

scanning in a first sub scanning direction. The second laser beam scanning system has a third movable mirror for deflecting a laser beam in a second main scanning direction and a long fourth movable mirror for receiving the laser beam deflected in the second main scanning direction and conducting scanning in a second sub scanning direction. The second movable mirror has means for scanning a laser beam in the first sub scanning direction at a rotation angle about the axis of the long shape direction as a center to irradiate the laser beam to an object to be processed which is placed on a stage. The fourth movable mirror has means for scanning a laser beam in the second sub scanning direction at a rotation angle about the axis of the long shape direction as a center to irradiate the laser beam to the object to be processed which is placed on the stage.

[0102] In the above configuration, a galvanomirror or a polygon mirror is applied to the first and second movable mirrors. A solid laser or a gas laser is preferably applied to a laser for providing the laser beam.

[0103] In the above configuration, a laser beam is scanned in the main scanning direction by the first movable mirror and scanned in the sub scanning direction by the second movable mirror. Thus, the laser beam can be irradiated in an arbitrary position onto the object to be processed. In addition, a plurality of such laser beam scanning means are provided and laser beams are irradiated to a surface to be formed in biaxial directions. Thus, a laser processing time can be shortened.

[0104] Hereinafter, a laser irradiation apparatus of this embodiment will be described with reference to the drawings.

[0105] FIG. 3 shows a desirable example of a laser processing apparatus of this embodiment. The shown laser processing apparatus includes a solid laser 101 capable of conducting continuous oscillation or pulse oscillation, a lens such 102 as a collimator lens or a cylindrical lens for condensing a laser beam, a fixed mirror 103 for changing an optical path of the laser beam, a galvanomirror 104 for radially scanning the laser beam in a two-dimensional direction, and a movable mirror 105 for receiving the laser beam by the galvanomirror 104 and irradiating the laser beam toward a surface to be irradiated of a stage 106. An optical axis of the galvanomirror 104 and that of the movable mirror 105 are intersected each other and rotated in arrow directions shown in FIG. 3, respectively. Thus, a laser beam can be scanned over the entire surface of a substrate 107 placed on the stage 106. When the movable mirror 105 is used as an fθ mirror to correct an optical path difference, a beam shape on a surface to be irradiated can be also adjusted.

[0106] FIG. 3 shows a system for scanning a laser beam in a uniaxial direction of the substrate 107 placed on the stage 106 by the galvanomirror 104 and the movable mirror 105. As a more preferable configuration, as shown in FIG. 4, a half mirror 108, a fixed mirror 109, a galvanomirror 110, and a movable mirror 111 is added to the configuration shown in FIG. 3, and laser beams may be simultaneously scanned in biaxial directions (X- and Y- directions). A processing time can be shortened by using such a configuration. Note that the galvanomirrors 104 and 110 may be replaced by polygon mirrors.

[0107] A solid laser is preferable as the laser, and a solid laser using crystal such as YAG, YVO₄, YLF, or YAl₃O₁₂

which is doped with Nd, Tm, or Ho, or a semiconductor laser is preferably used. A fundamental wave of an oscillation wavelength is changed dependent on a doping material. An oscillation is produced at a wavelength of 1 μm to 2 μm. When a non-single crystalline semiconductor film is crystallized, in order to selectively absorb a laser beam by the semiconductor film, it is preferable that the second harmonic to the fourth harmonic of the oscillation wavelength is applied. Typically, in the case of crystallization of amorphous silicon, the second harmonic (532 nm) of an Nd: YAG laser (fundamental wave: 1064 nm) is used.

[0108] In addition, a gas laser such an argon laser, a krypton laser, or an excimer laser can be applied.

[0109] Also, an atmosphere at laser light irradiation may be an atmosphere containing oxygen, an atmosphere containing nitrogen, an inert atmosphere, or a vacuum and is preferably selected as appropriate according to a purpose.

[0110] An oscillation mode may be either pulse oscillation or continuous oscillation. In order to achieve continuous crystal growth with a molten state of the semiconductor film, it is desirable that a continuous oscillation mode is selected.

[0111] In the case where a TFT which is made from a semiconductor film crystallized by laser annealing is formed on a substrate, when a crystal growth direction is aligned with a carrier moving direction, high field effect mobility can be obtained. In other words, when the crystal growth direction is aligned with the channel length direction, the field effect mobility can be substantially increased.

[0112] When a continuous oscillating laser beam is irradiated to a non-single crystalline semiconductor film for crystallization, a solid-liquid interface is kept. Thus, a continuous crystal growth can be obtained in the scanning direction of the laser beam. As shown in FIG. 4, with respect to a TFT substrate (substrate to which TFTs are mainly formed) 112 used for manufacturing an active matrix liquid crystal display device which driver circuits are integrally formed, driver circuit portions 114 and 115 are provided in the vicinity of a pixel portion 113. FIG. 4 shows a configuration of a laser irradiation apparatus made in consideration of such a layout. As described above, in the case of the configuration in which laser beams are incident from the biaxial directions, laser beams can be synchronously or asynchronously irradiated in an X-direction and a Y-direction indicated by arrows in the drawing by a combination of the galvanomirrors 104 and 110 and the movable mirrors 105 and 111. In addition, it is possible that a location is designated according to the layout of TFTs and a laser beam is irradiated thereto.

[0113] FIG. 5 shows a relationship between the substrate 112 to which TFTs are provided and an irradiation direction of a laser beam in detail. Regions in which the pixel portion 113 and the driver circuits 114 and 115 are formed are indicated by dot lines on the substrate 112. In a stage of crystallization, a non-single crystalline semiconductor film is formed on the entire surface. Semiconductor regions for forming TFTs can be designated by alignment makers or the like formed in end portions of the substrate.

[0114] For example, the driver circuit portion 114 is a region for forming a scan line driver circuit. In its partially enlarged view 301, semiconductor regions 204 of TFTs and a scanning direction of a laser beam 201 are indicated. The