



US006884139B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Kim

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 6,884,139 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Apr. 26, 2005**

(54) **ORGANIC EL DISPLAY DEVICE AND METHOD FOR FABRICATING THE SAME USING SHADOW MASK**

(75) Inventor: **Chang Nam Kim, Seoul (KR)**

(73) Assignee: **LG Electronics Inc., Seoul (KR)**

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **10/185,012**

(22) Filed: **Jul. 1, 2002**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2003/0011299 A1 Jan. 16, 2003

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Jul. 3, 2001 (KR) 2001-39542

(51) **Int. Cl.⁷** **H01J 9/24**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **445/24; 445/25; 427/66; 427/468; 427/282**

(58) **Field of Search** 427/66, 468, 504, 427/510, 526, 259, 272, 282; 445/24, 25; 428/690; 313/503, 506, 504

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,937,272 A * 8/1999 Tang 438/30

6,087,772 A * 7/2000 Ootsuki et al. 313/505
6,501,098 B1 * 12/2002 Yamazaki 257/72
6,592,933 B1 * 7/2003 Himeshima et al. 427/66
6,650,044 B1 * 11/2003 Lowery 313/502
6,686,215 B1 * 2/2004 Yamada 438/22

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EP	0 883 190 A2	12/1998
EP	0 955 791 A1	11/1999
JP	11-195490 A	7/1999
JP	11-214154	8/1999
JP	2000-299190	10/2000
JP	2001-148291	5/2001

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner—Edward J. Glick

Assistant Examiner—Elizabeth Keaney

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Fleshner & Kim, LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An organic EL display device and a method for fabricating the same are disclosed, wherein an organic luminescence layer is formed at a crossing region of first and second electrodes using a shadow mask on which a plurality of holes are connected by bridges.

3 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets

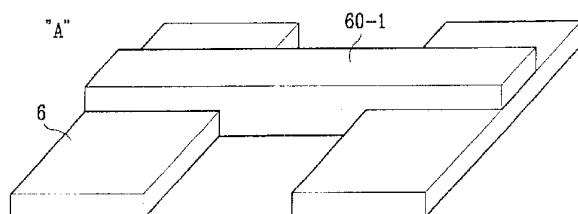
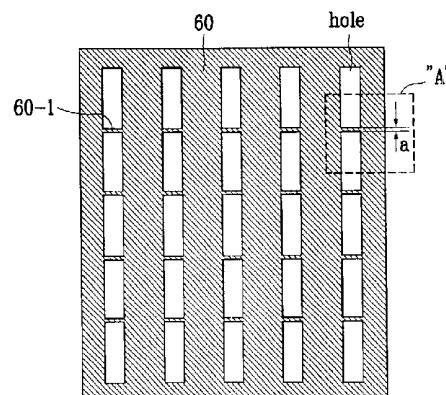


FIG.1A
Prior Art

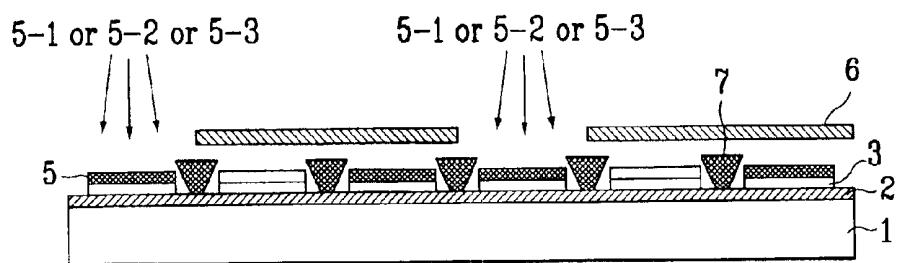


FIG.1B
Prior Art

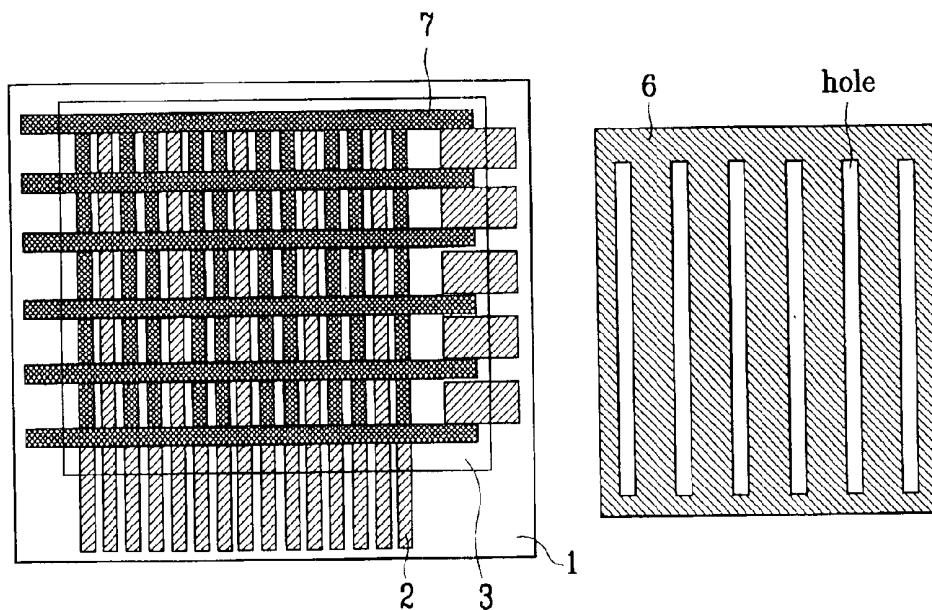


FIG.1C
Prior Art

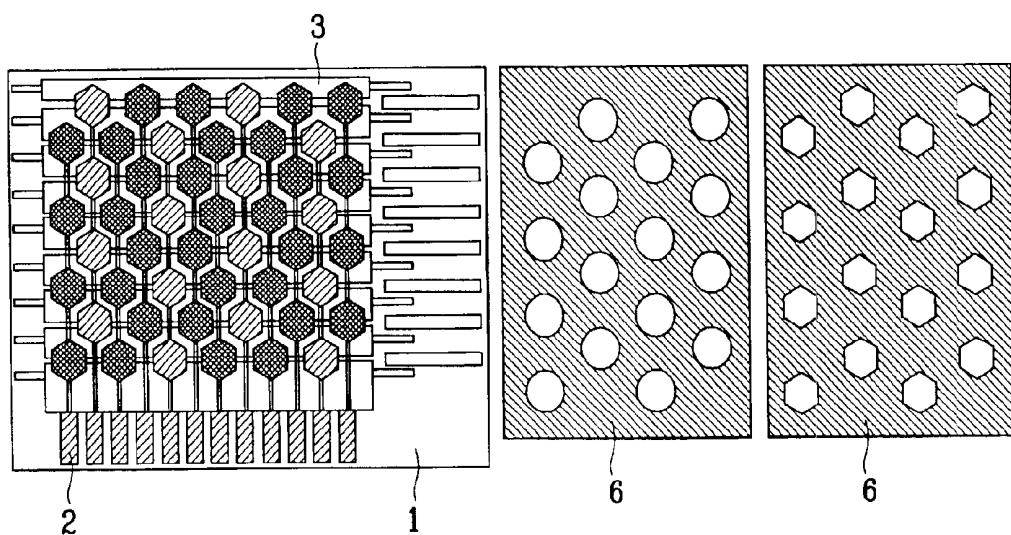


FIG.1D
Prior Art

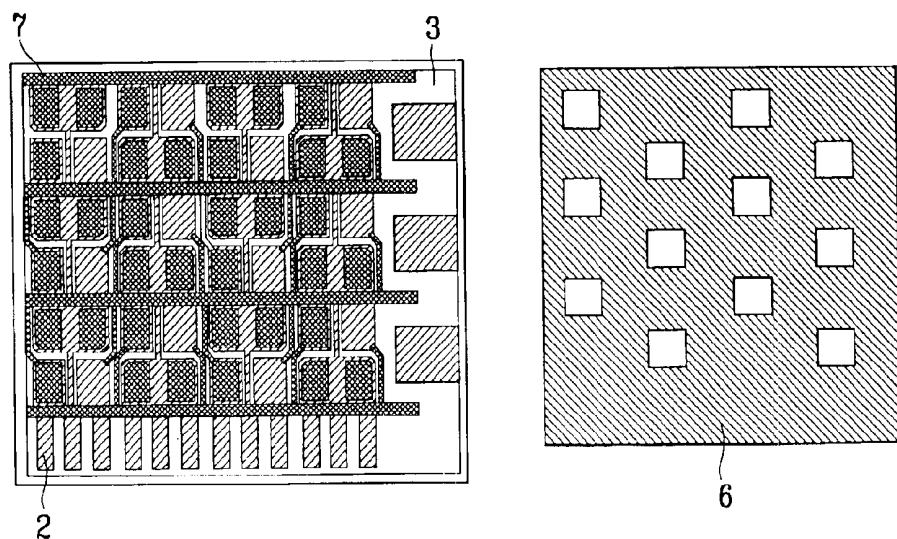


FIG.2A
Prior Art

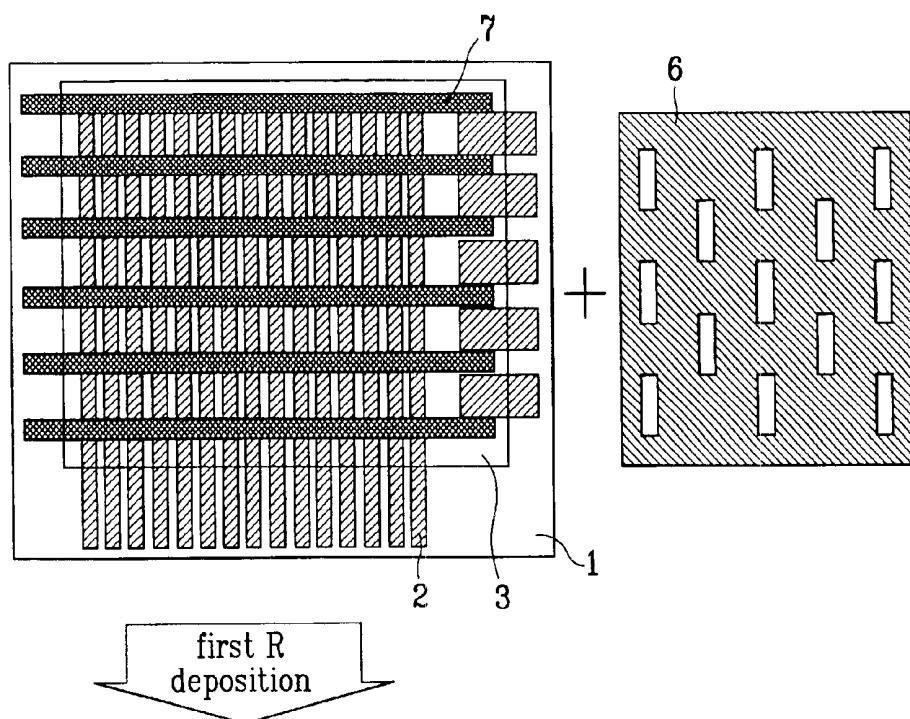


FIG.2B
Prior Art

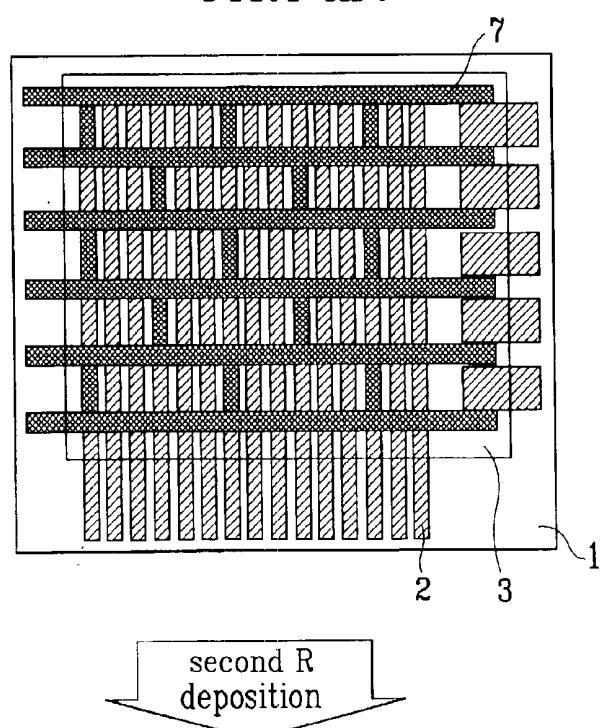


FIG.2C
Prior Art

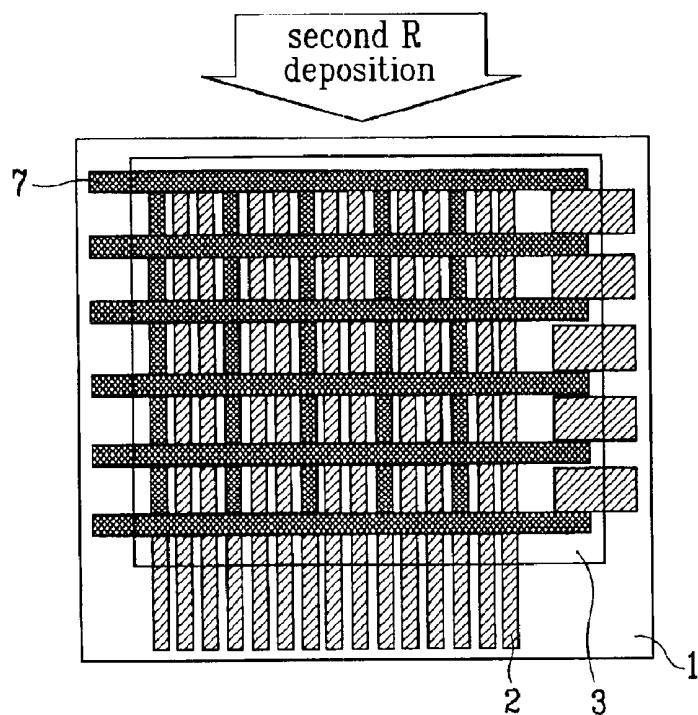


FIG.2D
Prior Art

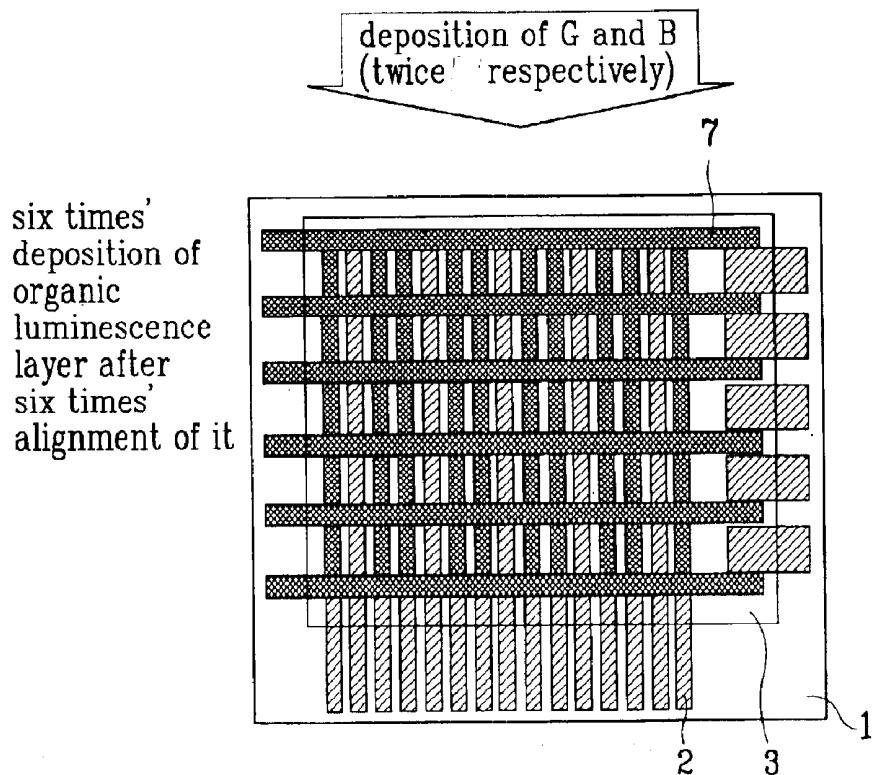


FIG. 3A

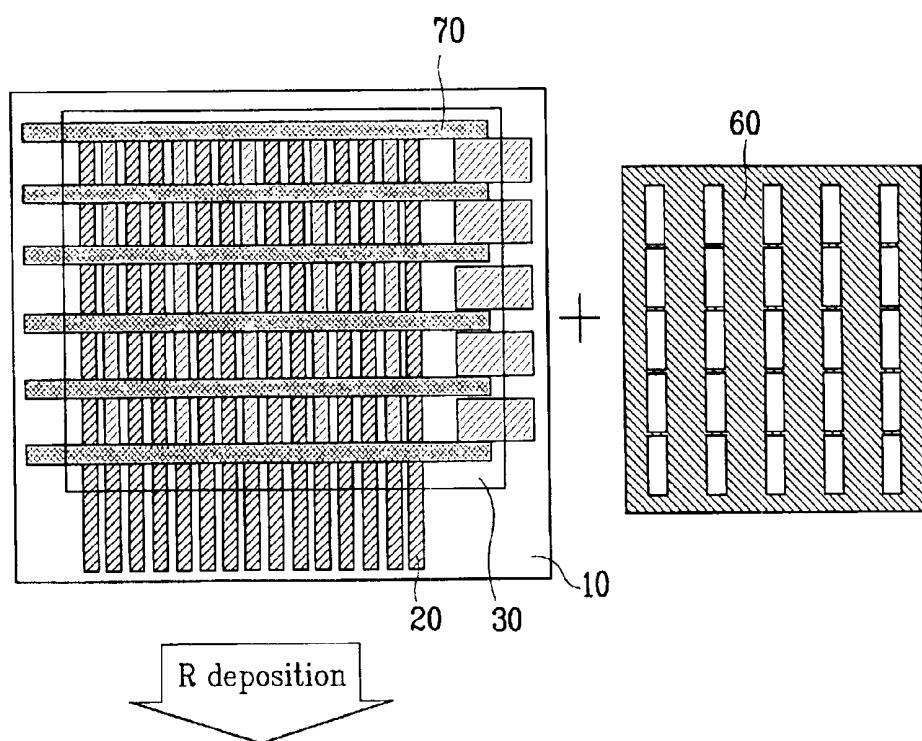


FIG. 3B

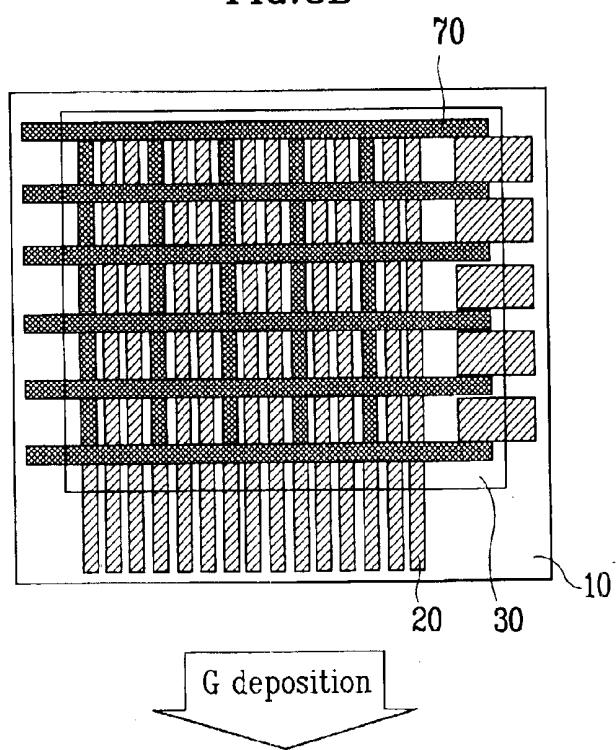


FIG. 3C

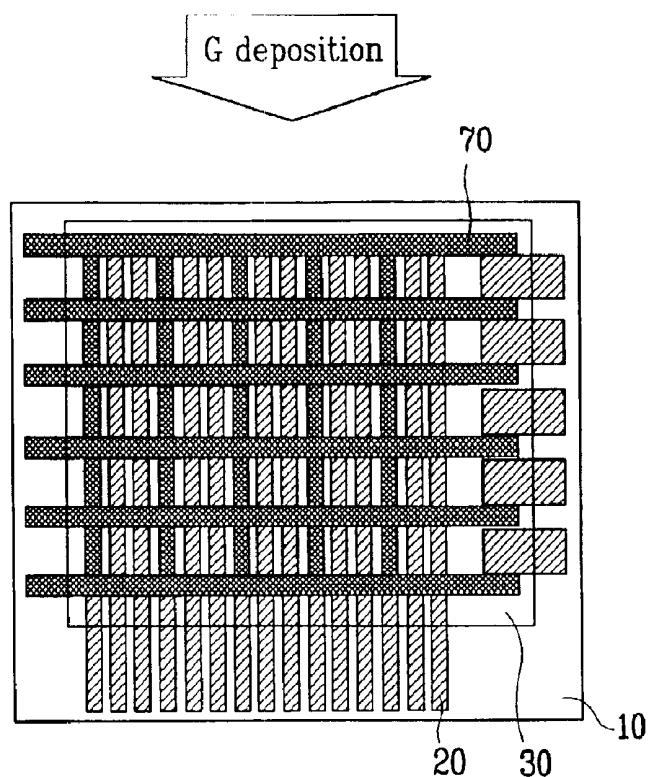


FIG. 3D

three times' deposition of organic luminescence layer after three times' alignment of it

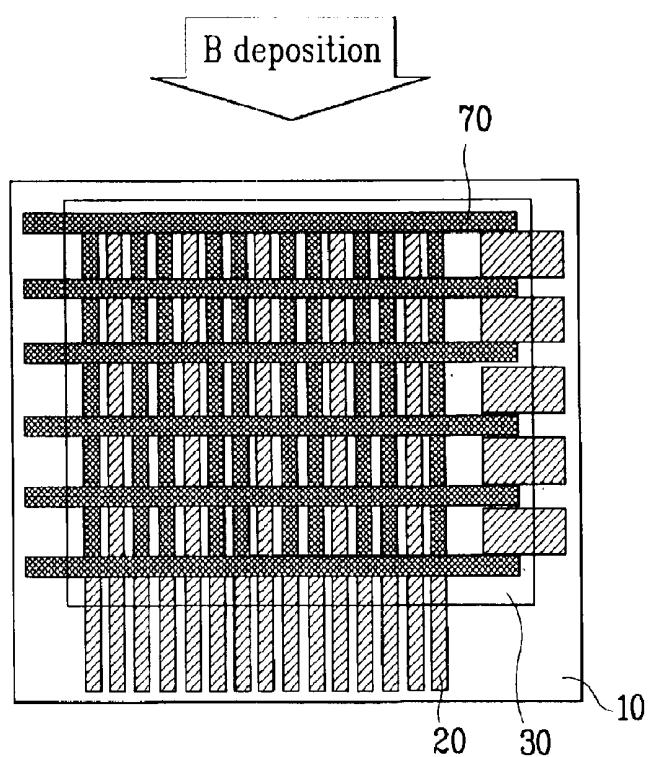


FIG. 4

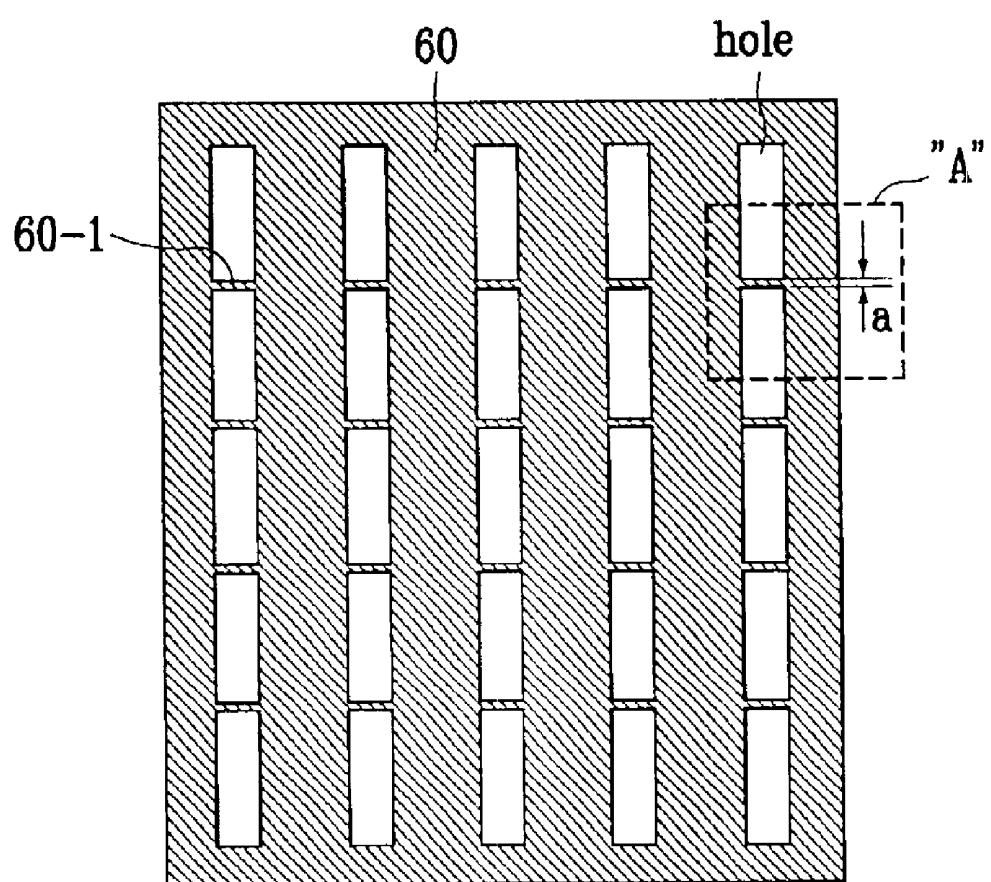


FIG.5A

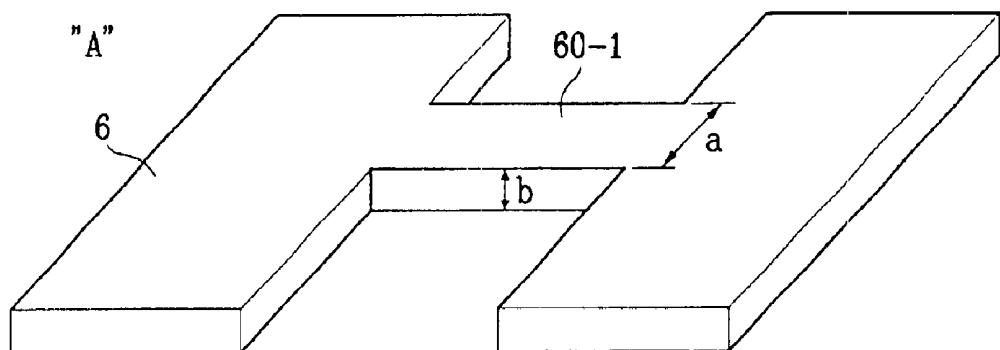


FIG.5B

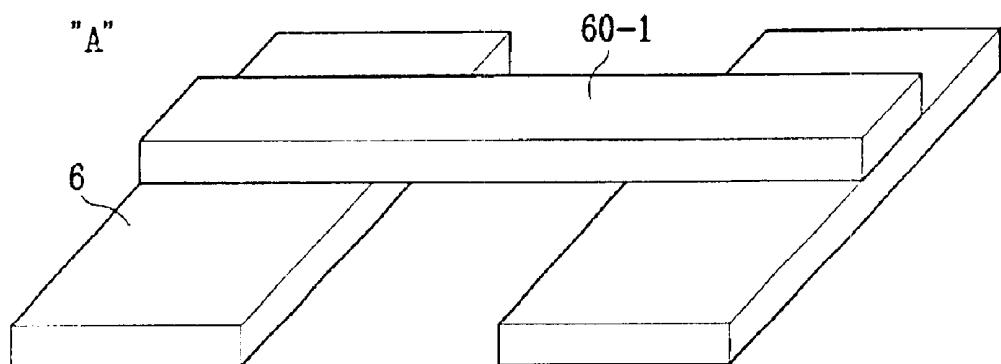
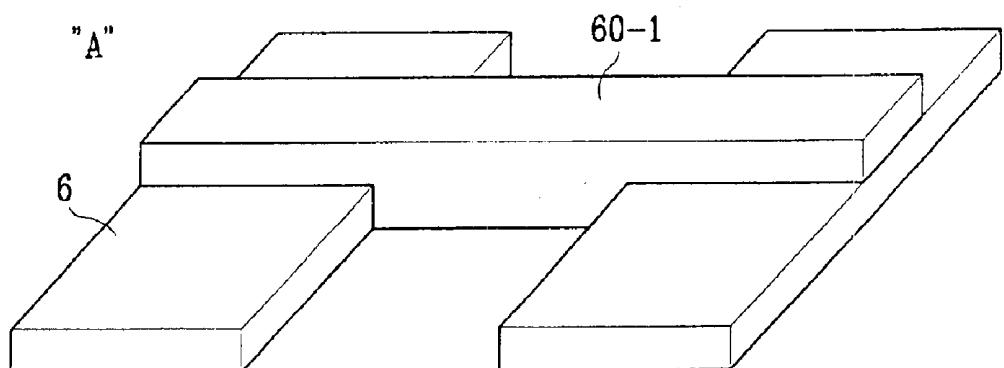


FIG.5C



ORGANIC EL DISPLAY DEVICE AND METHOD FOR FABRICATING THE SAME USING SHADOW MASK

This application claims the benefit of the Korean Application No. 2001-0039542 filed on Jul. 3, 2001, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a display device, and more particularly, to an organic electroluminescence(EL) display device and a method for fabricating the same.

2. Discussion of the Related Art

A method of using a shadow mask as shown in FIG. 1 is the most efficient method to improve the luminescence efficiency among methods of forming R, G, and B pixels in fabricating a full-color organic EL display device.

FIGS. 1A to 1D are diagrams showing a related art shadow mask and a full-color organic EL display device according to a pixel array method.

As shown in FIG. 1A, a first electrode 2 is formed on a transparent substrate 1 and barriers 7 are additionally formed on the same to separate between an insulating film 3 and a second electrode

Also, using a shadow mask 6, a common luminescence layer 5 of R, G, and B, and each of organic luminescence layers 5-1 to 5-3 of R, G, and B is formed at a corresponding pixel on the insulating film 3.

Then, the second electrode is formed on the entire surface.

There are three different types(i.e. a strip type as shown in FIG. 1B, a delta type as shown in FIG. 1C, and an array type as shown in FIG. 1D) in forming an organic luminescence layer using a shadow mask depending on the array method of a pixel. In the array type, the size of R pixel is designed to be larger than G or B pixel to supplement the luminescence efficiency of the R pixel.

The strip type is best among the above three pixel array types in terms of the aperture ratio and first electrode resistance. In other words, because first electrodes are formed in the form of strips, the device can be driven with low driving voltage.

On the other hand, in the strip type, the shadow mask 6 should also be made in a strip form as shown in FIG. 1. In this instance, problems such as the transformation or droop of the shadow mask 6 are caused in a large degree because of an external pulling strength. Accordingly, in the process of deposition, colors spread not only on the intended pixel region but also on other areas because of shadow effect.

To obviate the above-mentioned problems, as shown in FIG. 2, a shadow mask on which mask holes are made in turns while having the same pixel array structure as that of the strip type of FIG. 1B is applied.

FIGS. 2A to 2D are deposition process diagrams of an organic luminescence layer of a full-color organic EL display device using the related art shadow mask structure.

In this method, however, each organic luminescence layer displaying one of R, G, and B colors should be formed by carrying out alignment and deposition twice respectively. That is, to form three layers of R, G, and B, the deposition should be carried out six times in all after the alignment being carried out six times as well.

In other words, to form organic luminescence layers of R, G, and B, in case of using the shadow mask 6 of FIGS. 1B

to 1D, the shadow mask is aligned and deposited three times respectively. In case of using a shadow mask shown in FIG. 2, however, the shadow mask should be deposited 6 times.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, the present invention is directed to an organic EL display device and method for fabricating the same that substantially obviates one or more problems due to limitations and disadvantages of the related art.

An object of the present invention is to provide a full-color organic EL display device and a method for fabricating the same, in which an improved shadow mask structure is provided to prevent a mask pattern from being transformed, thereby obtaining high luminescence efficiency.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a full-color organic EL display device and a method for fabricating the same which has a shadow mask structure that provides a predetermined number of bridges formed over a long strip-shaped holes so as to prevent transformation and droop caused by a pulling strength from occurring, thereby obtaining high aperture ratio and low driving voltage.

Additional advantages, objects, and features of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows and in part will become apparent to those having ordinary skill in the art upon examination of the following or may be learned from practice of the invention. The objectives and other advantages of the invention may be realized and attained by the structure particularly pointed out in the written description and claims hereof as well as the appended drawings.

To achieve these objects and other advantages and in accordance with the purpose of the invention, as embodied and broadly described herein, a full-color organic EL display device of the present invention includes organic luminescence layers of R, G, and B formed in a strip shape at a plurality of pixels, which are defined by a crossing region of first and second electrodes, on a transparent substrate using a mask which has a plurality of strip-shaped holes and a plurality of bridges crossing the holes.

In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, thin metal that act as bridges is formed over long strip-shaped holes of a shadow mask so as to prevent the shadow mask from being transformed or drooped because of the pulling strength. The organic luminescence layers of R,G,B are alternately arranged in rows by three times' alignments of the shadow mask.

It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description of the present invention are exemplary and explanatory and are intended to provide further explanation of the invention as claimed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings, which are included to provide a further understanding of the invention and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this application, illustrate embodiment(s) of the invention and together with the description serve to explain the principle of the invention. In the drawings:

FIGS. 1A to 1D illustrate diagrams showing full-color organic EL display devices in accordance with pixel array types and related art shadow masks;

FIGS. 2A to 2D illustrate deposition process diagrams of an organic luminescence layer of a full-color organic EL display device using a shadow mask structure of a related art;

FIGS. 3A to 3D illustrate deposition process diagrams of an organic luminescence layer of a full-color organic EL display device using a shadow mask structure of the present invention;

FIG. 4 illustrates a plane view of a shadow mask in accordance with the present invention; and

FIGS. 5A to 5C are detailed diagrams showing a part 'A' of the shadow mask of FIG. 4.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Reference will now be made in detail to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. Wherever possible, the same reference numbers will be used throughout the drawings to refer to the same or like parts.

FIGS. 3A to 3D illustrate deposition process diagrams of an organic luminescence layer of a full-color organic EL display device using a shadow mask structure of the present invention.

Referring to FIG. 3A, a first electrode 20 of a transparent electrode material is formed on a transparent substrate 10. A supplementary electrode may be applied to reduce the resistance of the first electrode 20. The substrate includes at least thin film transistors.

Metals which have relatively lower resistance than the resistance of the first electrode 20, such as Cr, Al, Cu, W, Au, Ni, and Ag, can be used as the supplementary electrode.

An insulating film 30 is formed on the first electrode 20. Any insulators, regardless of inorganic materials or organic materials, can be used as the insulating film 30.

A barrier 70 is formed on the insulating film 30 to insulate intervals of each second electrode (not shown).

As shown in FIG. 4, a shadow mask 60 is used to form each organic luminescence layer of R, G, and B and a common organic luminescence layer of the same at a plurality of pixels on the transparent substrate 10. The pixels are defined by a region crossed by the first and second electrodes.

FIG. 4 is a plane view of the shadow mask 60 in accordance of the present invention. The shadow mask 60 has a plurality of strip-shaped holes and a plurality of bridges 60-1 which connect the holes.

The transformation of the shadow mask 60 is prevented by the bridges 60-1 which connect the holes.

Referring to FIG. 3A, one bridge 60-1 for each pixel is formed, but the bridge 60-1 is not necessarily formed at every pixel. In consideration of the transformation of the shadow mask 60, the bridge may be formed between every two or three pixels.

Preferably, the bridge 60-1 has its width 'a' and thickness 'b' in the range of 1~1000 μm .

FIGS. 5A to 5C illustrate a detailed view of the part 'A' of the shadow mask of FIG. 4. The bridge 60-1 can be

formed either on the same plane and at the same thickness as the shadow mask 60 as shown in FIG. 5A, or on a different plane and at a different thickness from the shadow mask 60 as shown in FIG. 5B. Alternatively, the bridge 60-1 can also be formed on the same or different plane as or from the shadow mask at a different thickness from the shadow mask 60 as shown in FIG. 5C.

A common luminescence layer of R, G, and B (not shown) is deposited on the transparent substrate 10 at a time using a blank mask which can deposit all the entire luminescence region.

Subsequently, each organic luminescence layer of R, G, and B is alternately arranged in rows at the pixel by three times aligning the shadow mask 60.

The common luminescence layer of R, G, and B may also be formed at each pixel of R, G, and B using the shadow mask 60, not being deposited on the entire luminescence region.

Subsequently, the second electrode (not shown) is formed by forming a second electrode (Mg—Ag alloy, or Al, or other conductive materials) using the blank shadow mask.

Then, passivation layers (oxygen adsorption layer, moisture adsorption layer, and moisture-proof layer) are formed on the second electrode and encapsulation is carried out.

The full-color organic EL display device in accordance with the present invention has the following advantages.

By forming mask holes in the form of a bridge, the transformation and droop of the shadow mask caused by the pulling strength is prevented. Thus, efficiency of the full-color organic EL display device is maximized.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made in the present invention. Thus, it is intended that the present invention covers the modifications and variations of this invention provided they come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for fabricating a display device comprising: forming a first electrode pattern on a substrate;

forming at least one organic luminescence layer on the first electrode pattern at a plurality of pixels that is formed by aligning a mask having a plurality of holes and a plurality of bridges that connect the holes; and forming a second electrode pattern on the organic luminescence layer in a perpendicular direction to the first electrode, wherein the bridges are formed on the same or different plane as the mask and thicker than the mask.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the mask is aligned three times so that each organic luminescence layer of R, G, and B is alternatively arranged in a row direction.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the substrate includes at least thin film transistors.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	有机EL显示装置及使用荫罩制造该装置的方法		
公开(公告)号	US6884139	公开(公告)日	2005-04-26
申请号	US10/185012	申请日	2002-07-01
申请(专利权)人(译)	LG电子株式会社.		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	LG DISPLAY CO. , LTD.		
[标]发明人	KIM CHANG NAM		
发明人	KIM, CHANG NAM		
IPC分类号	H01L27/32 H01L27/28 H05B33/10 C23C14/04 C23C14/06 C23C14/12 C23C14/24 H01L51/50 H01L51/56 H01J9/24		
CPC分类号	C23C14/042 H01L27/3211 H01L51/0011 H01L51/56 H01L27/3281 H01L27/3244		
优先权	1020010039542 2001-07-03 KR		
其他公开文献	US20030011299A1		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

公开了一种有机EL显示装置及其制造方法，其中使用荫罩在第一和第二电极的交叉区域形成有机发光层，在荫罩上通过桥连接多个孔。

