[0050] (FIG. 3) A partial enlargement of FIG. 2

[0051] (FIG. 4) A control block diagram of the display device

[0052] (FIG. 5) An illustration showing how an image is displayed

[0053] (FIG. 6) An illustration showing how characters are displayed

[0054] (FIG. 7) An illustration showing how a combined display is provided

[0055] (FIG. 8) An illustration showing how characters are displayed in color

[0056] (FIG. 9) A flowchart of the procedure of image drawing processing executed by the CPU

[0057] (FIG. 10) The drawing operation at the first display module

[0058] (FIG. 11) The drawing operation at the second display module

[0059] (FIG. 12) The drawing operation at the first display module

[0060] (FIG. 13) A PDA equipped with a display device

[0061] (FIG. 14) A flow chart of the procedure of the drawing processing executed by the CPU

[0062] (FIG. 15) A top view of a digital camera equipped with the display device

[0063] (FIG. 16) A rear view of the digital camera

[0064] (FIG. 17) A front view of the digital camera

[0065] (FIG. 18) A control block diagram of the display device

[0066] (FIG. 19) An example of a display indicating the date and time, which may be provided in the power OFF state

[0067] (FIG. 20) Another-example of a display indicating the photographing history that may be provided in the power OFF state

[0068] (FIG. 21) Another example of a display may be provided in the power OFF state indicating the photographing conditions and the like

[0069] (FIG. 22) Another example of a display that may be provided in the power OFF state indicating the menu items

[0070] (FIG. 23) Another example of a display that may be provided in the power OFF state showing a single image

[0071] (FIG. 24) Another example of a display that may be provided in the power OFF state showing a plurality of thumbnail images

[0072] (FIG. 25) Another example of a display that may be provided in the power OFF state simultaneously providing a plurality of types of displays

[0073] (FIG. 26) A front view, a side elevation and a rear view of a portable telephone equipped with a display device

[0074] (FIG. 27) A block diagram of the control system in the portable telephone

[0075] (FIG. 28) A variation of the display device

[0076] (FIG. 29) Another variation of the display device

[0077] (FIG. 30) Yet another variation of the display device

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

First Embodiment

[0078] The following is an explanation of the best mode for carrying out the invention, given in reference to the drawings. A display device **100** achieved in the first embodiment of the present invention is mounted at an electronic device (electronic instrument) such as a PDA **200** as shown in FIG. **13**, or a portable telephone, a digital camera or an Electronic Book viewer (none shown).

[0079] FIGS. **1** and **2** illustrate the structure adopted in the display device **100** respectively in a front view and a side elevation. As shown in FIG. **1**, the display device **100** includes an effective display area **100***a* where an image, text or the like is displayed.

[0080] As shown in FIG. **2**, the display device **100** comprises a first display module **10** and a second display module **20** layered over the first display module. The two layered display modules **10** and **20** are illuminated by a backlight member from the side where the first display module **10** is present. The backlight member is constituted with a high-intensity white LED **141**, an LED substrate **142** at which the white LED **141** is mounted and a light guiding plate **14**. The light guiding plate **14** ranges over an area greater than at least the effective display area **100***a*. Light having been emitted from the white LED **141** and having entered the light guiding plate **14** from a side surface (the right side in FIGS. **1** and **2**) of the light guiding plate **14** is converted to planar illuminating light achieving a uniform brightness within the effective display area **100***a* and the first display module **10** is illuminated with this planar illuminating light. The user is able to observe the displayed image from above in FIG. **2**.

[0081] Display data, drive signals and the like are provided to the first display module **10** and the second display module **20** from the corresponding display control circuits to be detailed later respectively via flexible wiring substrates **150** and **151**.

[0082] FIG. **3** illustrates the internal structure adopted in the display device **100** in a partial enlargement of FIG. **2**. FIG. **3** shows the first display module **10** constituted with a liquid crystal panel of the known art adopting, for instance, a TFT method. A liquid crystal **11** is sealed between two glass substrates **12***a* and **12***b*, with a first polarizing plate **13***a* and a second polarizing plate **13***b* disposed so as to hold the glass substrates **12***a* and **12***b* between the polarizing plates. The direction along which light passing through the second polarizing plate **13***b* is polarized and the direction along which light passing through the first polarizing plate **13***a* is polarized are offset from each other by 90°. In addition, a color filter (not shown) is disposed between the glass substrate **12***b* and the second polarizing plate **13***b*.

[0083] When no voltage is applied from a transparent electrode (not shown) disposed on the inner side of the glass substrate **12**, the liquid crystal **11**, assuming a specific arrangement (orientation) for the liquid crystal molecules within the liquid crystal layer, rotates the polarizing direc-