

substrate 110. It will be appreciated that at least a portion of electrodes 130 may also be disposed onto the auxiliary layer.

[0057] FIG. 2 shows a schematic three dimensional view of a touch sensor 100 according to one aspect of the invention. For ease of illustration and without loss of generality some of the layers and components shown in FIG. 1 are not reproduced in FIG. 2. According to one aspect of the present invention, the touch sensor 100 can be capable of detecting two or more distinct touch locations within the touch sensitive area 195. For example, touch sensor 100 can be capable of detecting distinct touch locations A, B, C, and X in the touch sensitive area 195. For ease of illustration and without loss of generality, FIG. 2 shows a linearizing electrode pattern 140 having a single row of electrically conductive segments 141 along the perimeter of the touch sensitive area 195, although the linearizing electrode pattern 140 can typically include several rows of such conductive segments. According to the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 2, electrodes 130 are positioned near the four corners of the touch sensitive area 195 and make direct electrical contact to the linearization pattern 140. In general, electrodes 130 may be positioned at multiple locations along the perimeter of the touch sensitive area.

[0058] A conductive touch implement 101, applied to the touch sensor at location X, generates a signal induced by capacitive coupling between touch implement 101 and conductive film 120. According to one aspect of the present invention, the induced signal can be detected at a plurality of positions on the conductive film to determine the location X. For example, the induced signal can be detected at four locations 128A, 128B, 128C, and 128D as shown in FIG. 2. The detected signals can be electrically transmitted to electronics and controller 155 via electrodes 130 and electrically conductive leads 131. The multiple detected signals can be used to detect the touch location X. For example, magnitudes of signals detected at locations 128A, 128B and 128C, relative to the magnitude of the signal detected at location 128D, can be used to determine the touch location X.

[0059] According to one aspect of the invention, conductive touch applicator 101 can be coupled to touch sensor 100, for example, via controller 155. The coupling means can include an electrical connection to, for example, controller 155 via, for example, electrically conductive means 161 as shown in FIG. 1. A direct electrical connection can help reduce background noise, thereby increasing the signal-to-noise ratio. An advantage of electrically connecting the touch applicator to the controller is that the thickness of glass layer 160 can be increased since the controller can be capable of detecting smaller touch induced signals. The electrically conductive means 161 can, for example, include electrically conductive wires.

[0060] FIG. 3 illustrates a schematic side-view of a touch sensor 300 in accordance with one particular aspect of the invention. For ease of illustration and without loss of generality some of the layers and components shown in FIG. 1 and FIG. 2 are not reproduced in FIG. 3. Touch sensor 300 includes conductive electrodes 130 disposed onto the conductive film 120 and linearization pattern 140 disposed onto the bottom surface of glass layer 160. As another example, conductive electrodes 130 can be disposed onto the bottom surface of glass layer 160 and linearization pattern 140 can be disposed onto conductive film 120. Bonding layer 150

can electrically isolate linearization pattern 140 from electrodes 130 except at pre-determined locations where linearization pattern 140 and electrodes 130 are electrically connected through vias 310 formed in bonding layer 150. Vias 310 can be filled with a conductive material 320 to electrically connect linearization pattern 140 to electrodes 130. Such a stacked arrangement of linearization pattern 140 and electrodes 130 can reduce the touch panel border. This aspect of the present invention can be particularly useful in applications where it may be desirable to integrate a touch sensor with a small border display device.

[0061] Vias 310 can be formed in bonding layer 150 by punching, die cutting, laser ablation, knife cutting and chemical etching. Conductive material 320 can, for example, be a conductive paste, such as a silver conductive paste, a gold conductive paste, a palladium conductive paste or a carbon conductive paste.

[0062] FIG. 4 illustrates a schematic cross-section of a display system 400 in accordance with one aspect of the present invention. Display system 400 includes a touch sensor 401 and a display 402. Display 402 can be viewable through touch sensor 401. Touch sensor 401 can be a touch sensor according to any embodiment of the present invention. Display 402 can include permanent or replaceable graphics (for example, pictures, maps, icons, and the like) as well as electronic displays such as liquid crystal displays (LCD), cathode ray tubes (CRT), plasma displays, electroluminescent displays, OLEDs, electrophoretic displays, and the like. It will be appreciated that although in FIG. 4 display 402 and touch sensor 401 are shown as two separate components, the two can be integrated into a single unit. For example, touch sensor 401 can be laminated to display 402. Alternatively, touch sensor 401 can be an integral part of display 402.

[0063] FIG. 6 illustrates a schematic cross-section of an exemplary touch display system where a touch sensor is integrated with a display device according to one particular aspect of the present invention. FIG. 6 shows a display substrate 610, an active display component 601, and a capacitive touch sensor 620. Touch sensor 620 can be a touch sensor according to any aspect of the present invention. Touch sensor 620 includes a conductive film 120 and a glass layer 160 where film 120 and layer 160 are previously described in reference to FIG. 1. Substrate 610 can also serve as a substrate for touch sensor 620. Active component 601 can, for example, include all the components that may be used in a display system. For example, component 601 can include the active layers typically used in an OLED device including active organic layers, electrodes, insulating layers, polarizers and the like. It will be appreciated that glass layer 160 can effectively seal component 601 and, if desirable, conductive film 120. Accordingly, glass layer 160 can protect component 601 against extraneous factors such as abrasion and environmental factors such as oxygen and moisture. As another example, component 601 can include the active layers and parts typically used in an LCD display including the liquid crystal cell, polarizers, retarders, backlight, color filters, and the like. Display component 601 may be viewable through touch sensor 620. A touch input applied to the flexible glass layer 160 in a touch sensitive area capacitively couples with the conductive film 120, thereby inducing a signal. The touch location may be determined by detecting the induced signal.