

[0078] Another embodiment of the invention relates to FSA being applied to a substrate that has a first receptor region and a second receptor region. These regions may be of similar or different sizes. The objects that are contained in the slurry drop into the respective receptor regions that most closely match the size of the object.

[0079] A continuous process as in the invention offers the advantage of increasing the number of flat-panel displays produced, thereby reducing the cost of manufacturing the displays. FSA in conjunction with a deterministic method of placing blocks (e.g., "pick and place") with circuit elements of objects onto a rigid substrate or a web process material is disclosed. In this aspect of the invention, the recessed regions of the substrate are checked for empty regions. If there is an empty recessed region in the substrate, an object is robotically placed into the empty recessed region. The advantage offered by robotically placing an object into an empty recessed region of a substrate is that it increases the overall effectiveness and the quality of the displays.

[0080] In the following description, numerous specific details such as specific materials, processing parameters, processing steps, etc., are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the invention. One skilled in the art will recognize that these details need not be specifically adhered to in order to practice the claimed invention. In other instances, well known processing steps, materials, etc. are not set forth in order not to obscure the invention.

[0081] FIG. 6 shows pixel electrodes 46 on top of a substrate 48.

[0082] FIG. 7A shows a flexible display device, one embodiment of the invention. Here, an active matrix display backplane is coupled to a flexible substrate 52. The active matrix may include pixel electrodes and spatial light modulators. FIG. 7B shows a flexible display device wherein the active matrix display backplane 50 is coupled to a flexible substrate 52. Bistable crystal may be used in conjunction with the flexible substrate 52. A display of this type may be used in credit cards or some other type of card that has flexibility. Blocks 54 are deposited onto the flexible substrate and are part of the active matrix display backplane. The block 54 comprises an active circuit element (not shown) that drives a picture element (not shown). FIG. 7C shows the top view of a flexible display device wherein an active matrix display backplane 50 is coupled to a flexible substrate 52. The flexible display device is coupled to an object 56. The flexible display device conforms to the shape of the object 56.

[0083] FIG. 8A shows an active matrix display backplane 60. The plurality of blocks in the active matrix display backplane contain the active circuit element. This display backplane is flexible. FIG. 8B shows a passive matrix display backplane 62. This display backplane is flexible. FIG. 8C shows the top layer of a passive matrix backplane. FIG. 8D shows the bottom layer of a passive matrix backplane.

[0084] FIG. 9 shows one method of assembling a flexible display along the length of a flexible substrate 70 in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. First, blocks are assembled into the openings of the flexible substrate. Utilizing an FSA process, a plurality of blocks are deposited in a slurry that go into the recessed regions of the flexible

substrate. Planarization of the assembly of blocks into substrate 72 is the next step. Planarization takes place by depositing a material that may be spun to flatten or may be subjected to conventional chemical-mechanical polishing. Then, the electrical coupling of the plurality of blocks takes place at step 74 by opening holes in the planarization layer and depositing metalization material or other conductive materials into the holes and beyond the holes to form an interconnect (e.g., a row or column interconnect). The interconnect between the rows and columns is comprised of flexible and conductive material. For example, the interconnect could be made of conductive polymers, metals (e.g., aluminum, copper, silver, gold, etc.), metal particles, conductive organic compounds, or conductive oxides. The display is made to conform to the object's shape 78. It should be noted that the operations for forming the display may be done in a different order than that found in FIG. 9 and thus the operation 78 may be performed after operation 80. A display generation substrate (e.g., a PDLC layer) is coupled to the active matrix backplane 80.

[0085] FIG. 10 shows a method of manufacturing multiple displays along a flexible substrate. Multiple display components are created on a flexible substrate 200. The flexible substrate is advanced to a second region on the substrate 202. A new display component is created on the flexible substrate in a different region of the substrate 204 by advancing the flexible substrate through a web processing of apparatus 206 and coupling a display material to the substrate 208. Separation of the display panel occurs at the end of this process 210.

[0086] FIG. 11 shows a flexible substrate with multiple display components. The flexible substrate 220 has display component 222 and display component 224 attached thereto. The substrate has three lengths: a first length 226, a second length 228, and a third length 230. Display components 222 and 224 are active matrix display devices.

[0087] FIG. 12A shows display component 222 that has a passive matrix display backplane attached thereto. FIG. 12B shows a display component 224 that has an active matrix display backplane attached thereto.

[0088] FIG. 13 shows a flexible substrate 50 attached to a display backplane.

[0089] FIG. 14A shows a reflective display backplane 48 coupled to a flexible substrate 46. FIG. 14B shows a flexible reflective display backplane 48 coupled to a substrate 46. Blocks 14 are coupled to the flexible substrate 46 and to the flexible reflective display backplane 48. The reflective display backplane includes an interconnect layer 45. This interconnect layer 45 typically is comprised of metallic material. Coupled to the flexible substrate is a flexible reflector 48. FIG. 14C shows a flexible reflective display wherein recessed region 45 contains reflective material 44. The substrate 46 is coupled to the reflective display backplane 48.

[0090] FIG. 15A shows a method of fabricating a display device wherein a flexible substrate and a display tape undergo processing and are subsequently coupled. There, the flexible substrate is advanced along a process line 500. A slurry containing a plurality of blocks is dispensed onto the flexible substrate 502. A second slurry containing a plurality of blocks is again dispensed onto the substrate.