

select and drive a sub-pixel element in the display. Other circuits are also possible, such as TFT (thin film transistor) circuits.

[0023] Notwithstanding the foregoing specific examples discussed, in embodiments of the present invention, the sub-pixel and/or pixel element need not be of any particular type, and may include, by way of example only, OLEDs, electro-chromic devices, electronic ink, or any device that changes its optical properties or appearance when electricity is applied to the device. It is further observed an active matrix arrangement as described above could be used as an imaging system where the sub-elements are photosensitive and the data lines are read by the controller 220 as opposed to driven by the controller 220. In such a manner, embodiments of the present invention may also be used as an imaging system to, for example, record the faces of observers looking at the display.

[0024] In embodiments where paper is used in the carrier material 110, electro-chromic devices may be used to create a reflective display device 130. Such embodiments may comprise a pixel arrangement akin to the four-color process for printing. The four basic colors used to create the exact color specified by a graphics application program are generally referenced as CMYK. "C" represents Cyan or blue, "M" represents magenta or red, "Y" represents yellow, and "K" represents black. To support the generating of these colors, four sub-pixels may be used unless the color purity of the Cyan, Magenta and Yellow devices is adequate to produce black when combined in equal or nearly equal proportions. While the display device 130 may use addressing in a similar manner to that described above in connection with an active matrix, the image generated may need to be translated from RGB (Red Green Blue as used in emissive displays) format to CMY or CMYK format. This translation is well known in the computer application software art. In any regard, the basic electro-chromic device may comprise a two-electrode device, where each electrode comprises a blend of conductive polymers with electro-chromic properties appropriate for producing color variations at different applied electrical potentials. The active matrix transistor circuits can be printed on the carrier material 110 with inks formulated from organic semiconductors and/or conductive polymers.

[0025] FIG. 4 illustrates an example of an electro-chromic cell 410. A cross-sectional view of the cell 410 is shown FIG. 4A. An electrode 420 is deposited onto a substrate 450 along with a counter electrode 430 that is smaller in area but thicker than the electrode 420. A solid or semi-solid electrolyte 440 is placed over the two electrodes. Possible solid electrolytes include but are not limited to polyacrylamide, polyethyleneoxide, and polystyrenesulphonate, and Nafion. Nafion belongs to the wide class of solid super-acids catalysts, in that it exhibits acid strength greater than that of 100% H₂SO₄. It has hydrophobic (—CF₂—CF₂—) and hydrophilic (—SO₃H) regions in its polymeric structure, and its super-acidity is attributed to the electron-withdrawing effect of the perfluoro-carbon chain acting on the sulfonic acid group. By applying a potential across the electrodes the reflectance of the electrode 420 will vary with the magnitude of the applied potential. Electrode materials include, by way of example only, conjugated polymers films such as 3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene:poly(styrene sulfonate) (PEDOT-

PSS), polyaniline, polypyrrole, and other conductive polymers which possess electro-chromic properties.

[0026] FIG. 5 and FIG. 5A show a top view and a cross sectional view, respectively, of an example of an electro-chemical transistor 500 that may be used to produce a transistor circuit for active matrix addressing in an active matrix display that may utilize electro-chemical cells such as the electro-chromic cell 410 described above. The transistor 500 is formed by printing a "T" shape area of conductive polymer to form the drain 550, source 510, and one of two gates 520 for the transistor. A second area of conductive polymer in the shape of a rectangle is printed to form the second gate 540 contact. Conductive polymers used to make the electrodes for the electro-chromic cells can also be used to product the transistors and include, by way of example only, conjugated polymers films such as 3, 4-ethylenedioxythiophene:poly(styrene sulfonate) (PEDOT:PSS), polyaniline, polypyrrole, and other conductive polymers which possess variable electrical properties depending upon the doping state of the polymer which can be controlled by applying varying potentials across the two gate contacts. A layer of solid electrolyte 550 is placed over the polymer electrodes to provide a source of ions, which move in and out of the polymer film to change the film's electrical properties. Possible solid electrolytes include but are not limited to polyacrylamide, polyethyleneoxide, polystyrenesulphonate, and Nafion. The solid electrolyte is then covered with an encapsulation layer 560.

[0027] As noted earlier, embodiments of the electronic display device 130 may comprise an OLED (organic light emitting diode) structure. FIG. 6 shows a side view of a portion of material 610 that could be used in a carrier material 110 according to embodiments. The material 610 may have formed therein pre-patterned wells 620 containing bank structures. The material 610 could include, for example, substances such as polyimide, polyetherimide, polyester, and polyethylenenaphthalate. Amorphous silicon, polysilicon, or organic semiconductor TFT circuits 625 are formed at the bottom of the wells. The wells are then coated with a thin transparent conductor 630 such as ITO. One or more organic thin films or first polymer layer 640 in a thickness between 50 to 150-nm thick are deposited from solution using a printing technique. This first polymer layer 640 may be a non-emissive conducting polymer, polyethylenedioxythiophene (PEDOT) or polyaniline doped with poly-styrenesulphonic acid (PSS), which serves as a hole-injecting layer. A second polymer layer 650 may be deposited and may be an emissive polymer used to create either red, green or blue light. Examples of emissive polymers include Poly(p-phenylenes) PPP, Poly(phenylenes vinylenes) PPV, Dimethoxy-PPV, methoxy-ethylhexyloxy-PPV, polyfluorenes, dimethyl-polyfluorene. Finally, a metallic cathode 660 may be deposited on top of the emissive layer 650.

[0028] As noted earlier, the electronic display system according to embodiments of the present may be made with inexpensive materials, such that it would be in effect disposable. Accordingly, elements of the system could be specifically designed for a comparatively brief period of use. For example, the memory capacity of the system could be designed to hold only a small amount of data that is useful only for a short period of time.