

What is claimed:

1. A method of displaying an image of variable perceived depth using a display including one or more at least partially transparent, substantially parallel imaging screens located in front of, and overlapping with, a rear imaging screen,

characterised in that a physical image is formed on two or more imaging screens, each image being of substantially identical configuration and being sized and aligned such that like portions of each image are coterminous to a viewer observing the display,

wherein at least two of said coterminous images are displayed with different luminance.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said images appear coterminous when viewed along an observer's fixation axis substantially orthogonal to the plane of the said imaging screens.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the imaging screen areas adjacent the said images on at least two separate image planes are displayed with different luminance.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image and imaging screen area adjacent the said image are displayed with different luminance.

5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the said images appear coterminous to an observer viewing along a along a sight-line extending from a mid point between the observers eyes to the images.

6. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein an at least partially transparent emissive layer is located between said image planes.

7. The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said emissive layer is a light guide.

8. The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said emissive layer is a sheet with substantially planar opposed upper and a lower surfaces and a peripheral boundary of a prescribed thickness, said sheet formed from a material such that light rays incident from said peripheral boundary are retained between the said planar surface through total internal refraction at angles less than a critical angle.

9. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein at least one said sheet planar surface has a plurality of defined features located thereupon capable of refracting a said retained light ray incident on a said feature through an angle greater than the said critical angle of total internal reflection sufficient to exit said sheet via one of said planar surfaces.

10. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said features include diffusion dots, predetermined scratches, indentations protrusion, regular or irregular undulations and the like.

11. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein at least one light source is located along said peripheral boundary.

12. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said light source is a cold cathode fluorescent tube.

13. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said light source is formed from light emitting diodes.

14. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said features are distributed with an increasing density as a function of distance from said light source.

15. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said function is quadratic.

16. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the said prescribed thickness of the emissive sheet is reduced as a function of distance from a said light source.

17. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the display further includes a refractor interposed between at least two said imaging screens.

18. The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said refractor is formed from a material having a greater refractive index than that of a medium immediately adjacent the display exterior.

19. The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said refractor is incorporated in said emissive layer.

20. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said emissive layer is configured to refract the ray axis of light at the said peripheral border such that the peripheral boundary between adjacent screens is not visible along said viewer's sightline.

21. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said emissive layer only emits luminance in a direction away from said rear imaging screen.

22. The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said emissive layer is formed from a transparent organic light emitting diode (TOLED) assembly.

23. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein one or more of said screens are liquid crystal display (LCD) screens.

24. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rear imaging screen is non-transparent.

25. A display configured to operate in accordance with the method as claimed in claim 1.

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