

of an apparatus in which the display element 200 is to be used, as will be further elucidated below. The rigid protective layer 202 will protect display layers 204 from being damaged during use. The display layers 204 can comprise, in the case of a liquid crystal display, a polarizing layer 206, an electrode layer 207, a layer comprising crystal polymer 208, a further electrode layer 209, a further polarizing layer 210, a back-lighting layer 211, which can be a light guide or an electroluminescent element, and a reflecting layer 212. Layers 206 to 212 are an example of layers that can be used for the electro-optical modulation of light for providing graphical content, and other configurations for providing electro-optical modulation of light for providing graphical content which are used in the art of display technology can be equally suitable. For provision of patterned light, a light emitting layer, e.g. an organic light emitting diode layer, can be provided as display layers 204. In this case, each picture element is provided by an addressable and illuminating part of the light emitting layer. This part can thus be controlled whether to provide light and preferably how much light that is to be provided. The principle of slight deformation upon application of a force without breaking the layers, as elucidated with reference to FIG. 1 above also applies here. This small local deformation will, as will be elucidated below with reference to FIGS. 5a and 5b, and FIGS. 9a and 9b, enable detection of the applied force, which detection will be detected on the "backside" of the display element, i.e. at the display layer side of the display element.

[0022] For the understanding of the function of the principle, the display element will be illustrated in its functional context before describing its function in detail. FIGS. 3a and 3b schematically illustrates an apparatus 300, where FIG. 3a is a front view of the apparatus 300. The apparatus 300 has a display arrangement 302 according to an embodiment of the invention. FIG. 3b is a section view along line A-A of FIG. 3a. Not to obscure the elements, FIG. 3b is made schematic and no crosshatchings are drawn. The display arrangement 302 comprises a rigid protective layer 303, which is arranged to form a part of the outer surface of the apparatus 300, and which is the display area which a user of the apparatus is experiencing, as illustrated in FIG. 3a. The protective layer 303 can be a glass layer, or a layer of transparent and rigid polymer, such as polycarbonate or polymethyl methacrylate. The display arrangement further comprises one or more display layers 304, as has been elucidated with reference to FIGS. 1 and 2. Attached to at least a part of the backside of the display arrangement 302, there is a force sensitive layer 306, e.g. made of polyvinylidene fluoride which has piezoelectric properties, from which deformation of any part can be converted into an electrical signal, e.g. by collecting signals from different parts of the force sensitive layer, or scanning a grid of electrodes applied to the force sensitive layer, such that the position where the force is applied can be derived by a processing means, preferably arranged in a circuitry part 308 of the apparatus 300. The force sensitive layer 306 preferably comprises one or more separate patches of such material where e.g. each patch is mapped to a recognisable position for detection.

[0023] The different elements of the apparatus 300 is supported and kept in place by a supporting structure 310. The apparatus can also comprise a battery 312 arranged to power supply the apparatus 300, and an antenna arrangement 314 arranged to receive and/or transmit data, e.g. for wireless communication, receiving broadcasted signals, or signals for

determining position from a navigation satellite system. Further elements can be present, such as image acquiring means, wired interface, memory card interface, etc., depending on the type of apparatus. The circuitry part 308, which can be one or more elements although it here is depicted as a single element for the sake of easier understanding, can comprise processing means, memory circuits and/or devices, power circuitry, possible radio circuitry, interface circuitry, etc. which may be arranged on and interconnected by one or more printed circuit boards and their conductive traces, respectively.

[0024] The rigid protective layer 303, as well as the display layers 304, will upon application of a force allow small local deformation without breaking. This small local deformation will, as will be elucidated below with reference to FIGS. 5a and 5b, enable detection of the applied force, which detection will be detected by the force sensitive layer 306 on the backside of the display element 302. The force and deformation will propagate to the force sensitive layer 306, which will be squeezed between the display element 302 and the supporting structure 310 at a position corresponding to the part of the display element 302 where a user applies the force by touching or tapping the display surface, i.e. the rigid protective layer 303. Alternatively, the force sensitive layer is arranged to detect the deformation by being stretched together with the backside of the display element due to the curve implied by the deformation. This is particularly suitable for designs where a supporting structure 310 is not feasible or wanted for at least a part of the area to be detected. In the case of a polyvinylidene fluoride, this deformation will give rise to a piezoelectric effect, i.e. an electric charge, which can be collected by an electrode and be decoded by the processing means.

[0025] FIG. 4 schematically illustrates an alternative embodiment of an apparatus 400 from a similar view as FIG. 3b, where a sensor layer 402 covers the entire area of a display element 404. In other senses, the same features and options as those demonstrated with reference to FIG. 3b are applicable.

[0026] FIGS. 5a and 5b illustrate a part of a display arrangement 500 comprising a display element 502 according to any of the embodiments of display elements described above, comprising a rigid protective layer 503 and one or more display layers 504 and a force sensitive layer 506 arranged alongside the display element 502. A surface 507 of a supporting structure 508 is also illustrated.

[0027] In FIG. 5a, the display arrangement 500 is not yet touched or tapped by a user 510. In FIG. 5b, the user 510 applies a force on the rigid protective layer 503 by touching or tapping it, e.g. by a finger. The rigid protective layer 503, as well as the display layers 504, will upon application of the force allow small local deformation without breaking.

[0028] In FIG. 5b, the illustration of the deformation is for providing understanding of the principle and may be exaggerated for illustrative purposes. This small local deformation will, by deformation Δ of the force sensitive layer 506 at a position corresponding to the position where the user 510 touches or taps the display element 502, enable detection of the applied force and the position, which detection can be provided as an electrical signal to be decoded by a processing means. The force sensitive layer 506 can comprise pads of polyvinylidene fluoride film, or other force sensitive elements. These can be arranged at spots to be defined positions to be detected.