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(11) **EP 0 838 802 A3**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
29.07.1998 Bulletin 1998/31

(51) Int. Cl.⁶: **G09G 3/36**

(43) Date of publication A2:
29.04.1998 Bulletin 1998/18

(21) Application number: **97307638.3**

(22) Date of filing: **29.09.1997**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC
NL PT SE**

(30) Priority: **30.09.1996 GB 9620395**

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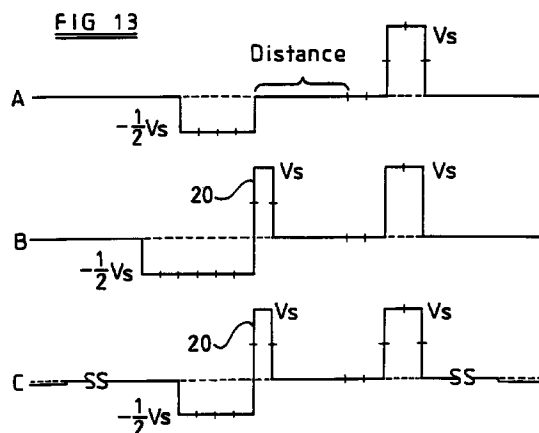
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(54) **Method of and apparatus for addressing a ferroelectric liquid crystal device and a ferroelectric liquid crystal device**

(57) A ferroelectric liquid crystal device, such as a display panel, has a plurality of pixels arranged as rows and columns in a passive matrix arrangement. Each pixel has a plurality of switching thresholds, for instance by having different regions (7, 8) of different thicknesses, so as to provide a plurality of grey levels. A voltage waveform is applied to each pixel for switching it to a desired grey level. A blanking pulse of a first polarity is applied to reset the pixel to a reset grey level. This is followed by a compensating pulse (20) of polarity opposite the first polarity, after which a waveform for selecting the desired grey level is provided. The effect of the compensating pulse (20) is to reduce the effect of τ_{min} shift so as to provide a relatively wide driving window (13) to allow more reliable selection of an intermediate grey level.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 30 7638

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	GB 2 271 011 A (CENTRAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES LTD.) 30 March 1994	1,2,4,6,7,9,11,12,14,16,17,19,21	G09G3/36
Y	* Abstract * * page 2, line 6 - line 21; figure 2 * * page 5, line 3 - page 6, line 28; figure 6 *	5,8,10,15,18,20	
D,Y	US 4 712 877 A (OKADA ET AL.) 15 December 1987	5,10,15,20	
A	* Abstract * * column 5, line 17 - line 54; figures 1,2 *	1,2,6,9,11,12,16,19	
Y	US 5 469 281 A (KATAKURA ET AL.) 21 November 1995	8,18	
A	* Abstract * * column 7, line 16 - column 9, line 63; figures 11-16 *	3,13	
A	EP 0 621 580 A (CANON K.K.) 26 October 1994 * Abstract * * page 4, line 12 - line 26; figures 4,5,9,11A-12 * * page 7, line 37 - page 10, line 1 *	1,2,6,7,11,12,16,17	G09G
D,A	EP 0 710 945 A (SHARP K.K.) 8 May 1996 * Abstract * * column 3, line 25 - column 4, line 19; figures 2-4,11,12 * * column 5, line 22 - line 35 *	1-3,6,9,11-13,16,19	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 4 June 1998	Examiner Corsi, F
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)