

TABLE 1

[Table 1] Circular and linear strain test results						
Material	Prestrain (x, y)(%)	Actuated relative area strain (%)	Actuated relative area strain (%)	Field strength (MV/m)	Effective compressive stress (MPa)	Estimated $\frac{1}{2}\epsilon$ (MJ/m <sup>3</sup> )
Circular strain						
HS3 silicone	(68, 68)	48	93	110	0.3	0.098
	(14, 14)	41	69	72	0.13	0.034
CF 19-2186 silicon	(45, 45)	39	64	350	3.0	0.75
	(15, 15)	25	33	160	0.6	0.091
VHB 4910 acrylic	(300, 300)	61	158	412	7.2	3.4
	(15, 15)	29	40	55	0.13	0.022
Linear strain						
HS3	(280, 0)	54	117	128	0.4	0.16
CF 19-2186	(100, 0)	39	63	181	0.8	0.2
VHB 4910	(540, 75)	68	215	239	2.4	1.36

[0041] In order to increase the degree of strain of an electroactive polymer, a prestrain is applied. When a circular or linear prestrain is applied, the area of the electroactive polymer is increased. FIG. 2 illustrates an electroactive polymer before and after a voltage is applied to the electroactive polymer. When a circular prestrain is first applied and then a voltage is applied, the area of the electroactive polymer is increased and thus electrodes are extended. FIG. 3 illustrates a cross section of an electroactive polymer when a linear prestrain is first applied and then a voltage is applied. Referring to FIG. 3, the cross sectional area of the electroactive polymer is increased from A to B, and from C to D.

[0042] The light reflecting unit 115, which is disposed on the electroactive polymer layer 107, is deformed when the electroactive polymer layer 107 is strained such that a distance between the reflecting cells 115a is changed. The reflecting cells 115 may be reflecting micro mirrors. When the second electrode 110 is disposed over the electroactive polymer layer 107, the light reflecting unit 115 may be disposed on the second electrode 110. Alternatively, when a support layer 113 is disposed on a second electrode 110, the light reflecting layer 115 may be disposed on the support layer 113. The support layer 113 may be formed of an electroactive polymer.

[0043] The light blocking unit 118 may include a plurality of blocking cells 118a corresponding to the reflecting cells 115a of the light reflecting unit 115. The blocking cells 118a are arranged at predetermined intervals to be spaced apart from one another and face the reflecting cells 115a such that the blocking cells 118 can prevent external light from being reflected by the light reflecting unit 115 when no voltage is applied to the electroactive polymer layer 107. The blocking cells 118a absorb light and prevent light from passing there-through. The light blocking unit 118 may be spaced apart from the light reflecting unit 115, and a space between the light reflecting unit 115 and the light blocking unit 118 may be filled with a low reflective medium 120. The low reflective medium 120 may be formed of an index matching material.

[0044] The operation of the reflective unit according to the strain of the electroactive polymer layer 107 will now be explained.

[0045] FIG. 4A illustrates the state where the reflecting cells 115a and the blocking cells 118a are aligned with each other when no voltage is applied to the electroactive polymer layer 107. That is, the centerlines of the reflecting cells 115a and the blocking cells 118a coincide with each other. In this state, part of external light L is absorbed by the blocking cells 118a, and the remaining part of the external light L which passes between the blocking cells 118a, is reflected by the reflecting cells 115a, and then is absorbed by the blocking cells 118a, thereby displaying black. The blocking cells 118a may be formed of a material that can absorb light, and the reflecting cells 115a and the blocking cells 118a may have the same width.

[0046] FIG. 4B illustrates the state where the electroactive polymer layer 107 strained and the reflecting cells 115a are accordingly extended when a first voltage V1 is applied to the electroactive polymer layer 107. Since the light reflecting unit 115 is deformed whereas the light blocking unit 118 is not deformed when the first voltage V1 is applied to the electroactive polymer layer 107, there is a positional difference between the light reflecting unit 115 and the light blocking unit 118. Therefore, the centerlines of the light reflecting cells 115a and the blocking cells 118a no longer coincide with each other. In this state, part of the external light L which passes between the blocking cells 118a, is reflected by the reflecting cells 115a, and is reflected by the reflective unit.

[0047] When a distance between the reflecting cells 115a when no voltage is applied to the electroactive polymer layer 107 is do and a distance between the reflecting cells 115a when a voltage V is applied to the electroactive polymer layer 107 is d, the distance d between the reflecting cells 115a is defined by

$$d = \frac{d_0}{\sqrt{1 - \epsilon \epsilon_0 \frac{V^2}{Yt^2}}} \quad (1)$$

where  $\epsilon$  denotes the dielectric constant of the reflecting cells 115a,  $\epsilon_0$  denotes the dielectric constant of air, Y denotes a Youngs Modulus, and t denotes a distance between the first