IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:) Group Art Unit: 3991
Yoshiharu HIRAKATA et al.) Examiner: Stephen J. Stein
Reexamination No. 90/007,985 Filed: March 24, 2006 For: CONTACT STRUCTURE (Ex Parte reexamination of U.S.) CERTIFICATE OF MAILING I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Posta Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or
Patent No. 6,404,480 to Hirakata)) jorganon

PATENT OWNER'S STATEMENT OF THE INTERVIEW (37 CFR § 1.560) AND SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE

Mail Stop *Ex Parte* Reexam ATTN: Central Reexamination Unit Honorable Commissioner of Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The Applicant appreciates Examiner Stein's and Examiner Jones' time in conducting a personal interview on September 19, 2007. As described in more detail below, during the interview the Applicant's representatives explained that the present claims are not anticipated or rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,757,456 to Yamazaki, U.S. Patent No. 5,625,474 to Aomori, JP 6-289415 to Kiyofumi or JP 5-243333 to Moriyama, either alone or in combination with each other or with any of the secondary references of record (including without limitation JP 6-308510 to Tsuda and U.S. Patent No. 5,486,941 to Saiuchi) (JP 5-241183 to Furushima and U.S. Patent No. 6,124,917 to Fujioka are described in the *Response* filed September 10, 2007). The Examiner agreed to consider the Applicant's remarks following the submission of this *Patent Owner's Statement of the Interview and Supplemental Response*.

In the following, the Applicant summarizes each of the points discussed during the interview by the Applicant's representatives. Also, the Applicant has included



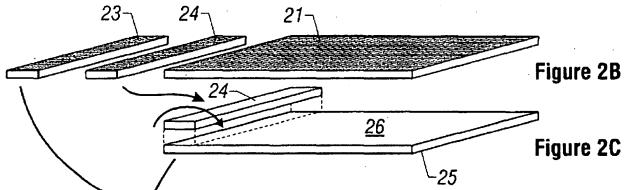
clarifications and reproductions of pertinent Figures that were discussed during the interview.

During the interview, regarding the rejection based on Kiyofumi '415, Mr. Stein provided a revised version of pages 7 and 8 of the Official Action mailed July 10, 2007, which includes in boldface at the top of page 8 the text that was missing from the bottom of page 7 of the Official Action mailed July 10, 2007. Until the interview, the Applicant did not have a complete copy of the Official Action and was unable to respond to this rejection in detail. During the interview, the Applicant discussed the rejection based on Kiyofumi '415; however, the Applicant has not, until now, provided a written response to the rejections based on Kiyofumi '415. By the present submission, the Applicant respectfully submits herewith arguments traversing the rejections based on Kiyofumi '415.

As necessary, please incorporate the corresponding arguments presented in the *Response* filed September 10, 2007.

Rejections based on Yamazaki '456

Yamazaki '456, Figures 2B and 2C



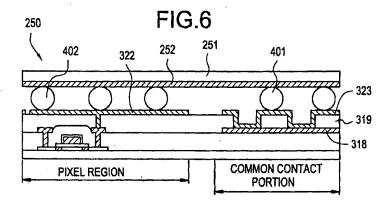
Yamazaki '456 cannot be used for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) because it is directed to an entirely different field of endeavor than the present application (see the Applicant's full comments at page 6 of the *Response* filed September 10, 2007). Generally, Yamazaki '456 is directed to a method for fabricating and mounting a driver circuit onto a display device, and in particular, a method for fabricating a driver circuit on a surrogate substrate, temporarily adhering the driver circuit and surrogate substrate to



a display device, and then removing the surrogate substrate from the display device, but leaving behind the driver circuit mounted to the display device.

Figures 2B and 2C of Yamazaki '456, which are reproduced above, illustrate that the reference relates to the fabrication and mounting of driver circuits. Specifically, a number of semiconductor integrated circuits 22 (referenced in Figure 2A) are formed on substrate 21, which is cut to form stick crystals, such as stick crystal 24 shown in Figures 2B and 2C. Next, stick crystal 24, along with its semiconductor integrated circuits 22, is bonded to surface 26 of substrate 25. In this process, semiconductor integrated circuits 22 are permanently bonded to surface 26 of substrate 25, but substrate 21 on which semiconductor integrated circuits 22 were formed is only temporarily bonded to surface 26 of substrate 25. Then, substrate 21 is peeled from substrate 25, leaving semiconductor integrated circuits 22 on surface 26 of substrate 25. Figures 2E and 2F illustrate that semiconductor integrated circuit 29 (formerly 22) is left bonded to surface 26 of substrate 25. (See also column 5, lines 20-40).

Whereas Yamazaki '456 is related to driver circuits, the present invention is directed to a contact portion of an active matrix display device as shown, for example, in Figure 6 of the present specification, reproduced below.



Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Yamazaki '456 be withdrawn.

Applicant also respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn for at least the following reasons.

Yamazaki '456 does not disclose, either explicitly or inherently, a second substrate (recited in claims 1, 11, 16 and 26). The substrate 31 of Yamazaki '456 is a



surrogate substrate that is used to fabricate the driver circuit, but that is subsequently peeled away from the semiconductor circuit that becomes incorporated into the display. The substrate is peeled away in order to reduce the overall thickness of the resulting device. Figure 4A of Yamazaki '456 (reproduced below) shows the substrate 31 before separation.

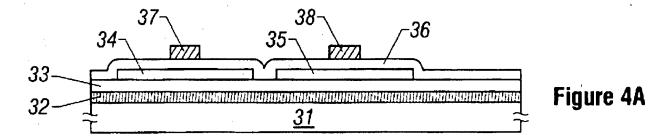
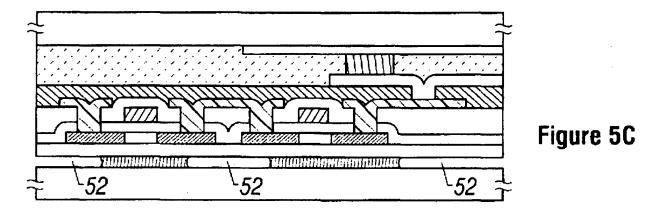


Figure 4A of Yamazaki '456 shows an incomplete device. The structure shown in Figure 4A is not an active matrix display device (which is recited in each of the claims of the present '480 patent). Figure 5C of Yamazaki '456 (reproduced below) shows the beginning of the removal (peeling away) of substrate 31. Figure 5C shows an incomplete device, and the structure shown in Figure 5C is not an active matrix device. Figure 5D of Yamazaki '456 (reproduced below) shows the stick driver portion of the display after substrate 31 has been removed. (NOTE: Figure 5D is flipped 180 degrees with respect to Figure 5C.)



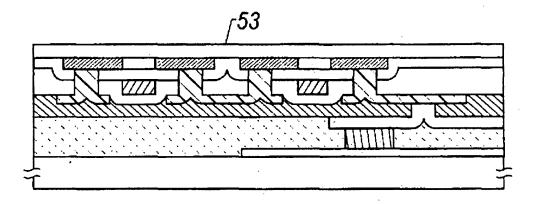


Figure 5D

Therefore, the surrogate substrate 31 cannot correspond to either the first or second substrate of the present claims.

During the interview, the Examiner argued that one may need to give patentable weight to the preamble (which recites "an active matrix display device") in order to support the position that the intermediate step and the surrogate substrate 31 shown in Figure 5C is not part of the final device. Since the preamble makes clear that the structure recited in the body of the claim is not for all devices, but for active matrix display devices in particular, the term "active matrix display device" is necessary to give life, meaning, and vitality to the claim. Therefore, the claim preamble should be construed as if in the balance of the claim (MPEP § 2111.02).

In addition, Yamazaki '456 does not disclose, either explicitly or inherently, at least two openings (recited in claims 1 and 11; i.e. Figure 2A, a "storm grate"; reproduced below).

FIG.2A

103 (111) 104a



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