

[0084] FIG. 10 is a partial front elevation view, in cross section of a display arrangement 170, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. The display arrangement 170 includes an LCD display 172 and a touch screen 174 positioned over the LCD display 170. The touch screen may for example correspond to the touch screen shown in FIG. 9. The LCD display 172 may correspond to any conventional LCD display known in the art. Although not shown, the LCD display 172 typically includes various layers including a fluorescent panel, polarizing filters, a layer of liquid crystal cells, a color filter and the like.

[0085] The touch screen 174 includes a transparent sensing layer 176 that is positioned over a first glass member 178. The sensing layer 176 includes a plurality of sensor lines 177 positioned in columns (extend in and out of the page). The first glass member 178 may be a portion of the LCD display 172 or it may be a portion of the touch screen 174. For example, it may be the front glass of the LCD display 172 or it may be the bottom glass of the touch screen 174. The sensor layer 176 is typically disposed on the glass member 178 using suitable transparent conductive materials and patterning techniques. In some cases, it may be necessary to coat the sensor layer 176 with material of similar refractive index to improve the visual appearance, i.e., make more uniform.

[0086] The touch screen 174 also includes a transparent driving layer 180 that is positioned over a second glass member 182. The second glass member 182 is positioned over the first glass member 178. The sensing layer 176 is therefore sandwiched between the first and second glass members 178 and 182. The second glass member 182 provides an insulating layer between the driving and sensing layers 176 and 180. The driving layer 180 includes a plurality of driving lines 181 positioned in rows (extend to the right and left of the page). The driving lines 181 are configured to intersect or cross the sensing lines 177 positioned in columns in order to form a plurality of capacitive coupling nodes 182. Like the sensing layer 176, the driving layer 180 is disposed on the glass member using suitable materials and patterning techniques. Furthermore, in some cases, it may be necessary to coat the driving layer 180 with material of similar refractive index to improve the visual appearance. Although the sensing layer is typically patterned on the first glass member, it should be noted that in some cases it may be alternatively or additionally patterned on the second glass member.

[0087] The touch screen 174 also includes a protective cover sheet 190 disposed over the driving layer 180. The driving layer 180 is therefore sandwiched between the second glass member 182 and the protective cover sheet 190. The protective cover sheet 190 serves to protect the under layers and provide a surface for allowing an object to slide thereon. The protective cover sheet 190 also provides an insulating layer between the object and the driving layer 180. The protective cover sheet is suitably thin to allow for sufficient coupling. The protective cover sheet 190 may be formed from any suitable clear material such as glass and plastic. In addition, the protective cover sheet 190 may be treated with coatings to reduce sticktion when touching and reduce glare when viewing the underlying LCD display 172. By way of example, a low sticktion/anti reflective coating may be applied over the cover sheet 190. Although the line layer is typically patterned on a glass member, it should be

noted that in some cases it may be alternatively or additionally patterned on the protective cover sheet.

[0088] The touch screen 174 also includes various bonding layers 192. The bonding layers 192 bond the glass members 178 and 182 as well as the protective cover sheet 190 together to form the laminated structure and to provide rigidity and stiffness to the laminated structure. In essence, the bonding layers 192 help to produce a monolithic sheet that is stronger than each of the individual layers taken alone. In most cases, the first and second glass members 178 and 182 as well as the second glass member and the protective sheet 182 and 190 are laminated together using a bonding agent such as glue. The compliant nature of the glue may be used to absorb geometric variations so as to form a singular composite structure with an overall geometry that is desirable. In some cases, the bonding agent includes an index matching material to improve the visual appearance of the touch screen 170.

[0089] With regards to configuration, each of the various layers may be formed with various sizes, shapes, and the like. For example, each of the layers may have the same thickness or a different thickness than the other layers in the structure. In the illustrated embodiment, the first glass member 178 has a thickness of about 1.1 mm, the second glass member 182 has a thickness of about 0.4 mm and the protective sheet has a thickness of about 0.55 mm. The thickness of the bonding layers 192 typically varies in order to produce a laminated structure with a desired height. Furthermore, each of the layers may be formed with various materials. By way of example, each particular type of layer may be formed from the same or different material. For example, any suitable glass or plastic material may be used for the glass members. In a similar manner, any suitable bonding agent may be used for the bonding layers 192.

[0090] FIGS. 11A and 11B are partial top view diagrams of a driving layer 200 and a sensing layer 202, in accordance with one embodiment. In this embodiment, each of the layers 200 and 202 includes dummy features 204 disposed between the driving lines 206 and the sensing lines 208. The dummy features 204 are configured to optically improve the visual appearance of the touch screen by more closely matching the optical index of the lines. While index matching materials may improve the visual appearance, it has been found that there still may exist some non-uniformities. The dummy features 204 provide the touch screen with a more uniform appearance. The dummy features 204 are electrically isolated and positioned in the gaps between each of the lines 206 and 208. Although they may be patterned separately, the dummy features 204 are typically patterned along with the lines 206 and 208. Furthermore, although they may be formed from different materials, the dummy features 204 are typically formed with the same transparent conductive material as the lines as for example ITO to provide the best possible index matching. As should be appreciated, the dummy features will more than likely still produce some gaps, but these gaps are much smaller than the gaps found between the lines (many orders of magnitude smaller). These gaps, therefore have minimal impact on the visual appearance. While this may be the case, index matching materials may be additionally applied to the gaps between the dummy features to further improve the visual appearance