



US009614192B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Kaplan et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,614,192 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Apr. 4, 2017**

(54) **METHOD FOR FORMING THIN FILM AND METHOD FOR FABRICATING ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DIODE (OLED) DISPLAY USING THE SAME**

(71) Applicant: **Samsung Display Co., Ltd.**, Yongin, Gyeonggi-do (KR)

(72) Inventors: **Leonid Kaplan**, Yongin (KR); **Valeriy Prushinskiy**, Yongin (KR); **Won-Baek Lee**, Yongin (KR); **Ji-Ryun Park**, Yongin (KR); **Hee-Sang Park**, Yongin (KR)

(73) Assignee: **Samsung Display Co., Ltd.**, Gyeonggi-do (KR)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 217 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **14/487,946**

(22) Filed: **Sep. 16, 2014**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2015/0079711 A1 Mar. 19, 2015

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Sep. 17, 2013 (KR) 10-2013-0111497

(51) **Int. Cl.**
H01L 51/56 (2006.01)
C23C 14/22 (2006.01)

(Continued)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **H01L 51/56** (2013.01); **C23C 14/042** (2013.01); **C23C 14/225** (2013.01); **C23C 14/243** (2013.01); **H01L 51/0004** (2013.01); **H01L 51/0011** (2013.01); **H01L 51/5206**

(2013.01); **H01L 51/5221** (2013.01); **H01L 27/3283** (2013.01); **H01L 27/3295** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC . H01L 51/56; H01L 51/5221; H01L 51/3246; H01L 51/0004; H01L 51/0011; H01L 51/5206; H01L 27/3283; H01L 27/3295; C23C 14/243; C23C 14/042; C23C 14/50; C23C 14/04; C23C 14/044; C23C 14/083; C23C 14/225

See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,294,869 A * 3/1994 Tang C09K 11/06 313/500
5,294,870 A 3/1994 Tang et al.
(Continued)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

KR 10-2010-0084655 A 7/2010
KR 10-2012-0042153 A 5/2012

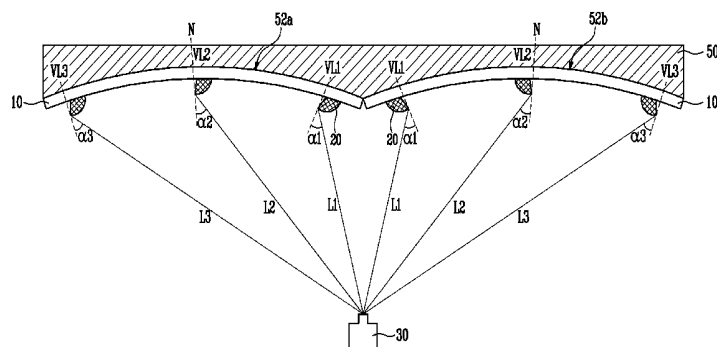
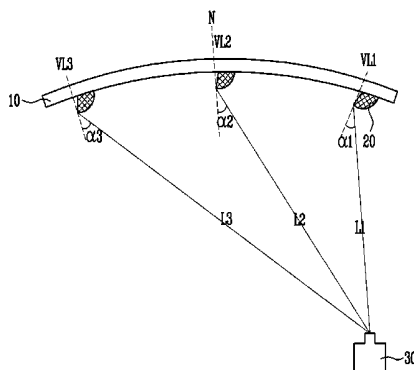
Primary Examiner — Michael Trinh

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear, LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method for forming a thin film for fabricating an organic light-emitting diode (OLED) display is disclosed. In one aspect, the method includes forming a plurality of shadow masks on a substrate. The substrate is then bent to form a predetermined curvature in the substrate. A deposition source is placed at a position having an equal angle with respect to central and peripheral portions of the substrate. The method also includes depositing a deposition material from the deposition source on the substrate and the shadow masks to form a thin film.

29 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets



(51) **Int. Cl.**

<i>H01L 51/52</i>	(2006.01)
<i>C23C 14/04</i>	(2006.01)
<i>H01L 51/00</i>	(2006.01)
<i>C23C 14/24</i>	(2006.01)
<i>H01L 27/32</i>	(2006.01)

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

6,255,775	B1 *	7/2001	Ikuko		H01L 27/3211	313/402
6,965,198	B2 *	11/2005	Haase		C23C 14/042	313/501
7,093,937	B2 *	8/2006	Bauer		C23C 14/044	351/159.57
9,172,064	B2 *	10/2015	Lee		C23C 14/042	
2007/0072128	A1 *	3/2007	Miceli		H01L 21/0274	430/311
2007/0072337	A1 *	3/2007	Matsuzaki		C23C 14/042	438/99
2011/0151135	A1 *	6/2011	Nagae		C23C 14/083	427/523
2012/0100644	A1 *	4/2012	Prushinskiy		C23C 14/042	438/22
2014/0191201	A1 *	7/2014	Hamer		H01L 51/0011	257/40

* cited by examiner

FIG. 1A

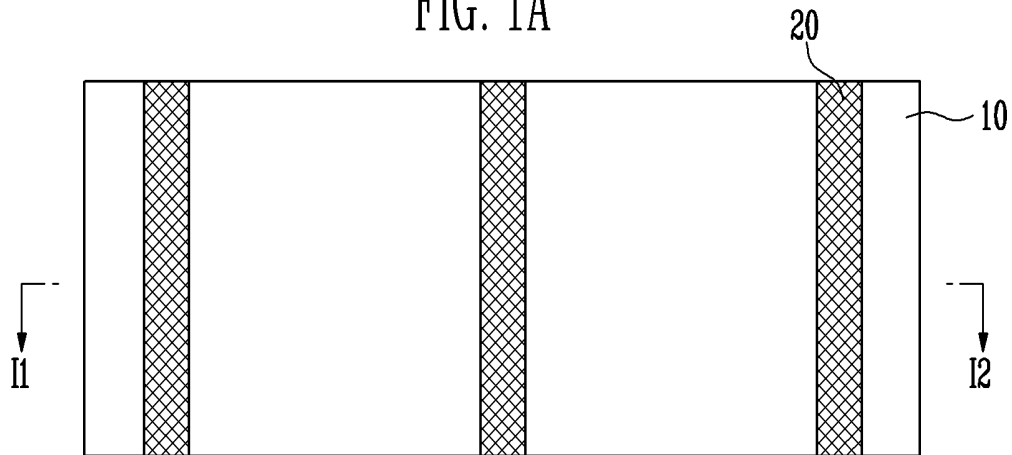


FIG. 1B

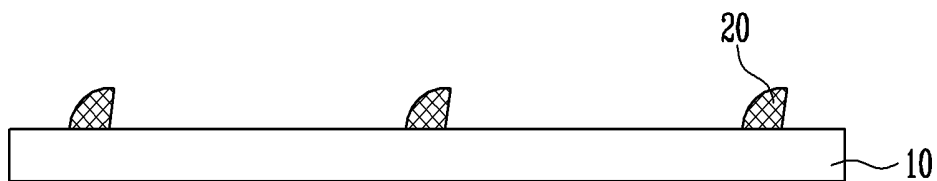


FIG. 1C

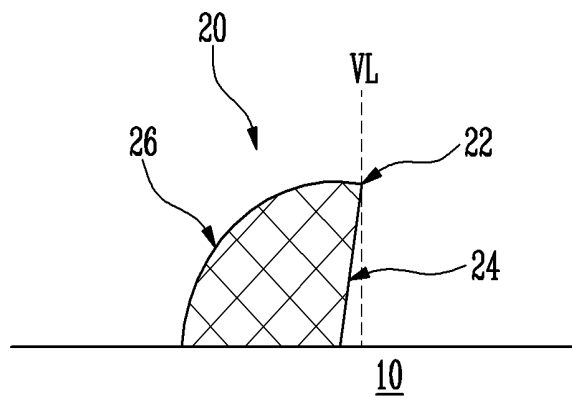


FIG. 2

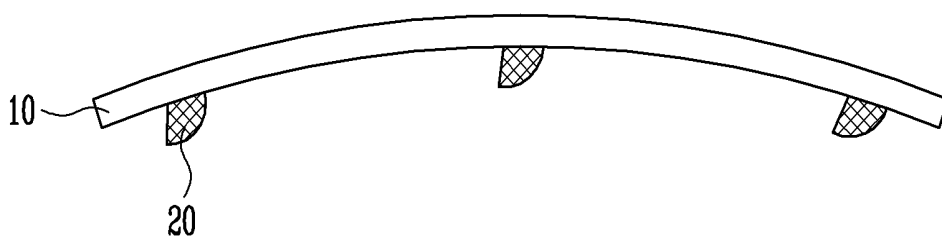


FIG. 3A

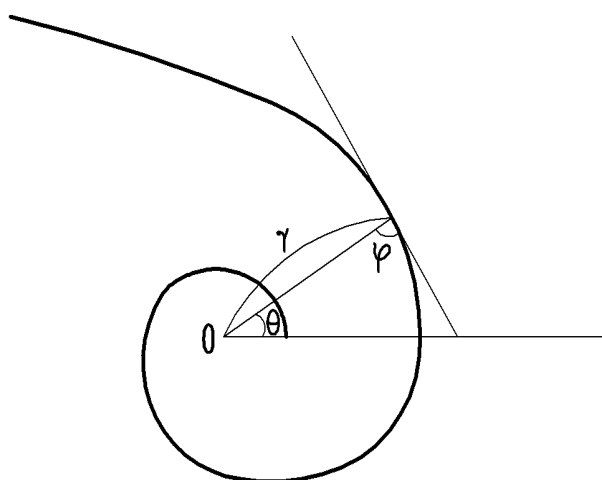


FIG. 3B

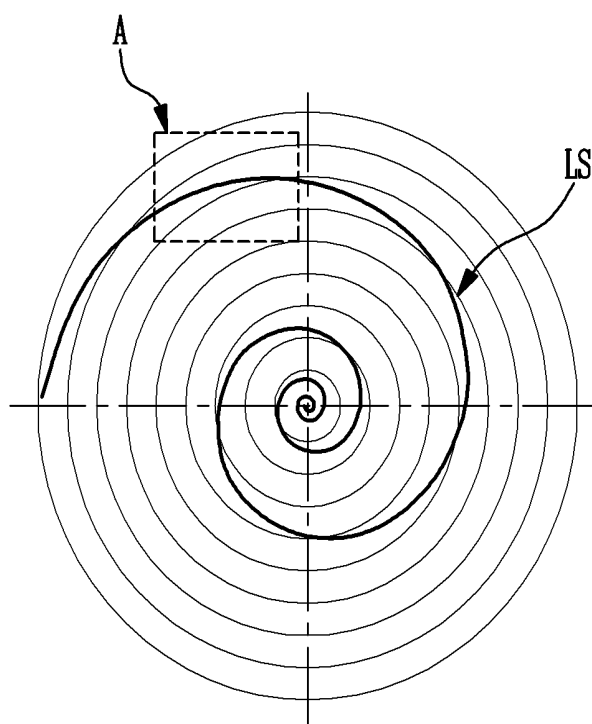


FIG. 4

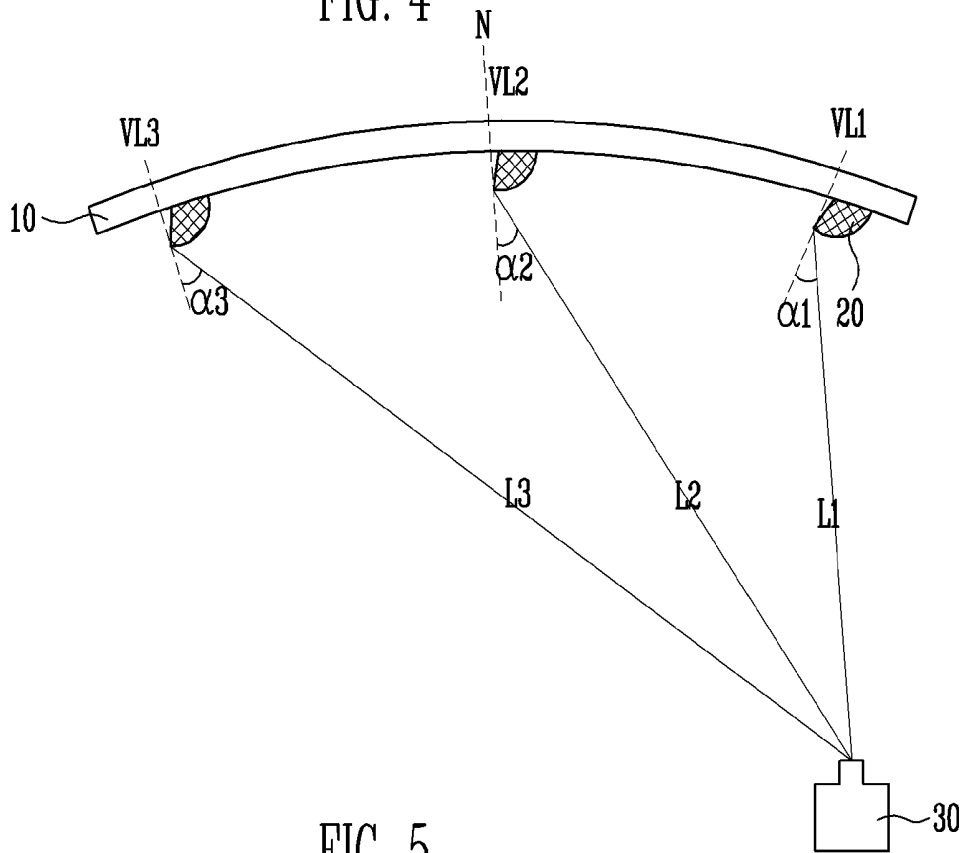


FIG. 5

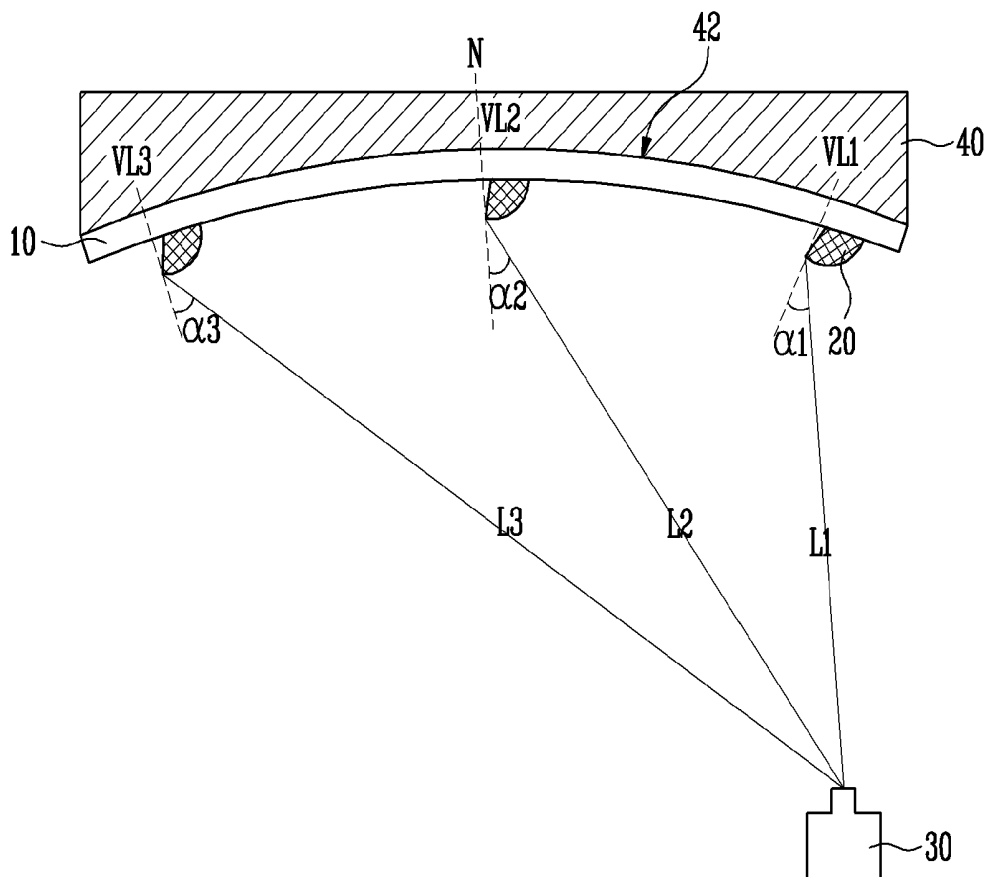


FIG. 6

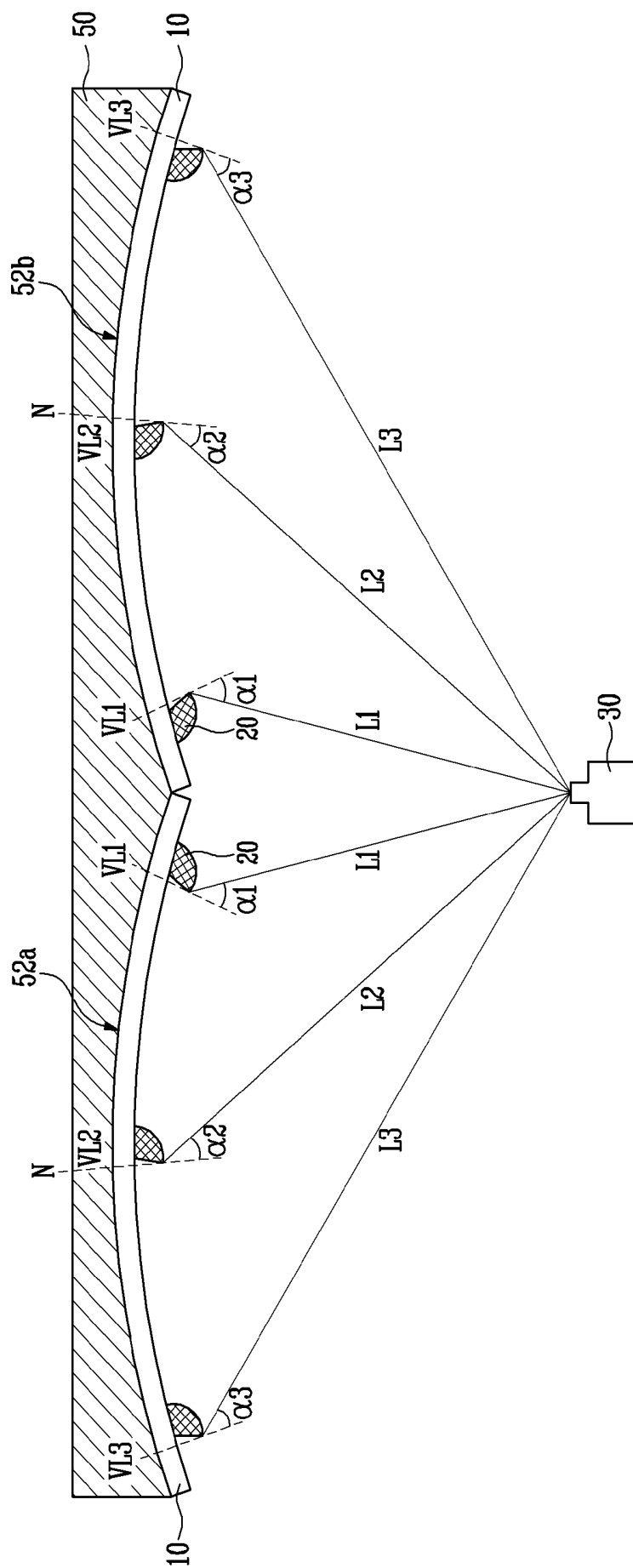


FIG. 7

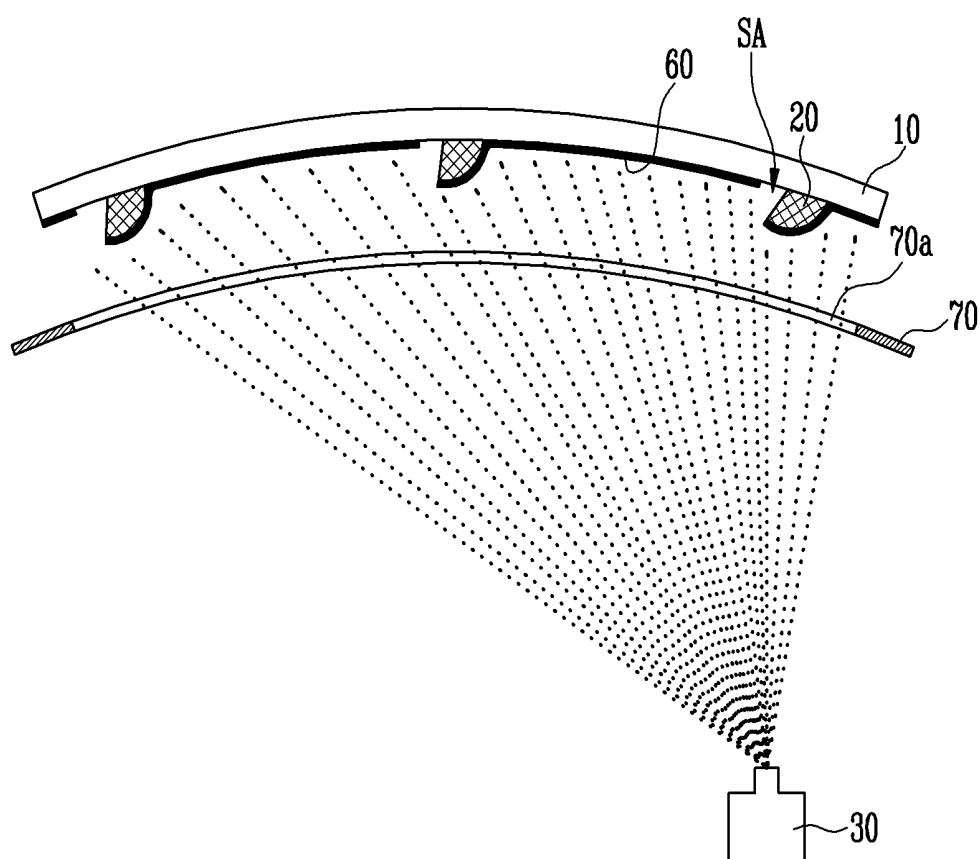


FIG. 8A

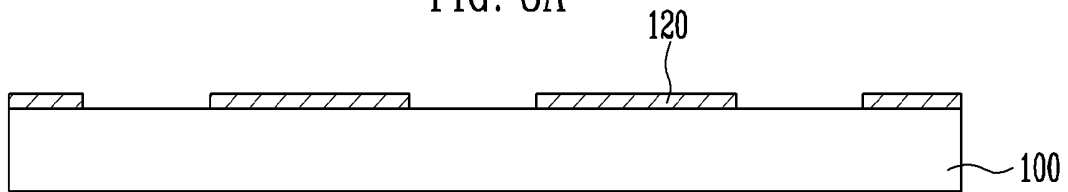


FIG. 8B

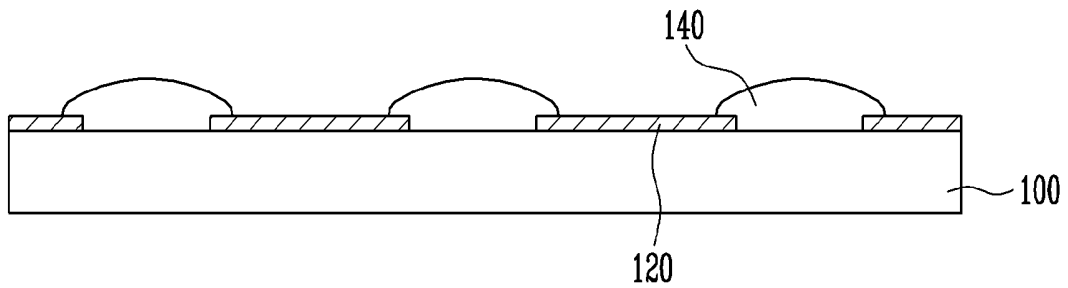


FIG. 8C

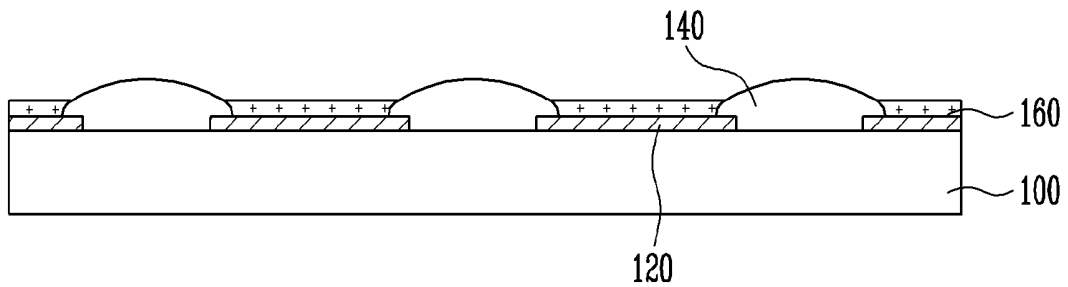


FIG. 8D

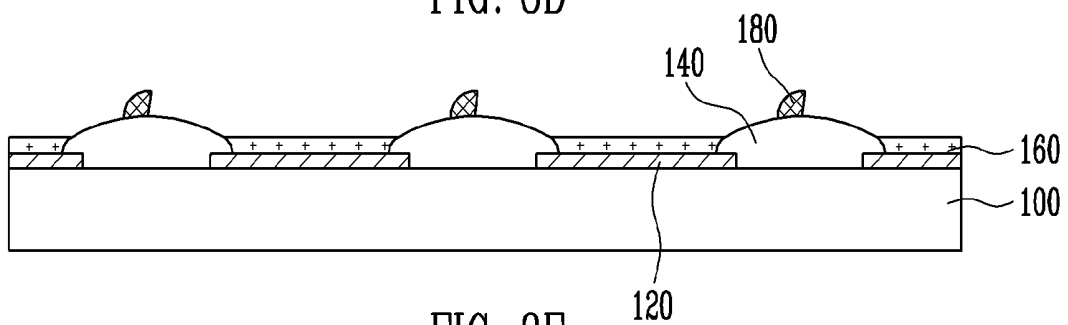


FIG. 8E

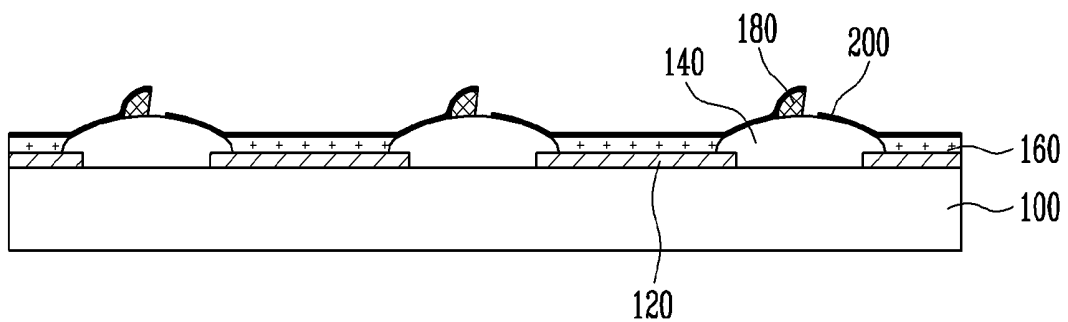


FIG. 9

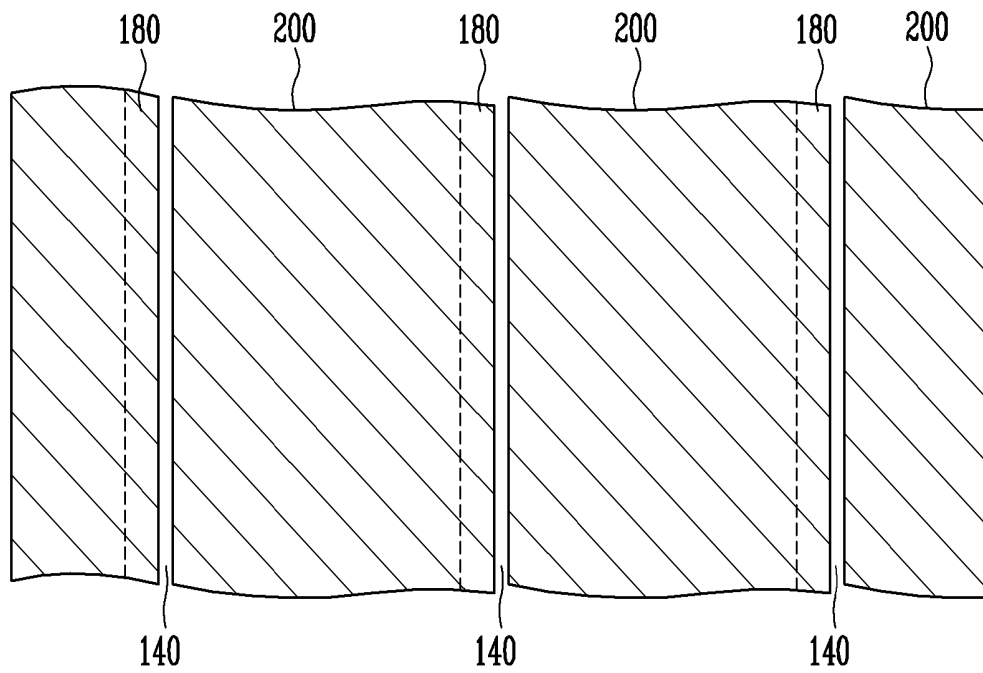


FIG. 10

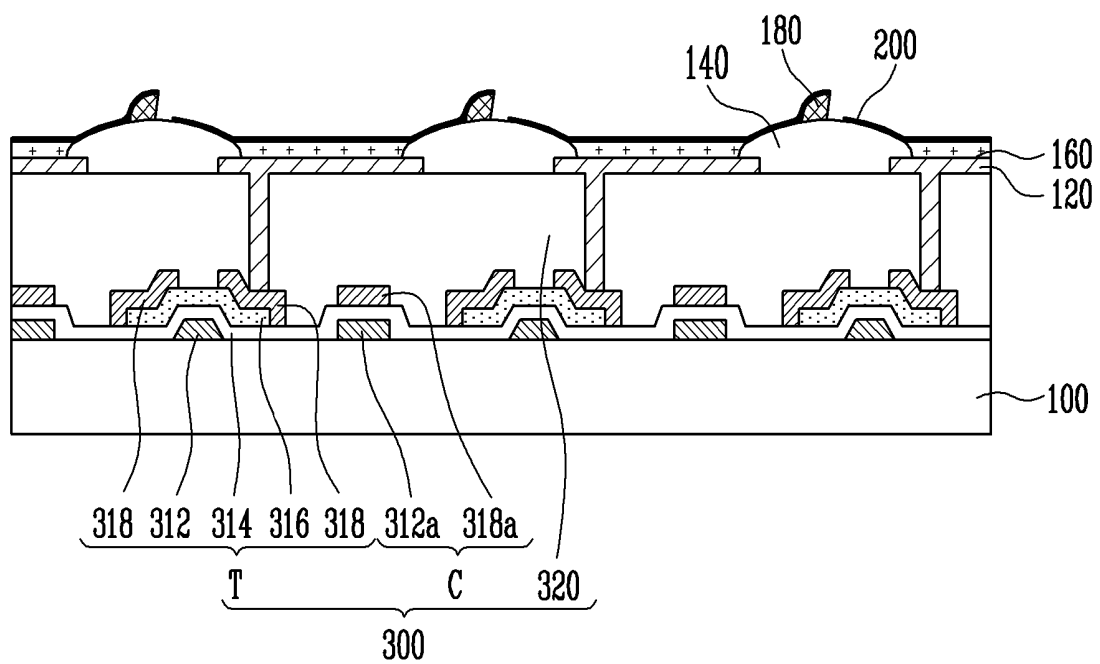
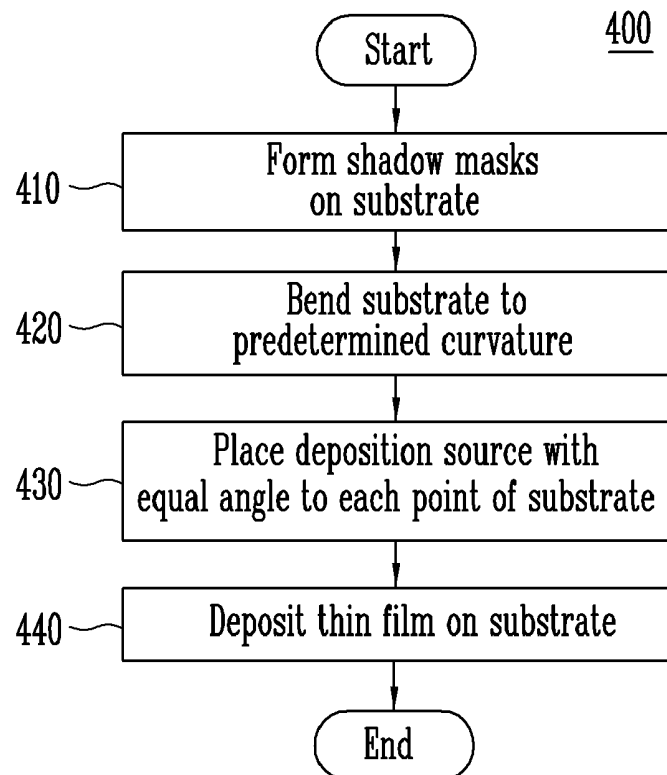


FIG. 11



METHOD FOR FORMING THIN FILM AND METHOD FOR FABRICATING ORGANIC LIGHT-EMITTING DIODE (OLED) DISPLAY USING THE SAME

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to and the benefit of Korean Patent Application No. 10-2013-0111497, filed on Sep. 17, 2013, in the Korean Intellectual Property Office, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

BACKGROUND

Field

The described technology generally relates to a method for forming a thin film and a method for fabricating an organic light-emitting diode (OLED) display using the same.

Description of the Related Technology

Display devices include circuits having a thin film transistor and a capacitor. Each of these electrical components includes electrodes which are electrically connected to each other through a wire.

SUMMARY OF CERTAIN INVENTIVE ASPECTS

One inventive aspect is a method for forming a thin film and a method for fabricating an OLED display using the same, which can decrease the fabricating costs and increase the yield thereof.

Another aspect is a thin film and a method for fabricating an OLED display including the same, in which a plurality of electrodes or wires can be formed with a substantially uniform thickness at a substantially uniform spacing.

Another aspect is a method for forming a thin film, the method including forming a plurality of shadow masks on a substrate, bending and then fixing the substrate so that a surface of the substrate has a predetermined curvature, disposing a deposition source at a position having an equal angle with respect to central and peripheral portions of the substrate, and allowing a thin film to be deposited on the substrate including the shadow masks from the deposition source.

The substrate may be made of at least one of glass, polymer, metal, or silicon, or one or more compounds thereof.

The shadow masks may be formed in row and column directions. The shadow masks in the row direction may be arranged at about an equal interval and the shadow masks in the column direction may be connected to each other.

The shadow mask may include a vertex positioned on a vertical line with respect to the surface of the substrate, a first side connected at an acute angle to the surface of the substrate from the vertex, and a second side connected to the surface of the substrate from the vertex using the length of the first side as a radius.

The vertex may be positioned on the line connecting the surface of the substrate and the deposition source. The first and second sides may be formed to have curved surfaces. Alternatively, the first side may be formed to have a planar surface and the second side may be formed to have a curved surface.

The substrate may be fixed to a substrate support having a surface curved to have the curvature. The substrate support may be formed into a symmetric structure in which surfaces curved to have the curvature are symmetric to each other and the substrates may be respectively fixed to the surfaces with the symmetric structure.

The deposition source may be disposed to have a center axis substantially parallel to the normal of the central portion of the substrate.

The curvature of the surface of the substrate may correspond to a logarithmic spiral. The equal angle may be one angle selected from a range of about 1 to about 45 degrees.

The method may further include disposing, on the substrate, an open mask in which an opening is formed so that the substrate including the shadow masks is exposed.

The thin film may be deposited through one of sputtering, evaporation, vaporization, or sublimation. The thin film may be made of at least one of a conducting material or a metal.

Another aspect is a method for fabricating an OLED display, the method including forming a first electrode on a substrate, forming an insulating layer on the substrate including the first electrode and then patterning the insulating layer so that a first electrode in an emission area is exposed, forming an organic thin film layer on the exposed first electrode, forming a plurality of shadow masks on the insulating layer, bending and then fixing the substrate so that a surface of the substrate has a predetermined curvature, disposing a deposition source at a position having an equal angle with respect to central and peripheral portions of the substrate, and forming a second electrode by allowing a thin film to be deposited on the shadow mask and the organic thin film layer from the deposition source.

The substrate may be made of at least one of glass, polymer, metal, or silicon, or one or more compounds thereof.

The shadow mask may include a vertex positioned on a vertical line with respect to the surface of the substrate, a first side connected at an acute angle to the surface of the substrate from the vertex, and a second side connected up to the surface of the substrate from the vertex using the length of the first side as a radius.

The vertex may be positioned on the line connecting the surface of the substrate and the deposition source.

The substrate may be fixed to a substrate support having a surface curved to have the curvature. The substrate support may be formed into a symmetric structure in which surfaces curved to have the curvature are symmetric to each other and the substrates may be respectively fixed to the surfaces with the symmetric structure.

The deposition source may be disposed to have a center axis substantially parallel to the normal of the central portion of the substrate.

The curvature of the surface of the substrate may correspond to a logarithmic spiral. The equal angle may be one angle selected from a range of about 1 to about 45 degrees.

The method may further include disposing, on the substrate, an open mask in which an opening is formed so that the substrate including the shadow masks is exposed.

The thin film may be deposited through one of sputtering, evaporation, vaporization, sublimation. The thin film may be made of any one of a conducting material or a metal.

The method may further include forming a thin film transistor on the substrate, forming an insulating layer on the substrate including the thin film transistor, and forming, in the insulating layer, a via hole for connecting the thin film transistor and the first electrode.

Another aspect is a method for forming a thin film comprising forming shadow masks on a substrate; bending the substrate to have a predetermined curvature; placing a deposition source at a position having a substantially equal angle with respect to the shadow masks and central and peripheral portions of the substrate; and depositing a deposition material from the deposition source onto the substrate and the shadow masks so as to form a thin film.

In exemplary embodiments, the substrate includes at least one material selected from the group consisting of glass, polymer, metal and silicon. The shadow masks can be formed in row and column directions. The shadow masks i) can be substantially equally spaced apart in the row direction and ii) can extend in the column direction. Each of the shadow masks can include i) a vertex formed over the substrate, ii) a first side extending from the substrate to the vertex and forming an acute angle with the substrate, and iii) a second side extending from the substrate to the vertex and forming a curved surface with a radius substantially equal to the length of the first side. The vertex can be positioned on a line connecting the surface of the substrate and the deposition source. The first and second sides can be formed in a curved surface. The first side can have a plane surface and the second side can have a curved surface.

In exemplary embodiments, the method further comprises fixing the substrate to a substrate support having a curved surface substantially equal to the predetermined curvature of the substrate. The method can further comprise fixing another substrate to the substrate support, wherein the substrate support has a substantially symmetric structure having two curved surfaces substantially equal to the predetermined curvatures of the substrates. The deposition source can be located such that a center axis of the deposition source is substantially parallel to the normal of the central portion of the substrate.

In exemplary embodiments, the predetermined curvature of the substrate is a logarithmic spiral defined in polar coordinates reflected in the following Equation 1 or Equation 2 with the deposition source located at the pole:

$$r=ae^{b\theta} \quad \text{Equation 1}$$

$$\theta=(1/b)\ln(r/a), \quad \text{Equation 2}$$

wherein e is the base of the natural logarithm, a is an arbitrary real constant, and b is $\cot\theta$.

In exemplary embodiments, the equal angle is between about 1 degree to about 45 degrees. The method can further comprise disposing an open mask over the substrate wherein the open mask has an opening which exposes an area of the substrate including the shadow masks. The depositing can comprise at least one of sputtering method, evaporation method, vaporization method, or sublimation method. The deposition material can comprise at least one of a conducting material or a metal.

Another aspect is a method for fabricating an organic light-emitting diode (OLED) display comprising forming a first electrode including an emission area over a substrate; forming an insulating layer over the substrate and the first electrode; patterning the insulating layer to expose the emission area of the first electrode; forming an organic thin film layer over the emission area; forming a plurality of shadow masks over the insulating layer; bending the substrate to have a predetermined curvature; placing a deposition source at a position having a substantially equal angle with respect to the shadow masks and central and peripheral portions of the substrate; and depositing a deposition mate-

rial from the deposition source onto the shadow masks and the organic thin film layer so as to form a second electrode.

In exemplary embodiments, the substrate includes at least one material selected from the group consisting of glass, polymer, metal and silicon. Each of the shadow masks can include i) a vertex formed over the insulating layer, ii) a first side extending from the insulating layer to the vertex, and iii) a second side extending from the insulating layer to the vertex and forming a curved surface with a radius substantially equal to the length of the first side. The vertex can be positioned on a line connecting the surface of the substrate and the deposition source. The method can further comprise fixing the substrate to a substrate support having a curved surface substantially equal to the predetermined curvature of the substrate. The method can further comprise fixing another substrate to the substrate support, wherein the substrate support has a substantially symmetric structure having two curved surfaces substantially equal to the predetermined curvatures of the substrates. A center axis of the deposition source can be substantially parallel to the normal of the central portion of the substrate.

In exemplary embodiments, the predetermined curvature of the substrate is a logarithmic spiral defined in polar coordinates reflected in the following Equation 1 or Equation 2 with the deposition source located at the pole:

$$r=ae^{b\theta} \quad \text{Equation 1}$$

$$\theta=(1/b)\ln(r/a), \quad \text{Equation 2}$$

wherein e is the base of the natural logarithm, a is an arbitrary real constant, and b is $\cot\theta$.

In exemplary embodiments, the equal angle is between about 1 degree to about 45 degrees. The method can further comprise disposing an open mask over the substrate, wherein the open mask has an opening which exposes an area of the substrate including the shadow masks. The depositing can comprise at least one of sputtering method, evaporation method, vaporization method, or sublimation method. The deposition material can comprise at least one of a conducting material or a metal. The method can further comprise forming a thin film transistor over the substrate; forming a second insulating layer over the substrate and the thin film transistor; and forming a via hole in the second insulating layer for connecting the thin film transistor to the first electrode.

Another aspect is a deposition apparatus for forming a thin film for a display device comprising a deposition source configured to deposit a deposition material in a plurality of deposition directions so as to form the thin film on a substrate; and a substrate support configured to hold the substrate during the deposition, wherein the substrate support includes a surface contacting the substrate, and wherein the surface has a logarithmic curvature configured such that angles between the normals of each point on a surface of the substrate and the deposition directions are substantially the same.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1A is a plan view illustrating a method for depositing a thin film according to an embodiment.

FIG. 1B is a sectional view taken along line II-II of FIG. 1A.

FIG. 1C is a partial sectional view illustrating a shadow mask.

FIG. 2 is a sectional view illustrating a method for forming a thin film according to an embodiment.

FIGS. 3A and 3B are graphs illustrating a logarithmic spiral.

FIGS. 4 to 7 are sectional views illustrating a method for forming a thin film according to an embodiment.

FIGS. 8A to 8E are sectional views illustrating a method for fabricating an OLED display according to an embodiment.

FIG. 9 is a plan view illustrating a method for fabricating an OLED display according to an embodiment.

FIG. 10 is a sectional view illustrating a method for fabricating an OLED display according to another embodiment.

FIG. 11 is a flowchart illustrating an exemplary procedure for forming a thin film according to an embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF CERTAIN INVENTIVE EMBODIMENTS

Exemplary embodiments will now be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings; however, they may be embodied in different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein. Rather, these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the scope of the exemplary embodiments to those skilled in the art.

In the drawing figures, dimensions may be exaggerated for clarity of illustration. It will be understood that when an element is referred to as being "between" two elements, it can be the only element between the two elements, or one or more intervening elements may also be present. Like reference numerals refer to like elements throughout.

In the following detailed description, only certain exemplary embodiments of the described technology have been shown and described, simply by way of illustration. As those skilled in the art would realize, the described embodiments may be modified in various different ways, all without departing from the spirit or scope of the described technology. Accordingly, the drawings and description are to be regarded as illustrative in nature and not restrictive. In addition, when an element is referred to as being "on" another element, it can be directly on the other element or be indirectly on the other element with one or more intervening elements interposed therebetween. Also, when an element is referred to as being "connected to" another element, it can be directly connected to the other element or be indirectly connected to the other element with one or more intervening elements interposed therebetween. Hereinafter, like reference numerals refer to like elements.

First, a method for depositing a thin film according to an embodiment will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Referring to FIGS. 1A and 1B, a plurality of shadow masks 20 are formed on a substrate 10.

The substrate 10 may be formed of at least one of glass, polymer, metal or silicon, or one or more compounds thereof. The substrate 10 preferably has flexibility.

The shadow masks 20 are arranged in row and column directions. The shadow masks 20 arranged in the column directions are connected to each other to form a stripe shape and the shadow masks 20 may be spaced apart from each other at regular intervals. Thus, in some embodiments, the shadow masks 20 extend in the column direction and are substantially equally spaced apart from each other in the row direction.

Referring to FIG. 1C, the shadow mask 20 is formed in an asymmetric structure including a vertex 22 positioned on a

vertical line VL which is perpendicular with respect to a surface of the substrate 10, a first side 24 forming an acute angle with the surface of the substrate 10, and a second side 26 connected to the surface of the substrate 10 and the first side 24 through the vertex 22. In some embodiments, the length of the first side 24 is the radius of the curvature of the second side 26.

The vertex 22 may be positioned on the line connecting the surface of the substrate 10 and a deposition source. The first and second sides 24 and 26 may be formed to have a curved surface. Alternatively, the first side 24 may be formed as a planar surface and the second side 26 may be formed to have a curved surface.

The shadow masks 20 may be formed of an inorganic or organic electrically insulating material. For example, the shadow masks 20 may be formed by sequentially forming an insulating layer and a photoresist layer on the substrate 10, patterning the photoresist layer through a lithography and development process, and then patterning the insulating layer through a dry etching process using the patterned photoresist layer as a mask.

Referring to FIG. 2, the substrate 10 is bent and then fixed so that the surface of the substrate 10 has a predetermined curvature.

In some embodiments, the curvature of the surface of the substrate 10 corresponds to a logarithmic spiral.

Referring to FIG. 3A, when the polar coordinate using zero as a starting point (definite point or pole) is (r, θ), the logarithmic spiral may be defined as shown in the following Equation 1 or 2.

$$r = ae^{b\theta} \quad \text{Equation 1}$$

$$\theta = (1/b) \ln(r/a) \quad \text{Equation 2}$$

Here, e is the base of the natural logarithm, a is an arbitrary real constant, and b is $\cot\theta$.

In Equation 1 or 2, if a and b are real numbers, the curved line is defined as shown in the following Equations 3 and 4.

$$x(t) = r(t) \cos(t) = ae^{b\theta} \cos(t) \quad \text{Equation 3}$$

$$y(t) = r(t) \sin(t) = ae^{b\theta} \sin(t) \quad \text{Equation 4}$$

The logarithmic spiral has a characteristic in which the angle (100°) between the tangent and the radial line is constant at each coordinate (r, θ).

Referring to FIG. 3B, the logarithmic spiral LS is a spiral obtained by cutting all straight lines starting from the starting point. When θ is a constant, the angle between the straight line and the spiral is constant in all sections (e.g., portion A).

Referring to FIG. 4, a deposition source 30 is disposed at a position having substantially equal angles with respect to central and peripheral portions of the substrate 10. In some embodiments, the deposition source is positioned at the starting point or pole of the logarithmic spiral defined by the substrate 10. The central and peripheral portions are arbitrary positions and the peripheral portion may include all positions from the central portion to an edge portion. That is, the central and peripheral portions of the substrate 10 may refer to the entire surface of the substrate 10. Thus, a radial line originating from the deposition source 10 forms a substantially equal angle with respect to each position of the substrate 10.

The equal angles are angles α_1 , α_2 , and α_3 between lines perpendicular to the surface of the substrate 10, e.g., a vertical line VL2 at the central portion of the substrate 10 and vertical lines VL1 and VL3 at the peripheral portions of

the substrate **10**, and lines **L1**, **L2** and **L3** connecting the surface of the substrate **10**, the vertices **22** of the shadow masks **20**, and the deposition source **30**. Here, the angles $\alpha 1$, $\alpha 2$, and $\alpha 3$ are substantially equal to one another. The equal angles may be between about 1 to about 45 degrees.

In the case where the angle $\alpha 2$ between the vertical line **VL2** at the central portion of the substrate **10** and the line **L2** is substantially equal to the angles $\alpha 1$ and $\alpha 3$ between the vertical lines **VL1** and **VL3** at the peripheral portions of the substrate **10** and the lines **L1** and **L3**, the deposition source **30** may be located such that the center axis of the deposition source is substantially parallel to the normal **N** of the central portion of the substrate **10**.

Referring to FIG. 5, the substrate **10** may be fixed to a substrate support **40** having a surface **42** with a curvature having a logarithmic spiral corresponding to that of the substrate **10**.

Referring to FIG. 6, a substrate support **50** is formed into a symmetric structure in which surfaces **52a** and **52b** have symmetric curvatures and two substrates **10** may be respectively fixed to the surfaces **52a** and **52b** with the symmetric structure. In this case, the deposition source **30** is disposed at a position having an equal angle with respect to each of the central and peripheral portions of each substrate **10**. Thus, a thin film can be simultaneously deposited on the two substrates **10** through a single deposition process.

Referring to FIG. 7, a thin film **60** is deposited on the substrate **10** including the shadow masks **20** from the deposition source **30**.

The deposition source **30** may be configured to evaporate, vaporize or sublimate a deposition material, or may be configured as a sputtering device.

An open mask **70** may be disposed above the substrate **10** so that the thin film **60** can be deposited in only a desired area. Since an opening **70a** is formed in the open mask **70** so that a predetermined area of the substrate **10** including the plurality of shadow masks **20** is exposed, the thin film **60** can be deposited in only the area exposed by the opening **70a**.

The open mask **70** is preferably curved to have a curvature similar to that of the substrate **10**, so that the distance between the substrate **10** and the open mask **70** is constant.

For example, if a conducting material or metal material is used as a deposition material in a crucible of the deposition source **30** and the crucible is heated using a heater, the material is evaporated, vaporized or sublimated in the direction of the substrate **10**, thereby depositing the thin film **60**. In this case, the surface of the substrate **10**, adjacent to the first sides **24** of the shadow masks **20**, becomes a shadow area **SA** with respect to the deposition source **30**, and hence the thin film is not deposited in the shadow area **SA**. The shadow area **SA** provides a distance spaced between the thin films **60**. Since the deposition source **30** is disposed at a position having equal angles with respect to the central and peripheral portions of the substrate **10**, the positions and sizes of the shadow areas **SA** at the central and peripheral portions of the substrate **10** are substantially uniform.

The size of the shadow area **SA**, i.e., the distance between the thin films **60** may be determined by the height of the shadow mask **20** and the angles $\alpha 1$, $\alpha 2$, and $\alpha 3$.

Since the central and peripheral portions of the substrate **10** are maintained at a constant angle with respect to the deposition source **30**, the thin film **60** can be deposited to have a substantially uniform thickness. Since the positions and sizes of the shadow areas **SA** are substantially uniform, the thin film can be formed to have substantially a uniform width and spacing.

The thin film **60** may be used as an electrode or wire. For example, the thin film **60** may be applied in forming an electrode of an organic light-emitting diode (OLED) constituting a display unit of an OLED display or in forming a sensing electrode of a touch screen, etc.

FIGS. 8A to 8E are sectional views illustrating a method for fabricating an OLED display according to an embodiment.

Referring to FIG. 8A, a plurality of first electrodes **120** are formed on a substrate **100**.

The substrate **100** may be formed of at least one of glass, polymer, metal or silicon, or one or more compounds thereof. The substrate **100** preferably has flexibility.

The first electrode **120** is, for example, an anode electrode of an OLED and may be formed of a transparent conductive material such as indium tin oxide (ITO) or indium zinc oxide (IZO), a metal such as chrome (Cr), gold (Au), silver (Ag), or aluminum (Al), or an alloy thereof.

Referring to FIG. 8B, insulating layers **140** are formed on the substrate **100** including the first electrodes **120**. The insulating layer **140** is patterned so that an emission area of the first electrode **120** is exposed.

The insulating layer **140** is a pixel defining layer for defining pixels and electrically insulating the pixels. The insulating layer **140** may be formed of an organic material such as acryl resin or polyimide resin, or an inorganic material such as silicon oxide (SiO_2), titanium oxide (TiO_2), or silicon nitride (SiN_x).

Referring to FIG. 8C, an organic thin film layer **160** is formed on the exposed first electrode **120**.

The organic thin film layer **160** includes a hole injection layer, an emission layer and an electron injection layer. The organic thin film layer **160** may further include a hole transport layer and an electron transport layer. The emission layer generally includes at least one materials which can emit red, green, blue, or white light.

Referring to FIG. 8D, a shadow mask **180** is formed on the insulating layer **140**.

The shadow mask **180** may be formed of an inorganic or organic material. For example, the shadow mask **180** may be formed by depositing an inorganic or organic insulating material on the substrate **100** and patterning an insulating layer through a lithography and dry etching process using a photoresist layer.

The shadow mask **180**, as shown in FIG. 1C, is formed into an asymmetric structure including a vertex **22**, a first side **24**, and a second side **26**. A plurality of shadow masks **180** formed on the respective insulating layers **140**, as shown in FIGS. 1A and 1B, are necessarily spaced apart from each other at an equal interval.

The substrate **100** having the shadow masks **180** formed thereon is bent and then fixed so that the surface of the substrate **100** has a predetermined curvature. The substrate **100** may be fixed to the substrate support **40** or **50** shown in FIG. 5 or 6.

A deposition source **30**, as shown in FIG. 4, is disposed at a position having an equal angle with respect to each of the central and peripheral portions of the substrate **100**.

Referring to FIG. 8E, a thin film is deposited on the shadow mask **180** and the organic thin film layer **160** from the deposition source **30**, thereby forming second electrodes **200**.

The second electrode **200** is a cathode electrode of the OLED and may be formed of a metal such as Al or Ag.

FIG. 9 is a plan view of FIG. 8D. The deposition source is disposed at the position having an equal angle with respect to each of the central and peripheral portions of the substrate

100. Since the surface of the substrate **100** is curved to have a constant curvature with respect to the deposition source, the second electrodes **200** can be formed to have a substantially uniform thickness over the entire substrate **100**. Since the thin film is not deposited in a shadow area formed by the shadow mask **180**, the second electrode **200** may be formed with a constant width at a constant interval.

In the case where the shadow masks **180** are formed in a stripe shape, the second electrodes **200** are formed to have a stripe shape. One of the sides of the second electrodes **200** may be connected to each other when necessary. For example, the second electrodes **200** may be used as sensing electrodes of an in-cell type touch screen.

Since the thickness and width of the second electrodes **200** are constant, the second electrodes **200** have substantially the same self-resistance value. Since the spacing between the second electrodes **200** is also constant, the signal-to-noise ratio is excellent due to substantially uniform parasitic capacitance.

FIG. **10** is a sectional view illustrating a method for fabricating an OLED display according to another embodiment.

Referring to FIG. **10**, a device forming layer **300** may be formed on a substrate **100**.

The device forming layer **300** may include a thin film transistor **T** for transmitting a signal to an OLED, a capacitor **C** for maintaining the signal, and an insulating layer **320** formed on the substrate **100** including the thin film transistor **T** and the capacitor **C**.

The thin film transistor **T** includes a gate electrode **312** formed on the substrate **100**, a semiconductor layer **316** disposed above the gate electrode **312** and electrically insulated from the gate electrode **312** by an insulating layer **314**, and source and drain electrodes **318** respectively connected to source and drain areas of the semiconductor layer **316**.

The capacitor **C** is formed on the substrate **100** adjacent to the thin film transistor **T**. The capacitor **C** may be formed into a laminated structure of a lower electrode **312a**, the insulating layer **314**, and an upper electrode **318a**.

A first electrode **120** of the OLED is formed on the device forming layer **300** configured as described above and is connected to the source or drain electrode **318** of the thin film transistor **T**. The first electrode **120** may be connected to the source or drain electrode **318** of the thin film transistor **T** through a via hole of the insulating layer **320** formed between the thin film transistor **T** and the first electrode **120**.

Subsequently, as described with reference to FIGS. **8B** to **8D**, the OLED is completed by sequentially forming an organic thin film layer and a second electrode.

FIG. **11** is a flowchart showing an exemplary procedure **400** for forming a thin film according to one embodiment. Depending on the embodiment, additional states may be added, others removed, or the order of the states changed in FIG. **4**. In state **410**, shadow masks are formed on a substrate. In state **420**, the substrate is bent to a predetermined curvature. The predetermined curvature may be a logarithmic curvature. In state **430**, a deposition source is placed to form an equal angle with respect to central and peripheral portions of the substrate. The equal angle may be formed with respect to each point of the substrate. In state **440**, the thin film is formed on the substrate by deposition.

By way of summation and review, in a typical method of forming an electrode or a wire, a conductive layer was deposited on a substrate and then patterned through lithography and etching processes using a photoresist layer. The lithography process is a process of forming a photoresist

pattern through exposure and development processes using a mask and the etching process is a process of etching the conductive layer into a predetermined pattern, using the photoresist pattern.

Several processes should be performed in order to form the electrode or wire as described above. Hence, in the typical method, the fabricating cost is relatively high and increased and the yield is low.

According to at least one embodiment, a substrate is bent and then fixed to have a predetermined curvature and a deposition source is positioned at a position having an equal angle with respect to each of central and peripheral portions of the substrate. In addition, shadow masks are formed so that shadow areas with a constant size are formed at positions having a constant angle with respect to the deposition source. Since each of the central and peripheral portions of the substrate are positioned to have the equal angle with respect to the deposition source, a thin film can be deposited to have a substantially uniform thickness. Since the positions and sizes of the shadow areas are uniform, electrodes or wires with substantially uniform width and spacing can be formed.

According to some embodiments, the number of processes and the time taken to perform the processes is decreased when compared with typical processes, so that it is possible to reduce the manufacturing cost and increase the yield.

In the case where the described technology is applied in fabricating an OLED display, the electrode of the OLED can be used as a sensing electrode of a touch screen. Thus, it is possible to easily implement an in-cell type touch screen and to implement a sensing electrode having excellent signal-to-noise ratio.

Exemplary embodiments have been disclosed herein, and although specific terms are employed, they are used and are to be interpreted in a generic and descriptive sense only and not for purpose of limitation. In some instances, as would be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art as of the filing of the present application, features, characteristics, and/or elements described in connection with a particular embodiment may be used singly or in combination with features, characteristics, and/or elements described in connection with other embodiments unless otherwise specifically indicated. Accordingly, it will be understood by those of skill in the art that various changes in form and details may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the described technology as set forth in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for forming a thin film, the method comprising:

forming shadow masks on a substrate;
bending the substrate to have a predetermined curvature;
placing a deposition source at a position having a substantially equal angle with respect to the shadow masks and central and peripheral portions of the substrate; and
depositing a deposition material from the deposition source onto the substrate and the shadow masks so as to form a thin film.

2. The method of claim **1**, wherein the substrate includes at least one material selected from the group consisting of glass, polymer, metal and silicon.

3. The method of claim **1**, wherein the shadow masks are formed in row and column directions.

4. The method of claim **3**, wherein the shadow masks i) are substantially equally spaced apart in the row direction and ii) extend in the column direction.

11

5. The method of claim 1, wherein each of the shadow masks includes i) a vertex formed over the substrate, ii) a first side extending from the substrate to the vertex and forming an acute angle with the substrate, and iii) a second side extending from the substrate to the vertex and forming a curved surface with a radius substantially equal to the length of the first side.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the vertex is positioned on a line connecting the surface of the substrate and the deposition source.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the first and second sides are formed in a curved surface.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein the first side has a plane surface and wherein the second side has a curved surface.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising fixing the substrate to a substrate support having a curved surface substantially equal to the predetermined curvature of the substrate.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising fixing another substrate to the substrate support, wherein the substrate support has a substantially symmetric structure having two curved surfaces substantially equal to the predetermined curvatures of the substrates.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the deposition source is located such that a center axis of the deposition source is substantially parallel to the normal of the central portion of the substrate.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined curvature of the substrate is a logarithmic spiral defined in polar coordinates reflected in the following Equation 1 or Equation 2 with the deposition source located at the pole:

$$r=ae^{b\theta} \quad \text{Equation 1}$$

$$\theta=(1/b)\ln(r/a), \quad \text{Equation 2}$$

wherein e is the base of the natural logarithm, a is an arbitrary real constant, and b is $\cot\theta$.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the equal angle is between about 1 degree to about 45 degrees.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising disposing an open mask over the substrate wherein the open mask has an opening which exposes an area of the substrate including the shadow masks.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the depositing comprises at least one of sputtering method, evaporation method, vaporization method, or sublimation method.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the deposition material comprises at least one of a conducting material or a metal.

17. A method for fabricating an organic light-emitting diode (OLED) display, comprising:

forming a first electrode including an emission area over a substrate;

forming an insulating layer over the substrate and the first electrode;

patterning the insulating layer to expose the emission area of the first electrode;

forming an organic thin film layer over the emission area;

forming a plurality of shadow masks over the insulating layer;

12

bending the substrate to have a predetermined curvature; placing a deposition source at a position having a substantially equal angle with respect to the shadow masks and central and peripheral portions of the substrate; and depositing a deposition material from the deposition source onto the shadow masks and the organic thin film layer so as to form a second electrode.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the substrate includes at least one material selected from the group consisting of glass, polymer, metal and silicon.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein each of the shadow masks includes i) a vertex formed over the insulating layer, ii) a first side extending from the insulating layer to the vertex, and iii) a second side extending from the insulating layer to the vertex and forming a curved surface with a radius substantially equal to the length of the first side.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the vertex is positioned on a line connecting the surface of the substrate and the deposition source.

21. The method of claim 17, further comprising fixing the substrate to a substrate support having a curved surface substantially equal to the predetermined curvature of the substrate.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising fixing another substrate to the substrate support, wherein the substrate support has a substantially symmetric structure having two curved surfaces substantially equal to the predetermined curvatures of the substrates.

23. The method of claim 17, wherein a center axis of the deposition source is substantially parallel to the normal of the central portion of the substrate.

24. The method of claim 17, wherein the predetermined curvature of the substrate is a logarithmic spiral defined in polar coordinates reflected in the following Equation 1 or Equation 2 with the deposition source located at the pole:

$$r=ae^{b\theta} \quad \text{Equation 1}$$

$$\theta=(1/b)\ln(r/a), \quad \text{Equation 2}$$

wherein e is the base of the natural logarithm, a is an arbitrary real constant, and b is $\cot\theta$.

25. The method of claim 17, wherein the equal angle is between about 1 degree to about 45 degrees.

26. The method of claim 17, further comprising disposing an open mask over the substrate, wherein the open mask has an opening which exposes an area of the substrate including the shadow masks.

27. The method of claim 17, wherein the depositing comprises at least one of sputtering method, evaporation method, vaporization method, or sublimation method.

28. The method of claim 17, wherein the deposition material comprises at least one of a conducting material or a metal.

29. The method of claim 17, further comprising:

forming a thin film transistor over the substrate;

forming a second insulating layer over the substrate and the thin film transistor; and

forming a via hole in the second insulating layer for connecting the thin film transistor to the first electrode.

* * * *

专利名称(译)	形成薄膜的方法和使用其制造有机发光二极管 (OLED) 显示器的方法		
公开(公告)号	US9614192	公开(公告)日	2017-04-04
申请号	US14/487946	申请日	2014-09-16
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	三星显示有限公司		
申请(专利权)人(译)	三星DISPLAY CO. , LTD.		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	三星DISPLAY CO. , LTD.		
[标]发明人	KAPLAN LEONID PRUSHINSKIY VALERIY LEE WON BAEK PARK JI RYUN PARK HEE SANG		
发明人	KAPLAN, LEONID PRUSHINSKIY, VALERIY LEE, WON-BAEK PARK, JI-RYUN PARK, HEE-SANG		
IPC分类号	H01L51/56 C23C14/22 H01L51/52 C23C14/04 H01L51/00 C23C14/24 H01L27/32		
CPC分类号	H01L51/56 C23C14/042 C23C14/225 C23C14/243 H01L51/0004 H01L51/0011 H01L51/5206 H01L51/5221 H01L27/3283 H01L27/3295		
审查员(译)	TRINH , MICHAEL		
优先权	1020130111497 2013-09-17 KR		
其他公开文献	US20150079711A1		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

公开了一种用于形成用于制造有机发光二极管 (OLED) 显示器的薄膜的方法。在一个方面，该方法包括在衬底上形成多个阴影掩模。然后弯曲基板以在基板中形成预定的曲率。沉积源放置在相对于基板的中心和周边部分具有相等角度的位置。该方法还包括从衬底上的沉积源沉积沉积材料和阴影掩模以形成薄膜。

