light-emitting pixels interposed between the first substrate and second substrate, a second frit seal interposed between the first substrate and second substrate and surrounding the second array, wherein the second frit seal, the first substrate and the second substrate together define a second enclosed space in which the second array is located, the second frit seal comprising a second segment, and a structure interposed between the first and second substrates and further between the first and second segments; and cutting the unfinished product into a first piece and a second piece such that each of the first and second pieces comprise a portion of the structure.

In the foregoing method, the first and second segments may extend substantially parallel, and wherein the structure may extend along the first and second segments. The structure may contact the first and second substrates, and wherein the structure may further contact the first and second frit seals.

Still in the foregoing method, the structure of the unfinished product may comprise a first portion, a second portion and a central portion sandwiched between the first and second portions, wherein the first piece may comprise the first portion and a piece of the central portion, and wherein the second piece may comprise the second portion and a piece of the central portion. The central portion may comprise a material is softer than the first and second portions. Each of the first, second and central portions may comprise a resin, wherein the resin of the central portion may be less cured than that of the first and second portions. The first portion may contact the first segment, and wherein the first portion may extend along the first segment. The first portion may be apart from the first segment with a gap, and wherein the first portion may extend along the first segment. The central portion may comprise a material configured to block a light beam. Providing may comprise providing the unfinished product in which the structure is made of a curable resin, wherein providing may further comprise applying a light beam to the structure while part of the light beam is blocked by the material configured to block the light beam, and wherein the light beam may cure the first and second portions of the structure. The first piece may comprise a side surface comprising a surface formed by the portion of the structure, wherein the side surface of the first piece may be generally smooth. The generally smooth surface may be substantially planar.

One aspect of the present invention provides an organic light emitting display and a fabricating method of the same, which may easily control a process, and improve a printing characteristic by forming two specific continuously arranged display panels to share with a reinforcing member. One aspect of the present invention provides an organic light emitting display and a fabricating method of the same, which may partially cure a shared reinforcing member using a metal pattern formed at one region of the reinforcing member that allows a cutting process of a substrate to be easily performed.

One aspect of the present invention provides an organic light emitting display, which may comprise: a first mother substrate including a first display panel and a second display panel, the first display panel having a first pixel region and a

non-pixel region, and the second display panel being arranged sequential to the first display panel, and having a second pixel region and a second non-pixel region; a second mother substrate sealed to the first mother substrate in order to at least seal the first pixel region and the second pixel region; a frit disposed between the first non-pixel region and the second non-pixel region of the first mother substrate, and the second mother substrate, for adhering the first and second mother substrates to each other; a reinforcing member formed along a peripheral region of the frit to be shared by one region of the first non-pixel region and the second non-pixel region; and a metal pattern formed at least one region among regions shared with the reinforcing member to shield a cutting line.

One aspect of the present invention provides a method for fabricating an organic light emitting display including a first mother substrate including a first display panel and a second display panel, the first display panel having a first pixel region and a non-pixel region, and the second display panel being arranged sequential to the first display panel, and having a second pixel region and a second non-pixel region; and a second mother substrate sealed to the first mother substrate in order to at least seal the first pixel region and the second pixel region, which may comprise the steps of: (i) forming a metal pattern extending from one region of the second mother substrate; (ii) forming a frit between the first and second non-pixel regions and the second mother substrate and sintering the formed frit at a predetermined temperature; (iii) forming a reinforcing member to be shared by one of the first and second non-pixel regions along a peripheral region of the frit; (iv) sealing the second mother substrate to the first mother substrate so that the pixel region is sealed; (v) curing the reinforcing member; (vi) sintering the frit; and (vii) cutting the sealed first and second substrates along a formation region of the metal pattern to form a plurality of display panels.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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

FIG. 1a to FIG. 1d are perspective views showing a plurality of organic light emitting display devices and a fabricating method thereof according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged perspective view showing a part A of FIG. 1c;

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view showing an organic light emitting display according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view showing an unfinished product to be cut in accordance with one embodiment;

FIG. 5A is a schematic exploded view of a passive matrix type organic light emitting display device in accordance with one embodiment;

FIG. 5B is a schematic exploded view of an active matrix type organic light emitting display device in accordance with one embodiment;

FIG. 5C is a schematic top plan view of an organic light emitting display in accordance with one embodiment;

FIG. 5D is a cross-sectional view of the organic light emitting display of FIG. 5C, taken along the line d-d; and

FIG. 5E is a schematic perspective view illustrating mass production of organic light emitting devices in accordance with one embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

Hereinafter, embodiments according to the present invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

An organic light emitting display (OLED) is a display device comprising an array of organic light emitting diodes. Organic light emitting diodes are solid state devices which include an organic material and are adapted to generate and emit light when appropriate electrical potentials are applied.

OLEDs can be generally grouped into two basic types dependent on the arrangement with which the stimulating electrical current is provided. FIG. 5A schematically illustrates an exploded view of a simplified structure of a passive matrix type OLED **1000**. FIG. 5B schematically illustrates a simplified structure of an active matrix type OLED **1001**. In both configurations, the OLED **1000**, **1001** includes OLED pixels built over a substrate **1002**, and the OLED pixels include an anode **1004**, a cathode **1006** and an organic layer **1010**. When an appropriate electrical current is applied to the anode **1004**, electric current flows through the pixels and visible light is emitted from the organic layer.

Referring to FIG. 5A, the passive matrix OLED (PMOLED) design includes elongate strips of anode **1004** arranged generally perpendicular to elongate strips of cathode **1006** with organic layers interposed therebetween. The intersections of the strips of cathode **1006** and anode **1004** define individual OLED pixels where light is generated and emitted upon appropriate excitation of the corresponding strips of anode **1004** and cathode **1006**. PMOLEDs provide the advantage of relatively simple fabrication.

Referring to FIG. 5B, the active matrix OLED (AMOLED) includes local driving circuits **1012** arranged between the substrate **1002** and an array of OLED pixels. An individual pixel of AMOLEDs is defined between the common cathode **1006** and an anode **1004**, which is electrically isolated from other anodes. Each driving circuit **1012** is coupled with an anode **1004** of the OLED pixels and further coupled with a data line **1016** and a scan line **1018**. In embodiments, the scan lines **1018** supply scan signals that select rows of the driving circuits, and the data lines **1016** supply data signals for particular driving circuits. The data signals and scan signals stimulate the local driving circuits **1012**, which excite the anodes **1004** so as to emit light from their corresponding pixels.

In the illustrated AMOLED, the local driving circuits **1012**, the data lines **1016** and scan lines **1018** are buried in a planarization layer **1014**, which is interposed between the pixel array and the substrate **1002**. The planarization layer **1014** provides a planar top surface on which the organic light emitting pixel array is formed. The planarization layer **1014** may be formed of organic or inorganic materials, and formed of two or more layers although shown as a single layer. The local driving circuits **1012** are typically formed with thin film transistors (TFT) and arranged in a grid or array under the OLED pixel array. The local driving circuits **1012** may be at least partly made of organic materials, including organic TFT. AMOLEDs have the advantage of fast response time improving their desirability for use in displaying data signals. Also, AMOLEDs have the advantages of consuming less power than passive matrix OLEDs.

Referring to common features of the PMOLED and AMOLED designs, the substrate **1002** provides structural support for the OLED pixels and circuits. In various embodiments, the substrate **1002** can comprise rigid or flexible materials as well as opaque or transparent materials, such as plastic, glass, and/or foil. As noted above, each OLED pixel or

diode is formed with the anode **1004**, cathode **1006** and organic layer **1010** interposed therebetween. When an appropriate electrical current is applied to the anode **1004**, the cathode **1006** injects electrons and the anode **1004** injects holes. In certain embodiments, the anode **1004** and cathode **1006** are inverted; i.e., the cathode is formed on the substrate **1002** and the anode is opposingly arranged.

Interposed between the cathode **1006** and anode **1004** are one or more organic layers. More specifically, at least one emissive or light emitting layer is interposed between the cathode **1006** and anode **1004**. The light emitting layer may comprise one or more light emitting organic compounds. Typically, the light emitting layer is configured to emit visible light in a single color such as blue, green, red or white. In the illustrated embodiment, one organic layer **1010** is formed between the cathode **1006** and anode **1004** and acts as a light emitting layer. Additional layers, which can be formed between the anode **1004** and cathode **1006**, can include a hole transporting layer, a hole injection layer, an electron transporting layer and an electron injection layer.

Hole transporting and/or injection layers can be interposed between the light emitting layer **1010** and the anode **1004**. Electron transporting and/or injecting layers can be interposed between the cathode **1006** and the light emitting layer **1010**. The electron injection layer facilitates injection of electrons from the cathode **1006** toward the light emitting layer **1010** by reducing the work function for injecting electrons from the cathode **1006**. Similarly, the hole injection layer facilitates injection of holes from the anode **1004** toward the light emitting layer **1010**. The hole and electron transporting layers facilitate movement of the carriers injected from the respective electrodes toward the light emitting layer.

In some embodiments, a single layer may serve both electron injection and transportation functions or both hole injection and transportation functions. In some embodiments, one or more of these layers are lacking. In some embodiments, one or more organic layers are doped with one or more materials that help injection and/or transportation of the carriers. In embodiments where only one organic layer is formed between the cathode and anode, the organic layer may include not only an organic light emitting compound but also certain functional materials that help injection or transportation of carriers within that layer.

There are numerous organic materials that have been developed for use in these layers including the light emitting layer. Also, numerous other organic materials for use in these layers are being developed. In some embodiments, these organic materials may be macromolecules including oligomers and polymers. In some embodiments, the organic materials for these layers may be relatively small molecules. The skilled artisan will be able to select appropriate materials for each of these layers in view of the desired functions of the individual layers and the materials for the neighboring layers in particular designs.

In operation, an electrical circuit provides appropriate potential between the cathode **1006** and anode **1004**. This results in an electrical current flowing from the anode **1004** to the cathode **1006** via the interposed organic layer(s). In one embodiment, the cathode **1006** provides electrons to the adjacent organic layer **1010**. The anode **1004** injects holes to the organic layer **1010**. The holes and electrons recombine in the organic layer **1010** and generate energy particles called "excitons." The excitons transfer their energy to the organic light emitting material in the organic layer **1010**, and the energy is used to emit visible light from the organic light emitting material. The spectral characteristics of light generated and emitted by the OLED **1000**, **1001** depend on the nature and

composition of organic molecules in the organic layer(s). The composition of the one or more organic layers can be selected to suit the needs of a particular application by one of ordinary skill in the art.

OLED devices can also be categorized based on the direction of the light emission. In one type referred to as "top emission" type, OLED devices emit light and display images through the cathode or top electrode **1006**. In these embodiments, the cathode **1006** is made of a material transparent or at least partially transparent with respect to visible light. In certain embodiments, to avoid losing any light that can pass through the anode or bottom electrode **1004**, the anode may be made of a material substantially reflective of the visible light. A second type of OLED devices emits light through the anode or bottom electrode **1004** and is called "bottom emission" type. In the bottom emission type OLED devices, the anode **1004** is made of a material which is at least partially transparent with respect to visible light. Often, in bottom emission type OLED devices, the cathode **1006** is made of a material substantially reflective of the visible light. A third type of OLED devices emits light in two directions, e.g. through both anode **1004** and cathode **1006**. Depending upon the direction(s) of the light emission, the substrate may be formed of a material which is transparent, opaque or reflective of visible light.

In many embodiments, an OLED pixel array **1021** comprising a plurality of organic light emitting pixels is arranged over a substrate **1002** as shown in FIG. 5C. In embodiments, the pixels in the array **1021** are controlled to be turned on and off by a driving circuit (not shown), and the plurality of the pixels as a whole displays information or image on the array **1021**. In certain embodiments, the OLED pixel array **1021** is arranged with respect to other components, such as drive and control electronics to define a display region and a non-display region. In these embodiments, the display region refers to the area of the substrate **1002** where OLED pixel array **1021** is formed. The non-display region refers to the remaining areas of the substrate **1002**. In embodiments, the non-display region can contain logic and/or power supply circuitry. It will be understood that there will be at least portions of control/drive circuit elements arranged within the display region. For example, in PMOLEDs, conductive components will extend into the display region to provide appropriate potential to the anode and cathodes. In AMOLEDs, local driving circuits and data/scan lines coupled with the driving circuits will extend into the display region to drive and control the individual pixels of the AMOLEDs.

One design and fabrication consideration in OLED devices is that certain organic material layers of OLED devices can suffer damage or accelerated deterioration from exposure to water, oxygen or other harmful gases. Accordingly, it is generally understood that OLED devices be sealed or encapsulated to inhibit exposure to moisture and oxygen or other harmful gases found in a manufacturing or operational environment. FIG. 5D schematically illustrates a cross-section of an encapsulated OLED device **1011** having a layout of FIG. 5C and taken along the line d-d of FIG. 5C. In this embodiment, a generally planar top plate or substrate **1061** engages with a seal **1071** which further engages with a bottom plate or substrate **1002** to enclose or encapsulate the OLED pixel array **1021**. In other embodiments, one or more layers are formed on the top plate **1061** or bottom plate **1002**, and the seal **1071** is coupled with the bottom or top substrate **1002**, **1061** via such a layer. In the illustrated embodiment, the seal **1071** extends along the periphery of the OLED pixel array **1021** or the bottom or top plate **1002**, **1061**.

In embodiments, the seal **1071** is made of a frit material as will be further discussed below. In various embodiments, the top and bottom plates **1061**, **1002** comprise materials such as plastics, glass and/or metal foils which can provide a barrier to passage of oxygen and/or water to thereby protect the OLED pixel array **1021** from exposure to these substances. In embodiments, at least one of the top plate **1061** and the bottom plate **1002** are formed of a substantially transparent material.

To lengthen the life time of OLED devices **1011**, it is generally desired that seal **1071** and the top and bottom plates **1061**, **1002** provide a substantially non-permeable seal to oxygen and water vapor and provide a substantially hermetically enclosed space **1081**. In certain applications, it is indicated that the seal **1071** of a frit material in combination with the top and bottom plates **1061**, **1002** provide a barrier to oxygen of less than approximately 10^{-3} cc/m²-day and to water of less than 10^{-6} g/m²-day. Given that some oxygen and moisture can permeate into the enclosed space **1081**, in some embodiments, a material that can take up oxygen and/or moisture is formed within the enclosed space **1081**.

The seal **1071** has a width W, which is its thickness in a direction parallel to a surface of the top or bottom substrate **1061**, **1002** as shown in FIG. 5D. The width varies among embodiments and ranges from about 300 μ m to about 3000 μ m, optionally from about 500 μ m to about 1500 μ m. Also, the width may vary at different positions of the seal **1071**. In some embodiments, the width of the seal **1071** may be the largest where the seal **1071** contacts one of the bottom and top substrate **1002**, **1061** or a layer formed thereon. The width may be the smallest where the seal **1071** contacts the other. The width variation in a single cross-section of the seal **1071** relates to the cross-sectional shape of the seal **1071** and other design parameters.

The seal **1071** has a height H, which is its thickness in a direction perpendicular to a surface of the top or bottom substrate **1061**, **1002** as shown in FIG. 5D. The height varies among embodiments and ranges from about 2 μ m to about 30 μ m, optionally from about 10 μ m to about 15 μ m. Generally, the height does not significantly vary at different positions of the seal **1071**. However, in certain embodiments, the height of the seal **1071** may vary at different positions thereof.

In the illustrated embodiment, the seal **1071** has a generally rectangular cross-section. In other embodiments, however, the seal **1071** can have other various cross-sectional shapes such as a generally square cross-section, a generally trapezoidal cross-section, a cross-section with one or more rounded edges, or other configuration as indicated by the needs of a given application. To improve hermeticity, it is generally desired to increase the interfacial area where the seal **1071** directly contacts the bottom or top substrate **1002**, **1061** or a layer formed thereon. In some embodiments, the shape of the seal can be designed such that the interfacial area can be increased.

The seal **1071** can be arranged immediately adjacent the OLED array **1021**, and in other embodiments, the seal **1071** is spaced some distance from the OLED array **1021**. In certain embodiment, the seal **1071** comprises generally linear segments that are connected together to surround the OLED array **1021**. Such linear segments of the seal **1071** can extend, in certain embodiments, generally parallel to respective boundaries of the OLED array **1021**. In other embodiment, one or more of the linear segments of the seal **1071** are arranged in a non-parallel relationship with respective boundaries of the OLED array **1021**. In yet other embodiments, at least part of the seal **1071** extends between the top plate **1061** and bottom plate **1002** in a curvilinear manner.

As noted above, in certain embodiments, the seal **1071** is formed using a frit material or simply "frit" or glass frit," which includes fine glass particles. The frit particles includes one or more of magnesium oxide (MgO), calcium oxide (CaO), barium oxide (BaO), lithium oxide (Li₂O), sodium oxide (Na₂O), potassium oxide (K₂O), boron oxide (B₂O₃), vanadium oxide (V₂O₅), zinc oxide (ZnO), tellurium oxide (TeO₂), aluminum oxide (Al₂O₃), silicon dioxide (SiO₂), lead oxide (PbO), tin oxide (SnO), phosphorous oxide (P₂O₅), ruthenium oxide (Ru₂O), rubidium oxide (Rb₂O), rhodium oxide (Rh₂O), ferrite oxide (Fe₂O₃), copper oxide (CuO), titanium oxide (TiO₂), tungsten oxide (WO₃), bismuth oxide (Bi₂O₃), antimony oxide (Sb₂O₃), lead-borate glass, tin-phosphate glass, vanadate glass, and borosilicate, etc. In embodiments, these particles range in size from about 2 μ m to about 30 μ m, optionally about 5 μ m to about 10 μ m, although not limited only thereto. The particles can be as large as about the distance between the top and bottom substrates **1061**, **1002** or any layers formed on these substrates where the frit seal **1071** contacts.

The frit material used to form the seal **1071** can also include one or more filler or additive materials. The filler or additive materials can be provided to adjust an overall thermal expansion characteristic of the seal **1071** and/or to adjust the absorption characteristics of the seal **1071** for selected frequencies of incident radiant energy. The filler or additive material(s) can also include inversion and/or additive fillers to adjust a coefficient of thermal expansion of the frit. For example, the filler or additive materials can include transition metals, such as chromium (Cr), iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), cobalt (Co), copper (Cu), and/or vanadium. Additional materials for the filler or additives include ZnSiO₄, PbTiO₃, ZrO₂, eucryptite.

In embodiments, a frit material as a dry composition contains glass particles from about 20 to 90 about wt %, and the remaining includes fillers and/or additives. In some embodiments, the frit paste contains about 10-30 wt % organic materials and about 70-90% inorganic materials. In some embodiments, the frit paste contains about 20 wt % organic materials and about 80 wt % inorganic materials. In some embodiments, the organic materials may include about 0-30 wt % binder(s) and about 70-100 wt % solvent(s). In some embodiments, about 10 wt % is binder(s) and about 90 wt % is solvent(s) among the organic materials. In some embodiments, the inorganic materials may include about 0-10 wt % additives, about 20-40 wt % fillers and about 50-80 wt % glass powder. In some embodiments, about 0-5 wt % is additive(s), about 25-30 wt % is filler(s) and about 65-75 wt % is the glass powder among the inorganic materials.

In forming a frit seal, a liquid material is added to the dry frit material to form a frit paste. Any organic or inorganic solvent with or without additives can be used as the liquid material. In embodiments, the solvent includes one or more organic compounds. For example, applicable organic compounds are ethyl cellulose, nitro cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, butyl carbitol acetate, terpineol, butyl cellusolve, acrylate compounds. Then, the thus formed frit paste can be applied to form a shape of the seal **1071** on the top and/or bottom plate **1061**, **1002**.

In one exemplary embodiment, a shape of the seal **1071** is initially formed from the frit paste and interposed between the top plate **1061** and the bottom plate **1002**. The seal **1071** can in certain embodiments be pre-cured or pre-sintered to one of the top plate and bottom plate **1061**, **1002**. Following assembly of the top plate **1061** and the bottom plate **1002** with the seal **1071** interposed therebetween, portions of the seal **1071** are selectively heated such that the frit material forming the

seal **1071** at least partially melts. The seal **1071** is then allowed to resolidify to form a secure joint between the top plate **1061** and the bottom plate **1002** to thereby inhibit exposure of the enclosed OLED pixel array **1021** to oxygen or water.

In embodiments, the selective heating of the frit seal is carried out by irradiation of light, such as a laser or directed infrared lamp. As previously noted, the frit material forming the seal **1071** can be combined with one or more additives or filler such as species selected for improved absorption of the irradiated light to facilitate heating and melting of the frit material to form the seal **1071**.

In some embodiments, OLED devices **1011** are mass produced. In an embodiment illustrated in FIG. 5E, a plurality of separate OLED arrays **1021** is formed on a common bottom substrate **1101**. In the illustrated embodiment, each OLED array **1021** is surrounded by a shaped frit to form the seal **1071**. In embodiments, common top substrate (not shown) is placed over the common bottom substrate **1101** and the structures formed thereon such that the OLED arrays **1021** and the shaped frit paste are interposed between the common bottom substrate **1101** and the common top substrate. The OLED arrays **1021** are encapsulated and sealed, such as via the previously described enclosure process for a single OLED display device. The resulting product includes a plurality of OLED devices kept together by the common bottom and top substrates. Then, the resulting product is cut into a plurality of pieces, each of which constitutes an OLED device **1011** of FIG. 5D. In certain embodiments, the individual OLED devices **1011** then further undergo additional packaging operations to further improve the sealing formed by the frit seal **1071** and the top and bottom substrates **1061**, **1002**.

When cutting the resulting product into a plurality of OLED devices with frit seals, the damages such as crack may occur due to, for example, stress concentration. These damages may lead to a physical breakage of the devices and to decrease of reliability.

FIG. 1a to FIG. 1d are perspective views showing a plurality of organic light emitting display devices and a fabricating method thereof according to an embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 2 is an enlarged perspective view showing a part A of FIG. 1c. With reference to FIG. 1a to FIG. 1d, FIG. 2 and FIG. 4, hereinafter, two display panels among a plurality of display panels **150** arranged side by sides are referred to as "first display panel or device **150a**" and "second display panel or device **150b**".

A first substrate **100**, which equivalent to the bottom plate **1002**, includes at least a first display panel **150a** and a second display panel **150b**. The first display panel **150a** includes a first pixel region **100a** and a non-pixel region **100b**. The second display panel **150a** is arranged next to the first display panel, and includes a second pixel region **100a** and a second non-pixel region **100b**. A second substrate **200**, which is equivalent to the top plate **1061**, is attached to the first substrate **100** to seal at least the first pixel region **100a** and the second pixel region **100b**. First, a metal pattern is formed to extend from one region of the second substrate **200**. The metal pattern **153** is formed to shield a cutting line B-B' for separating common substrates **100** and **200** into a plurality of display panels or devices **150**. In one embodiment, the cutting line B-B' is positioned in the middle of the first non-pixel region **100b** and the second non-pixel region **100b**.

In the illustrated embodiment, the metal pattern **153** is shown in the drawings to extend on the second substrate **200**, although not limited thereto. When the ultra-violet rays are irradiated to the reinforcing member **152** through the second substrate **200**, the metal pattern **153** extending from one

region of the second substrate **200** prevents a part of the reinforcing member **152** of the cutting line B-B' from being completely cured. That is, in one embodiment, the metal pattern **153** may be formed to extend on the first substrate **100**.

Here, the metal pattern **153** functions as a mask. Accordingly, in a process of curing a reinforcing member **152** using ultra-violet rays, when the ultra-violet rays are irradiated to the reinforcing member **152** through the first substrate **100**, the metal pattern **153** extending on the first substrate **100** prevents a part of the reinforcing member **152** of the cutting line B-B' from being completely cured. In a device in which the reinforcing members **152** are completely cured, cutting process may result in damages of the sealed substrates **100** and **200** such as a crack. Here, the metal pattern **153** is formed by a metal material capable of blocking of ultra-violet rays. The metal pattern **153** is formed by at least one metal material selected from a copper or aluminum.

Next, frits **151** are formed at one side of the second substrate **200** to seal at least a pixel region **100a** of the first substrate **100**. That is, the frits **151** are coated along peripheral regions corresponding to a plurality of display panels (not shown). Here, each of the frit **151** includes a filler (not shown) and an absorbent (not shown). The filler adjusts a coefficient of thermal expansion. The absorbent absorbs a laser or an infrared ray. In one embodiment, when a temperature of heat applied to a glass material is suddenly reduced, the frit material in a glass power is produced. In general, a glass powder including an oxide powder is used. Further, when organic materials are added to the frit **151**, a paste in a gel state is formed. After forming a frit material on the substrate, when the frit is sintered at a predetermined temperature, organic materials become extinct in the air, the paste in the gel state is cured and exits as a frit **151** in a solid state. In one embodiment, a temperature of sintering the frit **151** ranges from about 300° C. to about 700° C.

Then, a reinforcing member **152** is formed to extend along a peripheral region of the frit **151**. Here, the reinforcing member **152** functions to lessen impacts applied to the frit **151** in a process of cutting the sealed substrates **100** and **200** into a plurality of display panels after the laser or the infrared ray was irradiated to the frit **151**. Moreover, the reinforcing member **152** is further formed along an inner edge of the second substrate **200** so as to seal the second substrate **200** to the first substrate **100**. Here, the reinforcing member **152** may be formed using a screen printing or dispensing method. The screen printing is provided by providing a mask having a desired design pattern at a metal sheet having a net structure and covering parts except the pattern using emulsion solution, and squeezing the reinforcing material by means of a squeezer, thereby resulting in a desired pattern of the reinforcing material on a second substrate. The dispensing is accomplished by placing the reinforcing material to have a predetermined shape and amount by means of a machine having a nozzle. At least one resin material selected from the group consisting of epoxy, acrylate, urethane acrylate, and acrylate cyanide may be used as the reinforcing member **150** (FIG. 1a).

In a next process, a first substrate **100** is arranged. Here, the first substrate **100** includes a first display panel **150a** and a second display panel **150b**. The first display panel **150a** includes first pixel regions **100a** and non-pixel regions **100b**. The second display panel **150b** is arranged next to the first display panel **150**, and includes first pixel regions **100a** and non-pixel regions **100b**. At this time, to encapsulate a plurality of pixel regions **100a** formed on the first substrate **100**, a plurality of pixel regions **100a** are arranged to face toward the second substrate **200** (FIG. 1b). Next, the first substrate **100**

and the second substrate **200** are attached to each other, and the reinforcing member **152** is cured by a ultra-violet ray or thermal process. Then, a laser or infrared ray is irradiated to the frit **151** to be melted and resolidified. This causes the first substrate **100** and the second substrate **200** to be sealed (FIG. 1c).

The sealed substrates **100** and **200** are cut to be separated into a plurality of display panels **150**. At this time, the first display panel **150a** and the second display panel **150b** are cut along the metal pattern **153** formed at one region of shared non-pixel regions **150b**. During the ultra-violet ray irradiation, the reinforcing members in cutting regions were not completely cured, and thus, a cutting process can be easily accomplished without the damages such as a crack.

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view for showing an organic light emitting display according to an embodiment of the present invention. With reference to FIG. 3, the organic light emitting display device according to an embodiment of the present invention includes a first substrate **100**, a frit **151**, a reinforcing member **152**, a metal pattern **153**, and a second substrate **200**. The first substrate **100** includes a deposition substrate **101** and at least one organic light emitting diode **110**. The at least one organic light emitting diode **110** is formed on the deposition substrate **101**. First, a buffer layer **111** is formed on the deposition layer **101**. The deposition substrate **101** is formed by a glass. The buffer layer **111** is formed by an insulating material such as silicon oxide SiO_2 , or silicon nitride SiN_x . On the other hand, the buffer layer **111** prevents the deposition substrate **101** from being damaged due to external heat and the like.

A semiconductor layer **112** is formed on at least one region of the buffer layer **111**. The semiconductor layer **112** includes an active layer **112a** and a source/drain region **112b**. A gate insulation layer **113** is formed on the buffer layer **111** to have the semiconductor layer **112**. A gate electrode **114** is formed on one region of the gate insulation layer **113**. The gate electrode **114** has a size corresponding to a width of the active layer **112a**. An interlayer insulation **115** is formed on the gate insulation layer **113** to have the gate electrode **114**. Source and drain electrodes **116a** and **116b** are formed on a predetermined region of the interlayer insulation **115**. The source and drain electrodes **116a** and **116b** are coupled to one exposed region of the source/drain region **112b**. A planarization layer **117** is formed on the interlayer insulation **115** to have the source and drain electrodes **116a** and **116b**.

A first electrode **119** is formed on one region of the planarization layer **117**. Here, the first electrode **119** is coupled with any one exposed region of the source and drain electrodes **116a** and **116b** through a via hole **118**. A pixel definition film **120** is formed on the planarization layer **117** to have the first electrode **119**. The pixel definition film **120** includes an opening portion (not shown) exposes at least one region of the first electrode **119**. An organic layer **121** is formed on the opening portion of the pixel definition film **120**. A second electrode layer **122** is formed on the pixel definition film **120** to have the organic layer **121**. The frit **151** is disposed between the non-pixel region **100b** of the first substrate **100** and the second substrate **200**, and seals the first substrate **100** and the second substrate **200** to each other. The frit **151** may be coated so that pixel regions **100a** formed at the first substrate **100** and a scan driver **400** are sealed. In an embodiment, the frit **151** is coated, thereby causing at least the pixel regions **100a** to be sealed. The reinforcing member **152** is spaced along a peripheral region of the frit **151**. At this time, the reinforcing member **152** functions to lessen impacts applied to the frit **151** or the substrates during the process of cutting the sealed sub-

strates **100** and **200** into a plurality of display panels or devices after the laser irradiates to the frit **151**.

The metal pattern **153** is formed at one region of a non-pixel region **150b** disposed between the first display panel **150a** and the second display panel **150b** which are arranged side by side. At this time, the metal pattern **153** may be selectively formed on the first substrate **100** or the second substrate **200** in accordance with an irradiation direction of ultra-violet ray. In one embodiment, the metal pattern **153** can be also formed on both of the first substrate **100** and the second substrate **200**. In certain embodiments, when the metal pattern **153** is formed on the first substrate **100**, it can be made of either the same metal as that of the source and drain electrodes **116a** and **116b**, or the same metal as that of the gate electrode **114**. In this case, without adding an additional formation process of the metal pattern **153**, the metal pattern **153** can be formed simultaneously with either a formation process of the source/drain electrodes **116a** and **116b**, or a formation process of the gate electrode **114**. In order to protect the aforementioned structures formed on the first substrate **100** from external oxygen and moisture, the second substrate **200** is attached to the first substrate **100** by means of the frit **151**. In one embodiment, the second substrate **200** is formed by at least one material selected from the group consisting of silicon oxide SiO_2 , silicon nitride SiN_x , and silicon oxynitride SiO_xN_y .

According to the organic light emitting display and a method for fabricating the same, by forming a common reinforcing member at non-pixel regions of two specific display panels arranged side by side, a process may be easily controlled and a printing characteristic may be enhanced. Further, a cutting process of sealed substrates can be easily performed by using a metal pattern formed on the shared reinforcing member. That is, the metal pattern functions as a mask causing the reinforcing member not to be completely cured, thereby improving an impact resistance of the sealed substrates.

Although embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described, it would be appreciated by those skilled in the art that changes might be made in these embodiments without departing from the principles and spirit of the invention and the scope of which is defined in the claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. An organic light emitting display device, comprising:
 - a first substrate comprising a first side surface;
 - a second substrate comprising a first side surface and opposing the first substrate;
 - an array of organic light-emitting pixels interposed between the first and second substrates;
 - a frit seal interposed between the first substrate and the second substrate while surrounding the array, wherein the frit seal, the first substrate and the second substrate together define an enclosed space in which the array is located;
 - a first structure interposed between the first substrate and the second substrate and located outside the enclosed space, the first structure contacting the first substrate and the second substrate, wherein the first structure comprises a first side surface, and wherein the first side surface along with the first side surfaces of the first and second substrates forms a generally smooth surface; and
 - a metal piece located outside the enclosed space while interposed between and contacting the first and second substrates.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the generally smooth surface is substantially free of a step.

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3. The device of claim 1, wherein the first side surface of the first structure contacts the first side surfaces of the first and second substrates.

4. The device of claim 1, wherein the first structure is made of a material substantially different from the first and second substrates.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein the generally smooth surface is substantially planar.

6. The device of claim 1, wherein the first side surface of the first structure has a roughness which is substantially the same as that of at least one of the first side surfaces of the first and second substrates.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein the first structure further comprises a portion configured to block a light beam.

8. The device of claim 1, wherein the first substrate comprises a second side surface, the second substrate comprises a second side surface, wherein the device further comprises a second structure comprising a second side surface, which faces generally the same direction as the second side surfaces of the first and second substrates, wherein the second structure is interposed between the first and second substrates outside the enclosed space.

9. The device of claim 8, wherein the second surface of the second structure along with the second surfaces of the first and second substrates forms a second side of the device, and wherein the second side comprises a stepped surface.

10. The device of claim 8, wherein the second surface of the second structure along with the second surfaces of the first and second substrates forms a substantially smooth surface.

11. The device of claim 1, wherein the frit seal comprises one or more materials selected from the group consisting of magnesium oxide (MgO), calcium oxide (CaO), barium oxide (BaO), lithium oxide (Li₂O), sodium oxide (Na₂O), potassium oxide (K₂O), boron oxide (B₂O₃), vanadium oxide (V₂O₅), zinc oxide (ZnO), tellurium oxide (TeO₂), aluminum oxide (Al₂O₃), silicon dioxide (SiO₂), lead oxide (PbO), tin oxide (SnO), phosphorous oxide (P₂O₅), ruthenium oxide (Ru₂O), rubidium oxide (Rb₂O), rhodium oxide (Rh₂O), ferrite oxide (Fe₂O₃), copper oxide (CuO), titanium oxide (TiO₂), tungsten oxide (WO₃), bismuth oxide (Bi₂O₃), antimony oxide (Sb₂O₃), lead-borate glass, tin-phosphate glass, vanadate glass, and borosilicate.

12. A method of making the organic light-emitting display device of claim 1, the method comprising:

providing a unfinished product comprising:

a first unfinished substrate,

a second unfinished substrate opposing the first substrate,

a first array of organic light-emitting pixels interposed between the first substrate and second substrate,

a first frit seal interposed between the first unfinished substrate and second unfinished substrate and surrounding the first array, wherein the first frit seal, the first unfinished substrate and the second unfinished substrate together define a first enclosed space in which the first array is located, the first frit seal comprising a first segment,

a second array of organic light-emitting pixels interposed between the first unfinished substrate and second unfinished substrate,

a second frit seal interposed between the first unfinished substrate and second unfinished substrate and surrounding the second array, wherein the second frit seal, the first unfinished substrate and the second unfinished substrate together define a second enclosed space in which the second array is located, the second frit seal comprising a second segment, and

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a structure interposed between the first and second unfinished substrates and further between the first and second segments; and

cutting the unfinished product into a first piece and a second piece such that each of the first and second pieces comprises a portion of the structure.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the first and second segments extend substantially parallel, and wherein the structure extends along the first and second segments.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the structure contacts the first and second substrates.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein the structure of the unfinished product comprises a first portion, a second portion and a central portion sandwiched between the first and second portions, wherein the first piece comprises the first portion and a piece of the central portion, and wherein the second piece comprises the second portion and a piece of the central portion.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the central portion comprises a material is softer than the first and second portions.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein each of the first, second and central portions comprise a resin, wherein the resin of the central portion is less cured than that of the first and second portions.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein the first portion contacts the first segment, and wherein the first portion extends along the first segment.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein the first portion is apart from the first segment with a gap, and wherein the first portion extends along the first segment.

20. The method of claim 15, wherein the central portion comprises a material configured to block a light beam.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein providing comprises providing the unfinished product in which the structure is made of a curable resin, wherein providing further comprises applying a light beam to the structure while part of the light beam is blocked by the material configured to block the light beam, and wherein the light beam cures the first and second portions of the structure.

22. The method of claim 15, wherein the first piece comprises a side surface comprising a surface formed by the portion of the structure, wherein the side surface of the first piece is generally smooth.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the generally smooth surface is substantially planar.

24. The method of claim 15, wherein the first piece comprises a side surface comprising a surface formed by the portion of the structure, wherein the side surface of the first piece is stepped.

25. An organic light emitting display device, comprising:

a first substrate comprising a side surface;

a second substrate opposing the substrate and comprising a first side surface;

an array of organic light-emitting pixels interposed between the first and second substrates;

a frit seal interposed between the first substrate and the second substrate while surrounding the array, wherein the frit seal, the first substrate and the second substrate together define an enclosed space in which the array is located;

a reinforcing structure located outside the enclosed space while interposed between the first and second substrates, wherein the side surface of the first substrate and the reinforcing structure form a step therebetween; and

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a metal piece located outside the enclosed space while interposed between and contacting the first and second substrates.

26. The device of claim 25, wherein the metal piece contacts the reinforcing structure.

27. The device of claim 25, wherein the reinforcing structure comprises UV-cured resin.

28. The device of claim 25, wherein the reinforcing structure extends along the frit seal.

29. The device of claim 25, wherein the reinforcing structure substantially surrounds the frit seal.

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30. The device of claim 25, wherein the side surface of the second substrate and the reinforcing structure form a step therebetween.

31. The device of claim 25, wherein the side surfaces of the first and second substrates face generally the same direction, wherein the reinforcing structure comprises a side surface interposed between the side surfaces of the first and second substrates when viewed in the direction.

32. The device of claim 25, wherein the first substrate comprises two or more edges, wherein the reinforcing structure is formed along the two or more edges.

* * * * *

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摘要(译)

公开了一种有机发光显示装置及其制造方法。第一母基板包括第一显示阵列和第二显示阵列。将第二母基板附着到第一母基板以密封阵列。在第一母基板和第二母基板的非像素区域处形成玻璃料。玻璃料将第一和第二母基板彼此互连。沿着玻璃料形成加强构件。金属图案形成在第一基板上并沿加强构件延伸。

