

the spatial intensity modulation and spectral filtering functions employed therein. In the second illustrative embodiment of this LCD panel construction shown in FIGS. 32A1 and 32A2, linear polarization techniques are used to carry out the spatial intensity modulation and spectral filtering functions employed therein. In each such illustrative embodiment, modifications are made among the various components of the LCD panel shown in FIG. 31. Details regarding such modifications will be described hereinafter.

[0396] In FIG. 31, the subcomponent structure of the second generalized embodiment of the LCD panel hereof is shown in great clarity. As shown, the second generalized embodiment of the LCD panel 2 comprises: a backlighting structure 7 including a quasi-diffusive reflector 7A, for producing a plane of broad-band light having a substantially uniform light intensity over the x and y coordinate axes thereof; a broad-band CLC-based polarizing reflective panel 8; a light condensing film layer—applied to the broad-band polarizing reflective panel 8; pixelated array 10 of pass-band polarizing reflective (filter) elements 10A, 10B, 10C, for spectral filtering of light produced from the backlighting structure; a pixelated array 9 of polarization direction rotating elements 9A, 9B, 9C for spatial intensity modulation of light produced from the pixelated array of pass-band polarizing reflective (filter) elements; a broad-band polarizing reflective panel 11 for cooperative operation with the pixelated array of polarization direction rotating elements 9 and the pixelated array of pass-band polarizing reflective (filter) elements 10; and a polarization-preserving light diffusive film layer 420 applied to the broad-band reflective polarizing panel 11 to improve the angular viewing performance of the LCD panel assembly. In an alternative embodiment, a broad-band absorptive-type panel can be substituted for broad-band polarizing reflective panel 11 in order to reduce glare due to ambient light incident upon the LCD panel during operation.

[0397] In order to produce high-resolution color images, the spatial period of the pixelated arrays 9 and 10 is selected to be relatively small in relation to the overall length and height dimensions of the LCD panel. In a conventional manner, each pixel structure in the LCD panel is comprised of a red subpixel 13A, a green subpixel 13B and blue subpixel 13C. As shown therein, each red subpixel structure 13A comprises a red-band spectral filtering element 10A which is spatially registered with a first polarization direction rotating element 9A. Each green subpixel structure 13B comprises a green-band spectral filtering element 10B spatially registered with a second polarization direction rotating element 9B. Each blue subpixel element 13C comprises a blue-band spectral filtering element 10C spatially registered with a third polarization direction rotating element 9C. The output intensity (i.e. brightness or darkness level) of each red subpixel structure is controlled by applying pulse-width modulated voltage signal V_R to the electrodes of its electrically-controlled spatially intensity modulating element. The output intensity of each green subpixel structure is controlled by applying pulse-width modulated voltage signal V_G to the electrodes of its electrically-controlled spatially intensity modulating element. The output intensity of each blue subpixel structure is controlled by providing pulse-width modulated voltage signal V_B applied to the electrodes of its electrically-controlled spatially intensity modulating element. By simply controlling the width of the above-described voltages V_R , V_G , V_B , the grey-scale intensity (i.e.

brightness) level of each subpixel structure can be controlled in a manner well known in the LCD panel art.

[0398] In FIGS. 31A1 through 31F, a circularly polarizing embodiment of the system shown in FIG. 31 is shown in detail, along with a schematic of its operation during the generation of bright and dark subpixel structures.

[0399] In FIGS. 32A1 through 32F, a linearly polarizing embodiment of the system shown in FIG. 31 is shown in detail, along with a schematic of its operation during the generation of bright and dark subpixel structures.

[0400] Modifications To The Four Basic LCD System Designs To Reduce Glare From Ambient Light And Improve Image Contrast

[0401] As shown in FIG. 33, the LCD panel of FIGS. 10A1 and 10A2 is shown modified by mounting a first broad-band absorptive circular polarizer panel 8A" to the front surface of broad-band circularly polarizing reflective panel 8", and mounting a second broad-band absorptive circular polarizer panel 11A" to the front surface of broad-band circularly polarizing reflective panel 11". The polarization state of broad-band absorptive circular polarizer panel 8A" is LHCP in order to match the LHCP polarization state of broad-band circularly polarizing reflective panel 8". Such polarization matching ensures that spectral energy which is not reflected from the broad-band polarizing reflective panel 8", but is transmitted (i.e. leaked) therethrough due to a suboptimal extinction ratio, is absorbed by the broad-band absorptive circular polarizer panel 8A" through energy dissipation. Similarly, the polarization state of broad-band absorptive circular polarizer panel 11A" is RHCP in order to match the RHCP polarization state of broad-band polarizing reflective panel 11". Such polarization matching ensures that spectral energy which is not reflected from the broad-band polarizing reflective panel 11", but is transmitted (i.e. leaked) therethrough due to a suboptimal extinction ratio, is absorbed by the broad-band absorptive circular polarizer panel 11A" through energy dissipation. Preferably, these absorptive circularly polarizing filter panels 8A" and 11A" are laminated directly onto broad-band circularly polarizing reflective panels 8" and 11", respectively. The use of broad-band absorptive circular polarizers 8A" and 11A" substantially improves the contrast of images formed by the LCD panel, without reducing the light transmission efficiency along the light projection axis of the LCD panel. Such broad-band absorptive polarizers can be realized using dichroic polarizing material well known in the art.

[0402] As shown in FIG. 34, the LCD panel of FIGS. 9A1 and 9A2 is shown modified by mounting a first broad-band absorptive linear polarizer 8A' to the front surface of broad-band linearly polarizing reflective panel 8', and mounting a second broad-band absorptive linear polarizer panel 11A' to the front surface of broad-band linearly polarizing reflective panel 11'. The polarization state of broad-band absorptive linear polarizer panel 8A' is LP1 in order to match the LP1 polarization state of broad-band linearly polarizing reflective panel 8'. Such polarization matching ensures that spectral energy which is not reflected from the broad-band linearly polarizing reflective panel 8', but is transmitted (i.e. leaked) therethrough due to a suboptimal extinction ratio, is absorbed by the broad-band absorptive linear polarizer panel 8A' through energy dissipation. Similarly, the polarization state of broad-band absorptive linear polarizer panel 11A' is