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(54) **High contrast black-and-white cholesteric liquid crystal display**

(57) The invention relates to a chiral nematic display configuration, typically in liquid crystal displays, comprising a chiral nematic display (1) of controllable planar structure and focal conic structure, characterised by the chiral nematic liquid crystal material (6) being between two transparent substrates (4,5) having conductive

electrodes, the material (6) being between two elliptical polarisers (2,3;7,8) and there being an optical reflector (9). The invention achieves a high contrast black-and-white display. The displays in the embodiment are first and second optical mode configurations of the black-and-white chiral nematic displays.

FIG. 1

First optical configuration of black-and-white chiral nematic display

