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DISPLAY DEVICE HAVING CONNECTION UNIT

Abstract

Embodiments of display devices improve the attachment between the connection unit on which a driving integrated circuit is mounted and a substrate of a display panel, and substantially prevent detachment of the connection unit. For example, dummy lines may be provided in the connection unit to enhance the spreading of an adhesive film to securely attach the connection unit to the substrate of the display.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] This is a continuation application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 18/505,058, filed Nov. 8, 2023 (now pending), the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. U.S. patent application Ser. No. 18/505,058 is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/711,890, filed Apr. 1, 2022, now U.S. Pat. No. 11,830,802, which issued Nov. 28, 2023, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/711,890 is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/929,039, filed Jul. 14, 2020, now U.S. Pat. No. 11,296,018, which issued Apr. 5, 2022, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/929,039 is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/680,153, filed Aug. 17, 2017, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,734,315, which issued Aug. 4, 2020, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/680,153 claims priority to and the benefit of Korean Patent Application No. 10-2016-0114329, filed Sep. 6, 2016, which is hereby incorporated by reference for all purposes as if fully set forth herein.

BACKGROUND

Field

[0002] The invention relates generally to display devices, more particularly, to display devices that may be produced at reduced manufacturing costs and can substantially prevent detachment of a connection unit on which a driving integrated circuit is mounted.

Discussion of the Background

[0003] A liquid crystal display (“LCD”) device is a type of a flat panel display (“FPD”) device, which has widely used recently. An LCD device generally includes two substrates on which electrodes are formed with a liquid crystal layer interposed therebetween.

[0004] Upon applying voltage to two electrodes, liquid crystal molecules of the liquid crystal layer are rearranged such that an amount of transmitted light is controlled in the LCD device.

[0005] It is to be understood that this background of the technology section is intended to provide useful background for understanding the technology and as such disclosed herein, the technology background section may include ideas, concepts or recognitions that were not part of what was

known or appreciated by those skilled in the pertinent art prior to a corresponding effective filing date of subject matter disclosed herein.

SUMMARY

[0006] Display devices constructed according to the principles and illustrative embodiments of the invention provide connection units that reduce manufacturing costs, improve the attachment between the connection unit on which a driving integrated circuit is mounted and a substrate of a display panel, and substantially prevent detachment of the connection unit. For example, dummy lines may be provided in the connection unit to enhance the spreading of an adhesive film to securely attach the connection unit to the substrate of the display.

[0007] Additional aspects will be set forth in the detailed description which follows, and, in part, will be apparent from the disclosure, or may be learned by practice of the inventive concepts.

[0008] According to one aspect of the invention, a display device includes: a substrate; a pixel connected to a gate line and a data line on the substrate; a connection unit connected to one of the gate line and the data line of the substrate; and a driving integrated circuit mounted on the connection unit. The connection unit includes: a lead line connected to the driving integrated circuit; and at least one first dummy line adjacent to a first side of the connection unit intersecting a side of the substrate, the first dummy line not connected to any line of the connection unit including the driving integrated circuit and the lead line.

[0009] The first dummy line may have an end portion at the first side of the connection unit.

[0010] The first dummy line may extend from the first side of the connection unit toward another side of the connection unit.

[0011] An angle between the first dummy line and the first side of the connection unit may be about 90 degrees.

[0012] A less angle of respective angles among the first dummy lines and the first side of the connection unit may be greater than about 0 degree and less than about 90 degrees.

[0013] The first dummy line may be between the substrate and a base layer of the connection unit.

[0014] An entire surface of the first dummy line facing the substrate may not be covered by a cover layer of the connection unit.

[0015] The display device may further include an anisotropic conductive film between at least a portion of the first dummy line and the substrate.

[0016] The first dummy lines may not be connected to one another.

[0017] The first dummy lines may be parallel to one another.

[0018] Each of the first dummy lines may have a substantially same length.

[0019] The first dummy lines may have a less length, as more adjacent to a third side of the connection unit, and the third side of the connection unit may overlap the substrate and may not intersect a side of the substrate.

[0020] Two adjacent ones of the first dummy lines may have a greater distance therebetween, as more adjacent to a third side of the connection unit, and the third side of the connection unit may overlap the substrate and may not intersect a side of the substrate.

[0021] The first dummy line may have a gradually decreasing width, as further away from the first side.

[0022] Respective distances among adjacent ones of the first dummy lines may be uniform.

[0023] The distance among adjacent ones of the first dummy lines may be in a range of about 15 μm to about 30 μm .

[0024] At least a portion of the end portion of the first dummy line may include a carbonized area.

[0025] An end portion of the first dummy line may be spaced apart from the first side at a predetermined distance.

[0026] The display device may further include at least one second dummy line adjacent to a second side of the connection unit facing the first side, the second dummy line not connected to any line of the connection unit including the driving integrated circuit and the lead line.

[0027] The second dummy line and the first dummy line may be symmetric to one another in shape.

[0028] According to another aspect of the invention, a display device includes: a substrate; a pixel connected to a gate line and a data line on the substrate; a connection unit connected to one of the gate line and the data line of the substrate; and a driving integrated circuit mounted on the connection unit. The connection unit includes: a lead line connected to the driving integrated circuit; and a first dummy line adjacent to a first side of the connection unit, the first side intersecting a side of the substrate, the first side extending in a first direction, the first dummy line extending in a second direction intersecting the first direction. The side of the substrate overlaps the connection unit, and a third side of the connection unit overlaps the substrate without intersecting the side of the substrate, the third side extending in the second direction. The first dummy line is disposed between the side of the substrate and the third side of the connection unit.

[0029] The first dummy line may have an end portion at the first side of the connection unit.

[0030] The first dummy line may extend from the first side of the connection unit toward another side of the connection unit.

[0031] An angle between the first dummy line and the first side of the connection unit may be about 90 degrees.

[0032] The smallest angle of respective angles among the first dummy lines and the first side of the connection unit may be greater than about 0 degree and less than about 90 degrees.

[0033] The first dummy line may be between the substrate and a base layer of the connection unit.

[0034] An entire surface of the first dummy line facing the substrate may be not covered by a cover layer of the connection unit.

[0035] The display device may further include an anisotropic conductive film between at least a portion of the first dummy line and the substrate.

[0036] The first dummy line may include a plurality of first lines, the plurality of first lines not being connected to one another.

[0037] The first dummy line may include a plurality of first lines, the plurality of first lines being substantially parallel to one another.

[0038] The first dummy line may include a plurality of first lines, each of the first lines having substantially the same length.

[0039] The first dummy line may include a plurality of first lines, the plurality of first lines having a reduced length, as the first lines become closer to the third side of the connection unit.

[0040] The first dummy line may include a plurality of first lines, two adjacent ones of the first lines having a greater distance therebetween, as the first lines become closer to the third side of the connection unit.

[0041] The first dummy line may include a plurality of first lines, the plurality of first lines having a gradually decreasing width, as the first lines become further away from the first side.

[0042] The first dummy line may include a plurality of first lines, with respective distances among adjacent ones of the first lines being substantially uniform.

[0043] The first dummy line may be not connected to the driving integrated circuit nor the lead line.

[0044] At least a portion of the end portion of the first dummy line may include a carbonized area.

[0045] An end portion of the first dummy line may be spaced apart from the first side at a predetermined distance.

[0046] The display device may further include a second dummy line adjacent to a second side of the connection unit facing the first side, the second dummy line not being connected to any line of the connection unit comprising the driving integrated circuit and the lead line.

[0047] The second dummy line and the first dummy line may be substantially symmetrical to one another in shape.

[0048] According to another aspect of the invention, a display device includes a substrate; a pixel

connected to a gate line and a data line on the substrate; a connection unit connected to one of the gate line and the data line of the substrate; and a driving integrated circuit mounted on the connection unit. The connection unit includes an output lead line, an auxiliary lead line and a first pattern, and the output lead line, auxiliary lead line and first pattern are sequentially disposed along a first direction on an output portion of the connection unit, an end portion of the first pattern is disposed on a first side of the connection unit, at least a portion of the auxiliary lead line is disposed on an input portion of the connection unit.

[0049] The first pattern may be not connected to the driving integrated circuit, output lead line and auxiliary lead line.

[0050] The first pattern may extend in the first direction.

[0051] The first side of the connection unit may extend in a second direction intersecting the first direction.

[0052] The first side of the connection unit may intersect a side of the substrate, the side of the substrate may overlap the connection unit, a third side of the connection unit may overlap the substrate and does not intersect the side of the substrate, and the first pattern may be disposed between the side of the substrate and the third side of the connection unit.

[0053] The first pattern may extend from the first side of the connection unit toward another side of the connection unit.

[0054] An angle between the first pattern and the first side of the connection unit may be about substantially 90 degrees.

[0055] The first pattern may include a plurality of first dummy lines, and a less angle of respective angles among the plurality of first patterns and the first side of the connection unit may be greater than about substantially 0 degree and less than about substantially 90 degrees.

[0056] The first pattern may be between the substrate and a base layer of the connection unit.

[0057] An entire surface of the first pattern facing the substrate may be not covered by a cover layer of the connection unit.

[0058] The display device may further include an anisotropic conductive film between at least a portion of the first pattern and the substrate.

[0059] The first pattern may include a plurality of first dummy lines, the plurality of first dummy lines being not connected to one another.

[0060] The first pattern may include a plurality of first dummy lines, the plurality of first dummy lines being substantially parallel to one another.

[0061] The first pattern may include a plurality of first dummy lines, each of the first dummy lines having a substantially same length.

[0062] The first pattern may include a plurality of first dummy lines, the plurality of first dummy lines having a less length, as more adjacent to a third side of the connection unit, and the third side of the connection unit may overlap the substrate and does not intersect a side of the substrate.

[0063] The first pattern may include a plurality of first dummy lines, two adjacent ones of the first dummy lines having a greater distance therebetween, as more adjacent to a third side of the connection unit, and the third side of the connection unit overlaps the substrate and may not intersect a side of the substrate.

[0064] The first pattern may include a plurality of first dummy lines, the plurality of first dummy lines having a gradually decreasing width, as further away from the first side of the connection unit.

[0065] The first pattern may include a plurality of first dummy lines, respective distances among adjacent ones of the first dummy lines being uniform.

[0066] The distance among adjacent ones of the first dummy lines may be in a range of about substantially 15 μm to about substantially 30 μm .

[0067] At least a portion of the end portion of the first pattern may include a carbonized area.

[0068] The display may further include a second pattern adjacent to a second side of the connection unit facing the first side, the second pattern not being connected to the driving integrated circuit,

output lead line, auxiliary lead line and first pattern.

[0069] The second pattern and the first pattern may be symmetric to one another in shape.

[0070] The auxiliary lead line may be not connected to the driving integrated circuit.

[0071] The auxiliary lead line may connect between the input portion and the output portion.

[0072] According to yet another aspect of the invention, a display device includes a substrate, a pixel connected to a gate line and a data line on the substrate, a connection unit connected to one of the gate line and the data line on the substrate. and a driving integrated circuit mounted on the connection unit. The connection unit includes a lead line connected to the driving integrated circuit, and at least one first dummy line adjacent to a first side of the connection unit intersecting a side of the substrate, the at least one first dummy line not connected to any line of the connection unit including the driving integrated circuit and the lead line, the at least one first dummy line overlaps the substrate.

[0073] The at least one first dummy line may have an end portion at the first side of the connection unit.

[0074] The at least one first dummy line may extend from the first side of the connection unit toward another side of the connection unit.

[0075] An angle between the at least one first dummy line and the first side of the connection unit may be about 90 degrees.

[0076] A lesser angle of respective angles among the at least one first dummy line and the first side of the connection unit may be greater than about 0 degrees and less than about 90 degrees.

[0077] The at least one first dummy line may be between the substrate and a base layer of the connection unit.

[0078] Substantially an entire surface of the at least one first dummy line facing the substrate may not be covered by a cover layer of the connection unit.

[0079] An anisotropic conductive film may be between at least a portion of the at least one first dummy line and the substrate.

[0080] The at least one first dummy line may include multiple dummy lines not connected to one another.

[0081] The at least one first dummy line may include multiple dummy lines substantially parallel to one another.

[0082] Each of the at least one first dummy lines may have substantially the same length.

[0083] The at least one first dummy line may have a length that decreases as the lines become more adjacent to a third side of the connection unit, and the third side of the connection unit may overlap the substrate and may not intersect the side of the substrate.

[0084] Two adjacent ones of the at least one first dummy line may have a distance therebetween that increases as the two adjacent lines become more adjacent to a third side of the connection unit, and the third side of the connection unit may overlap the substrate and may not intersect the side of the substrate.

[0085] The at least one first dummy line may have a width that gradually decreasing in a direction further away from the first side.

[0086] Respective distances among adjacent ones of the at least one first dummy line may be substantially uniform.

[0087] The distance among adjacent ones of the at least one first dummy line may be in a range of about 15 μm to about 30 μm .

[0088] At least a portion of the end portion of the at least one first dummy line may include a carbonized area.

[0089] An end portion of the at least one first dummy line may be spaced apart from the first side at a predetermined distance.

[0090] At least one second dummy line may be adjacent to a second side of the connection unit facing the first side, the at least one second dummy line may not be connected to any line of the

connection unit including the driving integrated circuit and the lead line.

[0091] The at least one second dummy line and the at least one first dummy line may be symmetric to one another in shape.

[0092] The lead line may include an output lead line, an auxiliary lead line.

[0093] The foregoing general description and the following detailed description are illustrative and explanatory and are intended to provide further explanation of the claimed subject matter.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0094] The accompanying drawings, which are included to provide a further understanding of the inventive concepts, and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate embodiments of the inventive concepts, and, together with the description, serve to explain principles of the inventive concepts.

[0095] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an embodiment of a display device constructed according to the principles of the invention.

[0096] FIG. 2 is a plan view of a first substrate of the display device of FIG. 1.

[0097] FIG. 3 is a detailed plan view of the rear surface of an embodiment of a data connection unit of the first substrate of FIG. 2 illustrating wire configurations.

[0098] FIG. 4 is a detailed plan view of the data connection unit of FIG. 3 showing the configuration of a cover layer of the data connection unit.

[0099] FIG. 5 is a detailed plan view of the data connection unit of FIG. 4 showing an anisotropic conductive film (“ACF”) bonded to the data connection unit.

[0100] FIG. 6 is an enlarged schematic plan view of portion A of the data connection unit of FIG. 4 illustrating a first embodiment of dummy lines.

[0101] FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view of the data connection unit of FIG. 6 taken along sectional line I-I' of FIG. 6.

[0102] FIG. 8A is an enlarged schematic plan view of portion A of the data connection unit of FIG. 4 showing a flow of an anisotropic conductive film in the presence of a dummy line.

[0103] FIG. 8B is a cross-sectional view of the data connection unit of FIG. 8A taken along sectional line I-I' of FIG. 8A.

[0104] FIGS. 9A to 9H are schematic perspective views of a data connection unit, a support, a pressing apparatus, a first laser irradiator, a second laser irradiator, and a first substrate illustrating an illustrative method of connecting the data connection unit and the first substrate according to the principles of the invention.

[0105] FIG. 10 is an enlarged schematic plan view of portion A of the data connection unit of FIG. 4 illustrating a second embodiment of dummy lines.

[0106] FIG. 11 is an enlarged schematic plan view of portion A of the data connection unit of FIG. 4 illustrating a third embodiment of dummy lines.

[0107] FIG. 12 is an enlarged schematic plan view of portion A of the data connection unit of FIG. 4 illustrating a fourth embodiment of dummy lines.

[0108] FIG. 13 is an enlarged schematic plan view of portion A of the data connection unit of FIG. 4 illustrating a fifth embodiment of dummy lines.

[0109] FIG. 14 is an enlarged schematic plan view of portion A of the data connection unit of FIG. 4 illustrating a first embodiment of dummy lines.

[0110] FIG. 15 is a detailed configuration view of another embodiment of a data connection unit of the first substrate of FIG. 2.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATED EMBODIMENTS

[0111] In the following description, for the purposes of explanation, numerous specific details are

set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of various illustrative embodiments. It is apparent, however, that various illustrative embodiments may be practiced without these specific details or with one or more equivalent arrangements. In other instances, well-known structures and devices are shown in block diagram form in order to avoid unnecessarily obscuring various illustrative embodiments.

[0112] In the accompanying figures, the size and relative sizes of layers, films, panels, regions, etc., may be exaggerated for clarity and descriptive purposes. Also, like reference numerals denote like elements.

[0113] When an element or layer is referred to as being “on,” “connected to,” or “coupled to” another element or layer, it may be directly on, connected to, or coupled to the other element or layer or intervening elements or layers may be present. When, however, an element or layer is referred to as being “directly on,” “directly connected to,” or “directly coupled to” another element or layer, there are no intervening elements or layers present. For the purposes of this disclosure, “at least one of X, Y, and Z” and “at least one selected from the group consisting of X, Y, and Z” may be construed as X only, Y only, Z only, or any combination of two or more of X, Y, and Z, such as, for instance, XYZ, XYY, YZ, and ZZ. Like numbers refer to like elements throughout. As used herein, the term “and/or” includes any and all combinations of one or more of the associated listed items.

[0114] Although the terms first, second, etc. may be used herein to describe various elements, components, regions, layers, and/or sections, these elements, components, regions, layers, and/or sections should not be limited by these terms. These terms are used to distinguish one element, component, region, layer, and/or section from another element, component, region, layer, and/or section. Thus, a first element, component, region, layer, and/or section discussed below could be termed a second element, component, region, layer, and/or section without departing from the teachings of the present disclosure.

[0115] Spatially relative terms, such as “beneath,” “below,” “lower,” “above,” “upper,” and the like, may be used herein for descriptive purposes, and, thereby, to describe one element or feature's relationship to another element(s) or feature(s) as illustrated in the drawings. Spatially relative terms are intended to encompass different orientations of an apparatus in use, operation, and/or manufacture in addition to the orientation depicted in the drawings. For example, if the apparatus in the drawings is turned over, elements described as “below” or “beneath” other elements or features would then be oriented “above” the other elements or features. Thus, the illustrative term “below” can encompass both an orientation of above and below. Furthermore, the apparatus may be otherwise oriented (e.g., rotated 90 degrees or at other orientations), and, as such, the spatially relative descriptors used herein interpreted accordingly.

[0116] The terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments and is not intended to be limiting. As used herein, the singular forms, “a,” “an,” and “the” are intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Moreover, the terms “comprises,” “comprising,” “includes,” and/or “including,” when used in this specification, specify the presence of stated features, integers, steps, operations, elements, components, and/or groups thereof, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, operations, elements, components, and/or groups thereof.

[0117] Various illustrative embodiments are described herein with reference to sectional illustrations that are schematic illustrations of idealized illustrative embodiments and/or intermediate structures. As such, variations from the shapes of the illustrations as a result, for example, of manufacturing techniques and/or tolerances, are to be expected. Thus, illustrative embodiments disclosed herein should not be construed as limited to the particular illustrated shapes of regions, but are to include deviations in shapes that result from, for instance, manufacturing. For example, an implanted region illustrated as a rectangle will, typically, have rounded or curved features and/or a gradient of implant concentration at its edges rather than a binary change from

implanted to non-implanted region. Likewise, a buried region formed by implantation may result in some implantation in the region between the buried region and the surface through which the implantation takes place. Thus, the regions illustrated in the drawings are schematic in nature and their shapes are not intended to illustrate the actual shape of a region of a device and are not intended to be limiting.

[0118] Unless otherwise defined, all terms (including technical and scientific terms) used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this disclosure is a part. Terms, such as those defined in commonly used dictionaries, should be interpreted as having a meaning that is consistent with their meaning in the context of the relevant art and will not be interpreted in an idealized or overly formal sense, unless expressly so defined herein.

[0119] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an embodiment of a display device constructed according to the principles of the invention, and FIG. 2 is a plan view of a first substrate of the display device of FIG. 1.

[0120] As illustrated in FIG. 1, the display device according to an illustrative embodiment includes a display panel **300**, a plurality of gate connection units GC, a plurality of gate driving integrated circuits (“ICs”) GIC, a plurality of data connection units DC, a plurality of data driving ICs DIC, a plurality of gate lines GL1 to GLi, a plurality of data lines DL1 to DLj, and a printed circuit board (“PCB”) **168**.

[0121] The display panel **300** displays an image. The display panel **300**, as illustrated in FIG. 1, includes a first substrate **301** and a second substrate **302**.

[0122] A liquid crystal layer or an organic light emitting layer may be further disposed between the first substrate **301** and the second substrate **302**.

[0123] The first substrate **301** has a display area **301a** and a non-display area **301b**. A plurality of pixels PX is disposed in the display area **301a**. Each of the pixels is connected to the gate line and the data line.

[0124] The pixel PX may include a switching element, a pixel electrode, and a common electrode. The switching element includes a gate electrode connected to the gate line, a source electrode connected to the data line, and a drain electrode connected to the pixel electrode. The switching element is also referred to as a thin film transistor (“TFT”).

[0125] The common electrode may be disposed on the first substrate **301** or the second substrate **302**, and the liquid crystal layer or the organic light emitting layer may be disposed between the common electrode and the pixel electrode. In an illustrative embodiment, the common electrode may be disposed on the first substrate **301**.

[0126] In addition, the pixel PX may further include a color filter and a light blocking layer, and the color filter and the light blocking layer may be disposed on the first substrate **301** or the second substrate **302**. The light blocking layer is also commonly referred to as a black matrix.

[0127] The plurality of gate lines GL1 to GLi are disposed in the display area **301a** of the first substrate **301**. Each of the gate lines GL1 to GLi extends to the non-display area **301b** and is connected to corresponding one of the gate driving ICs GIC. In such an illustrative embodiment, the gate lines GL1 to GLi are connected to the gate driving ICs GIC through the gate connection units GC.

[0128] The plurality of data lines DL1 to DLj are disposed in the display area **301a** of the first substrate **301**. The data lines DL1 to DLj intersect the gate lines GL1 to GLi. Each of the data lines DL1 to DLj extends to the non-display area **301b** and is connected to corresponding one of the data driving ICs DIC. In such an illustrative embodiment, the data lines DL1 to DLj are connected to the data driving ICs DIC through the data connection units DC.

[0129] The gate driving ICs GIC generate gate signals and apply the gate signals to the first to i-th gate lines GL1 to GLi sequentially.

[0130] The gate driving ICs GIC are mounted on the gate connection units GC. For example, the

gate driving IC GIC may be mounted on the gate connection unit GC in a chip-on-film manner and may be electrically connected to the gate connection unit GC.

[0131] The gate connection units GC are electrically connected to the first substrate **301**. For example, an input portion and an output portion of each gate connection unit GC may be electrically connected to a gate pad terminal of the first substrate **301**. The gate pad terminal is disposed in the non-display area **301b** of the first substrate **301**. The gate connection unit GC may be a tape carrier package or other type of circuit package known in the art.

[0132] Each of the gate connection units GC may be physically and electrically connected to the first substrate **301** through an anisotropic conductive film (“ACF”).

[0133] The data driving ICs DIC receive digital image data signals and a data control signal from a timing controller as is known in the art. The data driving ICs DIC sample the digital image data signals according to the data control signal, latch the sampled image data signals corresponding to one horizontal line in each horizontal period, and apply the latched image data signals to the data lines DL1 to DLj. That is, the data driving ICs DIC convert the digital image data signals applied from the timing controller into analog image signals using a gamma voltage input from a power supply, and apply the analog image signals to the data lines DL1 to DLj.

[0134] The data driving ICs DIC are mounted on the data connection units DC. The data driving IC DIC may be mounted on the data connection unit DC in a chip-on-film manner and may be electrically connected to the data connection unit DC.

[0135] The data connection units DC are connected between the PCB **168** and the first substrate **301**. For example, an input portion of each data connection unit DC is electrically connected to a data pad terminal of the PCB **168**, and an output portion of each data connection unit DC is electrically connected to a data pad terminal of the first substrate **301**. The data pad terminal of the first substrate **301** is disposed in the non-display area **301b** of the first substrate **301**. The data connection unit DC may be a tape carrier package or other type of circuit package known in the art.

[0136] Each of the data connection units DC may be physically and electrically connected to the first substrate **301** through an ACF.

[0137] The timing controller and the power supply may be disposed on the PCB **168**. The data connection unit DC includes input lead lines transmitting various signals applied from the timing controller and the power supply to the data driving IC DIC and output lead lines transmitting the image data signals output from the data driving IC DIC to the data lines DL1 to DLj.

[0138] In an illustrative embodiment, at least one data connection unit DC may further include auxiliary lead lines for transmitting various signals applied from the timing controller and the power supply to the gate driving ICs GIC, and the auxiliary lead lines are connected to panel lines **166** at the first substrate **301**, as shown in FIG. **2**. These panel lines **166** connect the auxiliary lead lines to the gate driving ICs GIC. The panel lines **166** may be disposed in the non-display area **301b** of the first substrate **301** in a line-on-glass manner.

[0139] FIG. **3** is a detailed plan view of the rear surface of an embodiment of a data connection unit of the first substrate of FIG. **2** illustrating wire configurations. Herein, FIG. **3** is a view illustrating a rear surface of the data connection unit DC illustrated in FIG. **2**. In addition, the data driving IC DIC is not illustrated in FIG. **3** for clarity.

[0140] As illustrated in FIG. **3**, the data connection unit DC includes a plurality of input lead lines **31**, a plurality of output lead lines **32**, a plurality of auxiliary lead lines **33**, a mounting portion **10**, an input portion **11**, and an output portion **12**.

[0141] The data driving IC DIC may be mounted in the mounting portion **10**. The mounting portion **10** is disposed between the input portion **11** and the output portion **12**.

[0142] The input portion **11** of the data connection unit DC is connected to the PCB **168** and the output portion **12** of the data connection unit DC is connected to the first substrate **301**.

[0143] The input lead lines **31** of the data connection unit DC are connected to input terminals of the data driving IC DIC mounted on the mounting portion **10**, respectively. Further, the input lead

lines **31** are connected to data pad terminals of the PCB **168**, respectively. For example, an end portion of the input lead line **31** is connected to the input terminal of the data driving IC DIC, and another end portion of the input lead line **31** is connected to the data pad terminal of the PCB **168**. [0144] The output lead lines **32** of the data connection unit DC are connected to output terminals (of the data driving IC DIC respectively mounted on the mounting portion **10**. Further, the output lead lines **32** are connected to data pad terminals of the first substrate **301**, respectively. For example, an end portion of the output lead line **32** is connected to the output terminal of the data driving IC DIC, and another end portion of the output lead line **32** is connected to the data pad terminal of the first substrate **301**. The data pad terminal of the first substrate **301** is connected to the data line.

[0145] The auxiliary lead lines **33** of the data connection unit DC are connected to auxiliary pad terminals of the PCB **168**. Further, the auxiliary lead lines **33** of the data connection unit DC are connected to auxiliary pad terminals of the first substrate **301**. For example, an end portion of the auxiliary lead line **33** is connected to the auxiliary pad terminal of the PCB **168**, and another end portion of the auxiliary lead line **33** is connected to the auxiliary pad terminal of the first substrate **301**. The auxiliary pad terminal of the first substrate **301** may be connected to the panel line **166** described above.

[0146] FIG. **4** is a detailed plan view of the data connection unit of FIG. **3** showing the configuration of a cover layer of the data connection unit.

[0147] As illustrated in FIG. **4**, the data connection unit DC may include a cover layer **802**. The cover layer **802** may be disposed on the entire surface of the data connection unit DC except for the mounting portion **10**, the input portion **11**, and the output portion **12**. In other words, boundaries of the cover layer **802** may define each of the mounting portion **10**, the input portion **11**, and the output portion **12**. The cover layer **802** may be a solder resist.

[0148] An end portion of the input lead line **31** is connected to the input terminal of the data driving IC DIC through the mounting portion **10** defined by the cover layer **802**, and another end portion of the input lead line **31** is connected to the data pad terminal of the PCB **168** through the input portion **11** defined by the cover layer **802**.

[0149] An end portion of the output lead line **32** is connected to the output terminal of the data driving IC DIC through the mounting portion **10** defined by the cover layer **802**, and another end portion of the output lead line **32** is connected to the data pad terminal of the first substrate **301** through the output portion **12** defined by the cover layer **802**.

[0150] An end portion of the auxiliary lead line **33** is connected to the auxiliary pad terminal of the PCB **168** through the input portion **11** defined by the cover layer **802**, and another end portion of the auxiliary lead line **33** is connected to the auxiliary pad terminal of the first substrate **301** through the output portion **12** defined by the cover layer **802**.

[0151] FIG. **5** is a detailed plan view of the data connection unit of FIG. **4** showing an anisotropic conductive film ("ASF") bonded to the data connection unit.

[0152] As illustrated in FIG. **5**, the ACF may be disposed on the output portion **12** of the data connection unit DC. From a vertical perspective, the ACF may be disposed on the data connection unit DC between the output portion **12** of the data connection unit DC and the first substrate **301**. In other words, the ACF may be disposed in an area overlapping the data connection unit DC and the first substrate **301**.

[0153] In an illustrative embodiment, as illustrated in FIG. **2**, each of two opposing sides **S1** and **S2** of the four sides of the data connection unit DC intersects one side **S** of the first substrate **301**.

Herein, one of the two opposing sides **S1** and **S2** of the data connection unit DC is defined as a first side **S1**, and the other thereof is defined as a second side **S2**. In such an illustrative embodiment, another side of the data connection unit DC disposed between the first side **S1** and the second side **S2** and overlapping the first substrate **301** is defined as a third side **S3**. The third side **S3** does not intersect said one side **S** of the first substrate **301**.

[0154] The first side **S1** and the second side **S2** of the data connection unit **DC** also intersect one side **S'** of the PCB **168**. The one side **S'** of the PCB **168** and the one side **S** of the first substrate **301** face each other, as illustrated in FIG. 2.

[0155] The data connection unit **DC** includes at least one pattern, which may be in the form of a dummy line. As used herein a dummy line is any unconnected conductive portion disposed on, in, over or under a layer that serves some other purpose than conducting electrons to connect electrical components. As described in more detail below, the dummy lines herein serve to distribute the ACF to ensure a secure connection between the components. For example, as illustrated in FIG. 4, the data connection unit **DC** includes at least one dummy line A-DML (hereinafter, "A-dummy line") adjacent to the first side **S1** thereof and at least one dummy line B-DML (hereinafter, "B-dummy line") adjacent to the second side **S2** thereof.

[0156] The A-dummy lines A-DML and the B-dummy lines B-DML are disposed at the output portion **12** of the data connection unit **DC**. The A-dummy lines A-DML and the B-dummy lines B-DML are exposed outwardly of the data connection unit **DC** through the output portion **12**.

[0157] Five A-dummy lines A-DML and five B-dummy lines B-DML are illustrated in FIG. 4, however, the number of the A-dummy lines A-DML and the number of the B-dummy lines are not limited thereto. In addition, the number of the A-dummy lines A-DML and the number of the B-dummy lines B-DML may be substantially the same or different from one another.

[0158] FIG. 6 is an enlarged schematic plan view of portion A of the data connection unit of FIG. 4 illustrating a first embodiment of dummy lines.

[0159] Each of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 has an end portion disposed at the first side **S1** of the data connection unit **DC**, as illustrated in FIG. 6. The A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 have end portions **61**, **62**, **63**, **64**, and **65** disposed at different positions of the first side **S1**, respectively. For example, the end portion **61** of the first A-dummy line A-DML1 is disposed at the first side **S1**.

[0160] Each of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 extends from the first side **S1** of the data connection unit **DC** toward another side of the data connection unit **DC**. For example, each of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 may extend from the first side **S1** of the data connection unit **DC** toward the second side **S2** thereof.

[0161] The angle between each of the A-dummy lines A-DML and the first side **S1** of the data connection unit **DC** may be about 90 degrees. For example, an angle $\theta 1$ between the first A-dummy line A-DML1 and the first side **S1** is about 90 degrees.

[0162] The A-dummy lines A-DML are substantially parallel to one another.

[0163] Respective widths of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 may be substantially the same or different from one another. In an illustrative embodiment, the first A-dummy line A-DML1 may have a width w ranging from about 15 μm to about 30 μm , and other A-dummy lines A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 may have a width ranging from about 15 μm to about 30 μm . For example, a width w of each of the A-dummy lines may be about 25 μm .

[0164] The distance between adjacent ones of the A-dummy lines may be substantially the same or different from one another. In an illustrative embodiment, the distance d between the first A-dummy line A-DML1 and the second A-dummy line A-DML2 adjacent to the first A-dummy line A-DML1 may be in a range of between about 15 μm and 30 μm , and a distance between another adjacent ones of the A-dummy lines may be in a range of between about 15 μm and 30 μm . For example, the distance d between adjacent ones of the A-dummy lines may be about 25 μm .

[0165] The width w of the A-dummy line and the distance d between adjacent ones of the A-dummy lines may be substantially the same or different from one another as described hereinabove.

[0166] Each of the A-dummy lines A-DML has an shape that is isolated from and is not connected to any of terminals of the data driving IC **DIC** nor to any of lines of the data connection unit **DC**. In

other words, each of the A-dummy lines A-DML is not physically nor directly connected to any signal line of the display device. Herein, the signal line includes all of the following lines: a line directly receiving a signal from a signal source, a line indirectly receiving a signal from the signal source through at least one other line, a line indirectly receiving a signal from the signal source through at least one capacitor, or a line indirectly receiving a signal from the signal source through at least one switch.

[0167] As an example, the first A-dummy line A-DML1 is not physically nor directly connected to the input terminals of the data driving IC DIC, the output terminals of the data driving IC DIC, the input lead lines **31** of the data connection unit DC, the output lead lines **32** of the data connection unit DC, the auxiliary lead lines **33** of the data connection unit DC, signal lines of the PCB **168**, signal lines of the first substrate **301**, and signal lines of the second substrate **302**.

[0168] As described above, each of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 is physically separated from other signal lines and has a floating state electrically.

[0169] The B-dummy lines may have substantially the same shape as the shape of the A-dummy lines described above. For example, the B-dummy lines B-DML have end portions disposed at the second side **S2** of the data connection unit DC, as illustrated in FIG. 4.

[0170] Each of the B-dummy lines B-DML extends from the second side **S2** of the data connection unit DC toward another side of the data connection unit DC. For example, each of the B-dummy lines B-DML may extend from the second side **S2** of the data connection unit DC toward the first side **S1** thereof.

[0171] The angle between each of the B-dummy lines B-DML and the second side **S2** of the data connection unit DC may be about 90 degrees.

[0172] The B-dummy lines B-DML are substantially parallel to one another.

[0173] Respective widths of the B-dummy lines B-DML may be substantially the same or different from one another. For example, a width w of at least one of the B-dummy lines B-DML may be about 25 μm .

[0174] A distance between adjacent ones of the B-dummy lines B-DML may be substantially the same or different from one another. For example, a distance between adjacent ones of the B-dummy lines B-DML may be about 25 μm , and a distance between another adjacent ones of the B-dummy lines B-DML may be about 25 μm .

[0175] The width w of the B-dummy line and the distance between adjacent ones of the B-dummy lines may be substantially the same or different from one another as described hereinabove.

[0176] Each of the B-dummy lines B-DML has a shape that is isolated from and is not connected to any of the terminals of the data driving IC DIC nor to any of the lines of the data connection unit DC. In other words, each of the B-dummy lines B-DML is not physically nor directly connected to any signal line of the display device. That is, similar to the aforementioned A-dummy lines, each B-dummy line B-DML is physically separated from another signal line and has a floating state electrically.

[0177] FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view of the data connection unit of FIG. 6 taken along sectional line I-I' of FIG. 6.

[0178] As illustrated in FIG. 7, the data connection unit DC further includes a base layer **801**. The base layer **801** may include polyimide.

[0179] The A-dummy lines A-DML and the auxiliary lead lines **33** are disposed on the base layer **801** of the data connection unit DC. Although not illustrated in FIG. 7, the input lead lines **31**, the output lead lines **32**, and the B-dummy lines B-DML are also disposed on the base layer **801**.

[0180] The A dummy lines A-DML lines, the auxiliary lead lines **33**, the input lead lines **31**, the output lead lines **32**, and the B-dummy lines B-DML may be formed from substantially the same material. For example, The A dummy lines A-DML lines, the auxiliary lead lines **33**, the input lead lines **31**, the output lead lines **32**, and the B-dummy lines B-DML may include copper (Cu).

[0181] In an illustrative embodiment, the cover layer **802** is disposed on the base layer **801**. In

addition, as illustrated in FIG. 4, the cover layer **802** is disposed on the input lead lines **31**, the output lead lines **32**, and the auxiliary lead lines **33** except for areas corresponding to the input portion **11**, the output portion **12**, and the mounting portion **10** of the data connection unit DC. [0182] FIG. 8A is an enlarged schematic plan view of portion A of the data connection unit of FIG. 4 showing a flow of an anisotropic conductive film in the presence of a dummy line. FIG. 8B is a cross-sectional view of the data connection unit of FIG. 8A taken along sectional line I-I' of FIG. 8A.

[0183] As illustrated in FIGS. 8A and 8B, when pressure is applied to the ACF bonded to the data connection unit DC, the viscosity of the ACF decreases. Accordingly, the fluidity of the ACF increases. The ACF may smoothly move to one edge, i.e., the first side **S1**, of the data connection unit DC through the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5. That is, since the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 have line shapes extending from the first side **S1**, the ACF is induced by the A-Dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 to flow and spreads (diffuses) to the first side **S1** along an outward direction shown by the arrows in FIG. 8A.

[0184] In addition, although not illustrated in FIG. 8A, the ACF may smoothly flow to another edge, i.e., the second side **S2**, of the data connection unit DC through the B-dummy lines B-DML. That is, since the B-dummy lines B-DML have line shapes extending from the second side **S2**, the ACF is induced by the B-dummy lines B-DML to flow and spreads (diffuses) to the second side **S2**.

[0185] FIGS. 9A to 9H are schematic perspective views of a data connection unit, a support, a pressing apparatus, a first laser irradiator, a second laser irradiator, and a first substrate illustrating an illustrative method of connecting the data connection unit and the first substrate according to the principles of the invention.

[0186] First, as illustrated in FIG. 9A, the data connection unit DC including the data driving IC DIC is prepared. The data connection unit DC includes sprocket holes **90** on the opposing short side edges thereof.

[0187] As illustrated in FIG. 9B, the data connection unit DC is disposed on a support **950**. For example, an output portion **12** of the data connection unit DC is disposed on the support **950**. In such an illustrative embodiment, a opposite surface of the output portion **12** contacts the support **950**.

[0188] Subsequently, the ACF is placed on the output portion **12** of the data connection unit DC. The ACF has a length and a width suitable to overlap output lead lines exposed through the output portion **12**. That is, in order to substantially minimize an amount of the ACF being used, the ACF has such a size as to overlap the output lead lines. In the case where the ACF has an area large enough to cover the entire surface of the output portion **12** of the data connection unit DC, an edge of the ACF may contact the support **950** and may contaminate the support **950**.

[0189] Contamination of the support **950** may cause various problems including damage to the data connection unit DC. For example, the support **950** is used again in a main pressing process, which will be described subsequently. In such a case, in the case where the ACF remains on the support **950**, the first substrate **301** on the support **950** may be bonded to the support **950** by the ACF. Then, a crack may occur in the first substrate **301** when the first substrate **301** is separated from the support **950**.

[0190] For such various reasons, the ACF on the data connection unit DC has a smaller area than the area of the output portion **12** of the data connection unit DC.

[0191] As illustrated in FIG. 9C, a pressing apparatus **980** is disposed above the ACF. Subsequently, the pressing apparatus **980** descends in the direction of an arrow toward the ACF to contact the ACF. In such a state, the pressing apparatus **980** exerts pressure on the ACF. The process illustrated in FIG. 9C is a preliminary pressing process, in which the ACF is weakly bonded to the data connection unit DC by the pressure applied in this process.

[0192] FIG. 9D is a perspective view illustrating the ACF bonded to the data connection unit DC by the preliminary pressing process of FIG. 9C.

[0193] As illustrated in FIG. 9E, a cutting process of the data connection unit DC is performed. This cutting process may be performed by a laser irradiator. For example, a laser beam **441a** irradiated from a first laser irradiator **441** moves in a direction (an arrow direction) substantially perpendicular to the A-dummy lines A-DML to cut the data connection unit DC. A laser beam **442a** irradiated from a second laser irradiator **442** moves in a direction (the arrow direction) substantially perpendicular to the B-dummy lines B-DML to cut the data connection unit DC.

[0194] As illustrated in FIG. 9F, the both opposing short end portions of the data connection unit DC having the sprocket holes **90** are removed such that the data connection unit DC having the first side **S1** and the second side **S2** may be provided. In addition, as a portion of the A-dummy lines A-DML and a portion of the B-dummy lines B-DML are removed together by the cutting process, respective end portions of the A-dummy lines A-DML are positioned along the first side **S1** and respective end portions of the B-dummy lines B-DML are positioned along the second side **S2**.

[0195] In such an illustrative embodiment, by the laser beams **441a** and **442a**, at least a portion of the end portion of the A-dummy line A-DML and at least a portion of the end portion of the B-dummy line B-DML are carbonized. Accordingly, the end portions of the A-dummy lines A-DML and the end portions of the B-dummy lines B-DML have a carbonized area.

[0196] As illustrated in FIG. 9G, a connecting process between the data connection unit DC and the first substrate **301** is performed. To this end, the data connection unit DC of FIG. 9F is disposed above the first substrate **301**, turned upside down as illustrated in FIG. 9G. Accordingly, as illustrated in FIG. 9G, the ACF on the data connection unit DC faces the first substrate **301**. In such an illustrative embodiment, the ACF faces pad terminals **77** of the first substrate **301**. The pad terminals **77** may include the data pad terminal of the first substrate **301** described above with reference to FIG. 1 to FIG. 4.

[0197] As illustrated in FIG. 9H, the data connection unit DC is electrically connected to the pad terminal **77** of the first substrate **301**. In such an illustrative embodiment, the data connection unit DC is bonded to the first substrate **301** by the ACF.

[0198] Consequently, a bonded portion of the first substrate **301** and the data connection unit DC is disposed between the support **950** and the pressing apparatus **980**. In such an illustrative embodiment, the support **950** is disposed below the first substrate **301** to face the first substrate **301**, and the pressing apparatus **980** is disposed above the data connecting unit DC to face the data connecting unit DC.

[0199] Next, the pressing apparatus **980** descends toward the data connection unit DC to contact the data connection unit DC. In such a state, the pressing apparatus **980** applies pressure to the data connection unit DC. This process is the main pressing process, and the pressure applied in this main pressing process is higher than a pressure applied in the preliminary pressing process described above.

[0200] The ACF is firmly bonded to the data connection unit DC and the first substrate **301** by the pressure applied in the main pressing process. In an illustrative embodiment, heat may be further applied to the ACF during the main pressing process.

[0201] The viscosity of the ACF decreases in the main pressing process. Accordingly, the fluidity of the ACF increases. The ACF may smoothly move to one edge, i.e., the first side **S1**, of the data connection unit DC through the A-dummy lines A-DML and may smoothly move to another edge, i.e., the second side **S2**, of the data connection unit DC through the B-dummy lines B-DML. In such an illustrative embodiment, the ACF may be further spread and diffused through the first side **S1**, the second side **S2**, and the third side **S3** of the data connection unit DC.

[0202] As the ACF is diffused by the A-dummy lines A-DML and the B-dummy lines B-DML in such a manner, the cured ACF may have a larger area than an area of the output portion **12** of the data connection unit DC as illustrated in FIG. 9H.

[0203] In an illustrative embodiment, as illustrated in FIGS. 9H and 7, the A-dummy lines A-DML are disposed between the first substrate **301** and the base layer **801** of the data connection unit DC. In such an illustrative embodiment, when the ACF is sufficiently diffused, the A-dummy lines A-DML may be disposed between the ACF and the base layer **801** of the data connection unit DC. Similarly, the B-dummy lines B-DML are disposed between the first substrate **301** and the base layer **801** of the data connection unit DC. In such an illustrative embodiment, when the ACF is sufficiently diffused, the B-dummy lines B-DML may be disposed between the ACF and the base layer **801** of the data connection unit DC.

[0204] As illustrated in FIG. 9H, the ACF may be disposed between the first substrate **301** and at least a portion of each A-dummy line A-DML. Similarly, the ACF may be disposed between the first substrate **301** and at least a portion of each B-dummy line B-DML.

[0205] As the ACF having a substantially minimum area may be smoothly moved to the edge of the data connection unit DC by the A-dummy lines A-DML and B-dummy lines B-DML, manufacturing costs may be reduced and the adhesion between the data connection unit DC and the first substrate **301** may be improved. In addition, since the ACF is formed onto both ends of the data connection unit DC, detachment of the data connection unit DC may be substantially prevented.

[0206] FIG. **10** is an enlarged schematic plan view of portion A of the data connection unit of FIG. **4** illustrating a second embodiment of dummy lines.

[0207] As illustrated in FIG. **10**, A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 have end portions **61**, **62**, **63**, **64**, and **65** disposed in different positions of the first side S1. The A-dummy lines A-DML have a shape extending upwardly from the first side S1 toward a second side S2.

[0208] The angle between each of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 and the first side S1 may be greater than about 0 degrees and less than about 90 degrees. For example, as illustrated in FIG. **10**, an acute angle $\theta 2$ between the first A-dummy line A-DML1 and the first side S1 may be greater than about 0 degrees and less than about 90 degrees.

[0209] At least two of the A-dummy lines may have different slopes. For example, an angle between the first A-dummy line A-DML1 and the first side S1 may be different from an angle between the second A-dummy line A-DML2 and the first side S1.

[0210] The B-dummy lines B-DML may have substantially the same shape as the shape of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 in FIG. **10**. For example, an acute angle of angle between each of the B-dummy lines B-DML and the second side S2 may be greater than about 0 degrees and less than about 90 degrees.

[0211] The B-dummy lines B-DML and the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 of FIG. **10** may be symmetrically arranged to one another. For example, assuming an imaginary line passing through the center of a third side S3 of the data connection unit DC and perpendicularly intersecting the third side S3, the B-dummy lines B-DML and the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 may be axially symmetric with respect to the imaginary line.

[0212] At least one of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 and at least one of the B-dummy lines B-DML may have different slopes.

[0213] Based on the structure of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 illustrated in FIG. **10**, the ACF may be smoothly diffused in directions toward the first side S1, the second side S2, and the third side S3.

[0214] Based on the structure of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 illustrated in FIG. **10**, diffusion force of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 exerted on the ACF in the direction of the first side S1 is reduced from that in the structure illustrated in FIG. **6**, such that the ACF may be smoothly diffused in directions toward the first side S1, the second side S2, and the third side S3.

[0215] FIG. 11 is an enlarged schematic plan view of portion A of the data connection unit of FIG. 4 illustrating a third embodiment of dummy lines.

[0216] As illustrated in FIG. 11, A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 have end portions 61, 62, 63, 64, and 65 disposed at different portions of a first side S1. In addition, the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 have a shape extending from the first side S1 toward a second side S2.

[0217] An angle θ_3 between each of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 and the first side S1 may be about 90 degrees.

[0218] As illustrated in FIG. 11, the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 may have a decreasing length, as they approach third side S3. For example, among the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5, the first A-dummy line A-DML1 disposed farthest from the third side S3 has a longest length, and the fifth A-dummy line A-DML5 disposed closest to the third side S3 has a shortest length. In addition, the second A-dummy line A-DML2 has a length less than that of the first A-dummy line A-DML1 and longer than that of the third A-dummy line A-DML3, the third A-dummy line A-DML3 has a length less than that of the second A-dummy line A-DML2 and longer than that of the fourth A-dummy line A-DML4, and the fourth A-dummy line A-DML4 has a length less than that of the third A-dummy line A-DML3 and longer than that of the fifth A-dummy line A-DML5.

[0219] The B-dummy lines B-DML may have substantially the same shape as the shape of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 illustrated in FIG. 11. For example, the B-dummy lines B-DML may have a decreasing length, as they approach the third side S3.

[0220] The B-dummy lines B-DML and the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 of FIG. 11 may be symmetrically arranged to one another. For example, the B-dummy lines B-DML and the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 may be axially symmetric with respect to the imaginary line described above with reference to FIG. 10.

[0221] Based on the structure of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 illustrated in FIG. 11, the diffusion force of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 exerted to the ACF in the direction of the first side S1 is gradually reduced as they approach the third side S3. Thus, the ACF may be smoothly diffused in directions toward the first side S1, the second side S2, and the third side S3.

[0222] The A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 may have a greater length, as they approach the third side S3. Similarly, the B-dummy lines B-DML may have a greater length, as they approach the third side S3.

[0223] FIG. 12 is an enlarged schematic plan view of portion A of the data connection unit of FIG. 4 illustrating a fourth embodiment of dummy lines.

[0224] As illustrated in FIG. 12, A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 have end portions 61, 62, 63, 64, and 65 disposed at different portions of a first side S1. The A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 have a shape extending from the first side S1 toward a second side S2.

[0225] Similar to the configuration illustrated in FIG. 10, respective angles among the first side S1 and the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 of FIG. 12 may be greater than about 0 degrees and less than about 90 degrees. For example, as illustrated in FIG. 12, an acute angle θ_4 between the first A-dummy line A-DML1 and the first side S1 may be greater than about 0 degrees and less than about 90 degrees.

[0226] In addition, similar to the configuration illustrated in FIG. 11, the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 of FIG. 12 may decrease in length, as they approach third side S3. For example, among the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5, the first A-dummy line A-DML1 disposed farthest from the third side S3 has the

longest length, and the fifth A-dummy line A-DML5 disposed closest to the third side S3 has the shortest length.

[0227] B-dummy lines B-DML may have substantially the same shape as the shape of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 of FIG. 12. For example, an acute angle between each of the B-dummy lines B-DML and the second side S2 may be greater than about 0 degrees and less than about 90 degrees. In addition, the B-dummy lines B-DML may decrease in length, as they approach the third side S3.

[0228] The B-dummy lines B-DML and the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 of FIG. 12 may be symmetrically arranged to one another. For example, the B-dummy lines B-DML and the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 may be axially symmetric with respect to the imaginary line described above with reference to FIG. 10.

[0229] Based on the structure of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 illustrated in FIG. 12, the diffusion force of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 exerted to the ACF in the direction of the first side S1 decreases as they approach the third side S3. Thus, the ACF may be smoothly diffused in directions toward the first side S1, the second side S2, and the third side S3.

[0230] The A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 may have a longer length, as they approach the third side S3. Similarly, the B-dummy lines B-DML may have a longer length, as they approach the third side S3.

[0231] FIG. 13 is an enlarged schematic plan view of portion A of the data connection unit of FIG. 4 illustrating a fifth embodiment of dummy lines.

[0232] As illustrated in FIG. 13, A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 have end portions 61, 62, 63, 64, and 65 disposed at different portions of a first side S1. The A-dummy lines A-DML have a shape extending from the first side S1 toward a second side S2.

[0233] As illustrated in FIG. 13, two adjacent ones of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 may have a greater distance therebetween, as they are closer to third side S3. For example, a distance d1 between the first A-dummy line A-DML1 disposed farthest from the third side S3 and the second A-dummy line A-DML2 adjacent to the first A-dummy line A-DML1 is the smallest, and a distance d4 between the fifth A-dummy line A-DML5 disposed closest to the third side S3 and the fourth A-dummy line A-DML4 adjacent to the fifth A-dummy line A-DML5 is the greatest. Further, the distance d2 between the second A-dummy line A-DML2 and the third A-dummy line A-DML3 adjacent to the second A-dummy line A-DML2 is less than the distance d3 between the third A-dummy line A-DML3 and the fourth A-dummy line A-DML4 adjacent to the third A-dummy line A-DML3.

[0234] B-dummy lines B-DML may have substantially the same shape as the shape of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 in FIG. 13. For example, two adjacent ones of the B-dummy lines B-DML may be spaced at a greater distance, as they approach the third side S3.

[0235] The B-dummy lines B-DML and the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 of FIG. 13 may be symmetrically arranged to one another. For example, the B-dummy lines B-DML and the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 may be axially symmetric with respect to the imaginary line described above with reference to FIG. 10.

[0236] Based on the structure of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 illustrated in FIG. 13, respective diffusion forces of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 exerted on the ACF in the direction of the first side S1 are different from one another. For example, as the distance between the first A-dummy line A-DML1 and the second A-dummy line A-DML2 is relatively narrow, the diffusion speed of the ACF passing between them is relatively high. On the other hand, as the distance between the fourth A-

dummy line A-DML4 and the fifth A-dummy line A-DML5 is relatively wide, the diffusion speed of the ACF passing between them is relatively low.

[0237] Two adjacent ones of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 may have less distance therebetween, as they approach the third side S3. Similarly, two adjacent ones of the B-dummy lines B-DML may have less distance therebetween, as they approach the third side S3.

[0238] FIG. 14 is an enlarged schematic plan view of portion A of the data connection unit of FIG. 4 illustrating a first embodiment of dummy lines.

[0239] As illustrated in FIG. 14, A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 have end portions 61, 62, 63, 64, and 65 disposed at different portions of a first side S1 than the prior embodiments. In addition, the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 have a shape extending from the first side S1 toward a second side S2.

[0240] As illustrated in FIG. 14, each of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 may have a width that gradually decreases in a direction further away from the first side S1. For example, the width of the first A-dummy line A-DML1 is greatest at the end portion 61 thereof and smallest at the other end portion opposite the end portion 61.

[0241] B-dummy lines B-DML may have substantially the same shape as the shape of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 in FIG. 14. For example, each of the B-dummy lines B-DML may have a width that gradually decreases in a direction further away from the second side S2.

[0242] The B-dummy lines B-DML and the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 of FIG. 14 may be symmetrically arranged to one another. For example, the B-dummy lines B-DML and the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 may be axially symmetric with respect to the imaginary line described above with reference to FIG. 10.

[0243] Based on the structure of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 illustrated in FIG. 14, the diffusion force of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 exerted to the ACF in the direction of the first side S1 gradually increases as they approach the first side S1.

[0244] Alternatively, each of the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 may have a width that gradually increases in a direction further away from the first side S1. Similarly, each of the B-dummy lines B-DML may have a width that gradually increases in a direction further away from the second side S2.

[0245] In addition, at least one gate connection unit GC of FIG. 1 may further include the A-dummy lines A-DML1, A-DML2, A-DML3, A-DML4, and A-DML5 and the B-dummy lines B-DML.

[0246] FIG. 15 is a detailed configuration view of another embodiment of a data connection unit of the first substrate of FIG. 2. Descriptions of like components are not repeated to avoid redundancy.

[0247] As illustrated in FIG. 15, each of A-dummy lines A-DML may be spaced apart from first side S1 at a predetermined distance. For example, an end portion of at least one A-dummy line A-DML may be spaced apart at a predetermined distance from the first side S1.

[0248] In addition, as illustrated in FIG. 15, each of B-dummy lines B-DML may be spaced apart from second side S2 at a predetermined distance. For example, an end portion of at least one B-dummy line B-DML may be spaced apart at a predetermined distance from the second side S2.

[0249] In an illustrative embodiment, the A-dummy lines A-DML and the B-dummy lines B-DML of FIG. 15 may have any one of the shapes illustrated in FIGS. 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 described above.

[0250] As set forth above, according to one or more illustrative embodiments, the display device may provide the following effects. First, since the ACF having a substantially minimum area may smoothly move to an edge of the connection unit, manufacturing costs may be reduced and the

adhesiveness between the connection unit and the substrate may be improved.

[0251] In addition, since the ACF is normally formed onto opposite ends of the connection unit, detachment of the data connection unit may be substantially prevented.

[0252] While the present invention has been illustrated and described with reference to the illustrative embodiments thereof, it will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that various changes in form and detail may be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

Claims

1. A display device comprising: a substrate; a pixel electrically connected to a gate line and a data line, both the gate line and the data line being on a surface of the substrate; a connection unit electrically connected to one of the gate line and the data line; and a driving integrated circuit mounted on the connection unit, wherein the connection unit comprises: a lead line electrically connected to the driving integrated circuit; and at least one first dummy line adjacent to a first side of the connection unit, the first side overlapping a portion of an edge of the substrate in a view in a direction perpendicular to the surface of the substrate, the at least one first dummy line being electrically isolated, and the at least one first dummy line overlaps a portion of the surface of the substrate in the view.
2. The display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one first dummy line has an end portion at the first side of the connection unit.
3. The display device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the at least one first dummy line extends from the first side of the connection unit toward another side of the connection unit.
4. The display device as claimed in claim 2, wherein an angle between the at least one first dummy line and the first side of the connection unit is about 90 degrees.
5. The display device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the at least one first dummy line comprises multiple dummy lines, and a lesser angle of respective angles among the multiple dummy lines and the first side of the connection unit is greater than about 0 degrees and less than about 90 degrees.
6. The display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one first dummy line is between the substrate and a base layer of the connection unit.
7. The display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein substantially an entire surface of the at least one first dummy line facing the substrate is not covered by a cover layer of the connection unit.
8. The display device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising: an anisotropic conductive film between at least a portion of the at least one first dummy line and the substrate.
9. The display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one first dummy line comprises multiple electrically isolated dummy lines.
10. The display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one first dummy line comprises multiple electrically isolated dummy lines extending substantially parallel to one another.
11. The display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one first dummy line comprises multiple electrically isolated dummy lines, and each of the multiple electrically isolated dummy lines has substantially a same length.
12. The display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one first dummy line comprises multiple electrically isolated dummy lines, each of the multiple electrically isolated dummy lines has a respective length, the respective lengths decrease in size with decreasing distance of a corresponding electrically isolated dummy line among the multiple electrically isolated dummy lines from a third side of the connection unit, and in the view, the third side of the connection unit overlaps a portion of the surface of the substrate and does not overlap the edge of the substrate.
13. The display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one first dummy line comprises multiple electrically isolated dummy lines, two adjacent electrically isolated dummy lines among the multiple electrically isolated dummy lines are spaced apart from one another by a variable

distance that increases as the two adjacent electrically isolated dummy lines become more adjacent to a third side of the connection unit, and in the view, the third side of the connection unit overlaps the substrate and does not overlap the edge of the substrate.

14. The display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one first dummy line has a variable width that gradually decreases with increasing distance from the first side.

15. The display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one first dummy line comprises multiple electrically isolated dummy lines, and respective distances between adjacent electrically isolated dummy lines among the multiple electrically isolated dummy lines are substantially uniform.

16. The display device as claimed in claim 15, wherein each of the respective distances is in a range of about 15 μm to about 30 μm .

17. The display device as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least a portion of the end portion of the at least one first dummy line comprises a carbonized area.

18. The display device as claimed in claim 1, wherein an end portion of the at least one first dummy line is spaced apart from the first side by a determined distance.

19. The display device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising: at least one second dummy line adjacent to a second side of the connection unit, the second side opposing the first side, wherein the at least one second dummy line is electrically isolated.

20. The display device as claimed in claim 19, wherein the at least one second dummy line and the at least one first dummy line are symmetric to one another in shape.
