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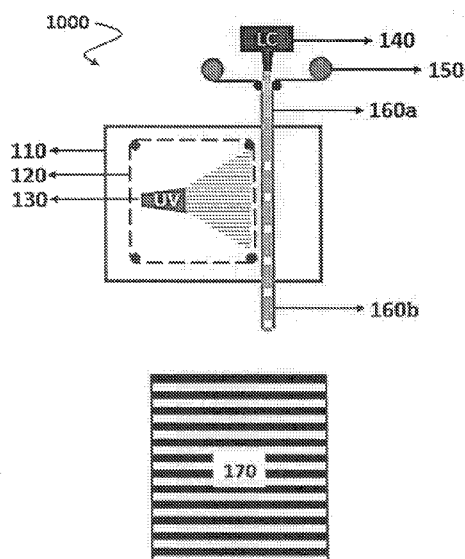


Figure 1

(57) Abstract: A polymer dispersed liquid crystal (PDLC) film, comprising:
at least one first transparent flexible film coated with conductive material;
at least one liquid crystal dispersion, allocated between said at least one first
transparent flexible film and at least one second transparent flexible film;
at least one second transparent flexible film coated with conductive material;
where the PDLC comprises a pattern or a signage. Furthermore, the inven-
tion comprises a multichannel controller that enables independent control of
each segment of the pattern,

DYNAMIC SIGNAGE, GLAZED AND PATTERNED PDLC DEVICES AND METHODS FOR CREATING THEREOF

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to any liquid crystal device and, more specifically, to a photolithographic and conductive film pattern methods for creating signage & patterns on a polymer dispersed liquid crystal film.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Patent US4938568 discloses a method of forming a polymer dispersed liquid crystal (PDLC) film which consists of forming a solution of LC dissolved in a monomer, photo-polymerizing the solution to form a film having a dispersion of LC inclusions therein, establishing a correlation between the LC inclusion size and selected characteristics of the film, selecting a LC inclusion size corresponding to desired film characteristics, and controlling the conditions of photopolymerization to achieve said LC inclusion size.

Suitable cure for the polymeric dispersed liquid crystal composites, where a photomask patterning technique is used, may be obtained by either Ultraviolet (UV) or Electron-Beam (EB) radiation mechanisms, where in the case of UV curing mechanism, a conventional UV photoinitiator is incorporated into the polymer components, and the composite is subjected to UV radiation. Cure or polymerization is achieved by directing a light of appropriate wavelength and intensity toward the solution. Ultraviolet light is typically used. A mercury lamp which emits light in the 300 to 500 nanometer wavelength range, with the greatest intensity at about 365 nanometers, is preferred. In the case of EB curing mechanism, no photoinitiator is necessary and curing operates at lower temperatures.

This method of curation enables a wide variety of applications of PDLC devices. In case of PDLC patterns created by etching techniques any method of curation can be used.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A polymer dispersed liquid crystal (PDLC) film, comprising: at least one first transparent flexible film coated with conductive material; at least one liquid crystal dispersion, allocated

between at least one first transparent flexible film and at least one second transparent flexible film; at least one second transparent flexible film coated with conductive material; wherein the PDLC comprises a pattern or a signage. Furthermore, the invention comprises a multichannel controller that enables independent control of each segment of the pattern,

The PDLC comprises a step of photo polymerization accomplished by ultraviolet or electron beam light exposure. The conditions of the photo polymerization are spatially varied by spatially varying the exposure intensity over the film. In one preferred embodiment of the invention the exposure intensity is spatially varied by exposing the film through a mask having a spatial variation in transmissivity. The mask is at least partially transmissive or has a spatial variation in transmissivity, thereby enabling substantially the entire film to polymerize at generally the same time but at spatially varying polymerization rates corresponding to the spatial variation in mask transmissivity. The solution is polymerized in a two-step polymerization process comprising an exposure through the mask at one exposure intensity in one step, and an exposure without the mask at a different exposure intensity in another step. In another preferred embodiment of the invention the transparent flexible film's conductive coating is characterized by discontinuity of the coating by means of etching by mechanical pressure. In another preferred embodiment of the invention the transparent flexible film's conductive coating is characterized by discontinuity of the coating by means of etching by laser beam. In these cases any method of curing can be used. The PDLC is characterized by a morphology in polymer matrix of nano-droplets, micro-droplets, macro-droplets or polymer network. The PDLC could be made by phase separation methods. The PDLC could be made by micro-encapsulation methods. The PDLC is allocated between two flexible transparent conductive supports. In one preferred embodiment of the invention one flexible transparent conductive support contains a pattern or signage due to the discontinuity in the conductive coating. In another preferred embodiment the liquid crystal device comprises a pattern or signage due to the variation in the exposure intensity and the usage of a photomask. The PDLC is characterized by the possibility of containing dichroic organic and metal-organic dyes. The PDLC is characterized by the possibility of containing nematic mixtures for static solar-reflection mode. The PDLC is characterized by the possibility of containing broad-band cholesteric materials for dynamic solar-control mode. The PDLC is characterized by the possibility of containing metal-organic mesogens dispersed in the liquid crystal composition.

A polymer dispersed liquid crystal (PDLC) film, comprising: at least one first transparent flexible film coated with conductive material; a liquid crystal dispersion, allocated between the flexible transparent conductive film and at least one second transparent flexible film coated with conductive material; wherein the PDLC film is characterized by different optical properties in the liquid crystal dispersion by means of variation of UV or electron beam light exposure during the curing process of the same.

A polymer dispersed liquid crystal (PDLC) film, where any of the transparent flexible films can be coated with an anti-scratch hard coating. Furthermore, any of said transparent flexible films can be coated with a dry or wet adhesive to create a retrofit film. Therefore, said PDLC can be a stand-alone device or retrofitted into an already existing surface.

A method for producing polymer dispersed liquid crystal (PDLC) film, comprising the steps of: providing materials for producing a PDLC, comprising: a first transparent flexible film coated with conductive material; a liquid crystal dispersion; a second transparent flexible film coated with conductive material; allocating the liquid crystal dispersion between a transparent flexible films coated with conductive material; curing the PDLC film by means of UV or electron beam light; wherein the step of curing further comprising step of inducing different exposure rates of the UV or electron beam light to the PDLC film. The step of inducing different exposure rates of the UV to the PDLC film is provided by using of a photomask.

The method further comprises a step of coating any of said transparent flexible films with an anti-scratch hard coating. The method further comprises a step of coating any of said transparent flexible films with a dry or wet adhesive to create a retrofit film. The method further comprises a step of retrofitting said PDLC film into an already existing surface. The method further comprises a step of enabling the mask to move synchronously to the PDLC film movement during the curing process.

A curing method for producing polymer dispersed liquid crystal (PDLC) film, comprising steps of: providing materials for producing a PDLC, comprising: a first transparent flexible film coated with conductive material; a liquid crystal dispersion; a second transparent flexible film coated with conductive material; allocating the liquid crystal dispersion between the transparent flexible films coated with conductive material; introducing the PDLC film in the curing machine; thereby

producing the PDLC; wherein the curing method comprising step of inducing different exposure rates of the UV to the PDLC film by means of a photomask.

A transparent flexible film coated with conductive material; wherein the transparent flexible film is characterized by a discontinuous coating of conductive material having a predetermined pattern. In one preferred embodiment of the invention the transparent flexible film's discontinuations are made by means of etching by mechanical pressure. In another preferred embodiment of the invention the transparent flexible film's discontinuations are made by means of etching by laser beam. In these cases any method of curation can be used.

A first method for producing discontinuations in the coating of a transparent flexible film coated with conductive material, the method comprising steps of: providing at least one transparent flexible film coated with conductive material; etching the conductive material by means of mechanical pressure according to a predefined scheme; wherein the step of etching by mechanical pressure creates a pattern.

A second method for producing discontinuations in the coating of a transparent flexible film coated with conductive material, the method comprising steps of: providing at least one transparent flexible film coated with conductive material; etching the conductive material by means laser beam according to a predefined scheme; wherein the step of etching by laser beam creates a pattern.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG.1 and FIG2 is a simplified illustration showing the method for creating patterns in PDLC by means of a photomask during curation.

FIG.3 is a simplified illustration showing the method for creating patterns in PDLC by means of a mechanical apparatus before the curation process.

FIG.4 is a simplified illustration showing the method for creating patterns in PDLC by means of a laser before the curation process.

FIG. 5 is a schematic illustration of the multichannel controller connected to the segmented PDLC film.

FIG. 6 is a schematic illustration of the multichannel controller connected to the segmented PDLC film and further connected to the human controlling interfaces.

FIG. 7 is a schematic block diagram illustration of the multichannel controller composed by the system manager unit and the segment control unit

FIG. 8 is a schematic block diagram illustration of the system manager unit.

FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram of an example of the timing signals from the Control Unit (3) located in the System Manager Unit (1) towards each segment in order to operate the blind in a selected sequence.

FIG. 10 is a schematic block diagram illustration of the segment controller unit (2).

FIG. 11 is a schematic illustration of an example of the directionality of which the blinds can be operated.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The following description is provided, so as to enable any person skilled in the art to make use of the invention and sets forth the best modes contemplated by the inventor of carrying out this invention. Various modifications, however, are adapted to remain apparent to those skilled in the art, since the generic principles of the present invention have been defined specifically to provide PDLC films with specific patterns and the methods thereof. Thus a novel method for creating such films has been obtained.

Retrofit(ing): refers hereinafter to the modification of a conventional window or surface by combining the same in some manner with an enhancement, i.e., a switchable glazing, non-switchable light modulating device, etc.

In order to understand the novelty in the method presented in this invention the general method for creating PDLC should be explained. In polymer dispersed liquid crystal devices (PDLCs), liquid crystals are dissolved or dispersed into a liquid polymer followed by solidification or curing of the polymer. There are several curing techniques. One example is radiation curing by either Ultraviolet (UV) or Electron-Beam (EB). During the change of the polymer from a liquid to solid, the liquid crystals become incompatible with the solid polymer and form droplets throughout the solid polymer. The curing conditions affect the size of the droplets that in turn affect the final operating properties of the PDLC. Typically, the liquid mix of polymer and liquid

crystals is placed between two layers of glass or plastic that include a thin layer of a transparent, conductive material followed by curing of the polymer, thereby forming the basic sandwich structure of the PDLC. Electrodes connected to a power supply are attached to the transparent conductive material. With no applied voltage, the liquid crystals are randomly arranged in the droplets, resulting in scattering of light as it passes through the smart window assembly. This results in the translucent, appearance. When a voltage is applied to the electrodes, the electric field formed between the two transparent electrodes on the glass or film causes the liquid crystals to align, allowing light to pass through the droplets with very little scattering and resulting in a transparent state. The degree of transparency can be controlled by the applied voltage. This is possible because at lower voltages, only a few of the liquid crystals align completely in the electric field, so only a small portion of the light passes through while most of the light is scattered. As the voltage is increased, fewer liquid crystals remain out of alignment, resulting in less light being scattered. It is also possible to control the amount of light and heat passing through, when tints and special inner layers are used. It is also possible to create fire-rated and anti X-Ray versions for use in special applications. Most of the devices offered today operate in on or off states only, even though the technology to provide for variable levels of transparency is easily applied. This technology has been used in interior and exterior settings for privacy control (for example conference rooms, intensive-care areas, bathroom/shower doors) and as a temporary projection screen. It is commercially available in rolls as adhesive backed Smart film that can be applied to existing windows and trimmed to size in the field (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smart_glass#Polymer_dispersed_liquid_crystal_devices – included hereby as reference).

According to the present invention two different main types of patterned PDLC are presented: 1. The patterns are created by using a photomask. 2. The patterns are created using etching techniques. In the first type because of the photomask different morphologies are created inside the liquid crystal dispersion and when an electrical signal is applied different transparencies are obtained according to the pattern created by the photomask. In the second type according to the mechanical etching – each segment is isolated from the others and needs its own electrical signal because there is discontinuation of the conductive layer. In this case the invention comprises a multichannel controller that enables independent control of each segment of the pattern.

According to the present invention, different techniques may be applied to the PDLC in order to confer patterns and signs to the film.

A first technique comprises modification of the optical properties of the film by means of introducing a variable in the UV (or EB) exposure intensity during the curation of the polymer by means of a moving photomask. This variation allows the existence of different size of droplets within the same film. Reference is now made to Figure 1. Schematic illustration of a roll-to-roll continuous manufacturing process for the preparation of liquid crystal film, comprising a device **1000** for manufacturing PDLC, where liquid crystal **140** dispersed in polymer is being poured into two layers of glass or plastic comprising very thin, transparent, conducting films (like ITO, silver or any other coating material) **150**, then inserted into the curation machine **110**, in which the uncured PDLC **160a** is being exposed to ultraviolet rays (UV) or electron beam (EB) **130** in order to begin the polymerization process. The cured PDLC **160b** exits the device with characteristics that are depended on the polymerization conditions over the film area. For a PDLC film polymerized by exposure to UV (or EB) radiation, the LC inclusion size has been found to increase with lower exposure intensities, and to decrease with greater exposure intensities. In turn, the film's threshold and operating voltages for optical transmission can be increased by reducing the inclusion size (increasing the exposure intensity) or decreased by increasing the inclusion size (reducing the exposure intensity); its contrast ratio and absolute transmission can be increased by decreasing the inclusion size (increasing the exposure intensity) or decreased by increasing the inclusion size (decreasing the exposure intensity); its optical response times can be increased by increasing the inclusion size (reducing the exposure intensity) or decreased by decreasing the inclusion size (increasing the exposure intensity). The temperature at which polymerization takes place and the LC concentration can also be selected to determine the film's electro-optic properties. In general, smaller LC inclusions are formed at higher temperatures and with lower LC molecule concentrations. Photomask **120** is designed to impose a spatial variation in the amount of UV radiation reaching the underlying solution **160b**, with a corresponding spatial variation in its rate of polymerization. This in turn produces a spatial variation in the LC inclusion size within the finished PDLC film **160b**, the distribution of LC inclusion sizes being controlled by the mask design and contrast **170**. Figure 1, illustrates one type of mask that can be used to produce a periodic spatial variation in LC inclusion size that yields a film with built-in diffraction gratings. The mask consists of

transmissive areas separated by periodic bands of lesser or zero transmissivity. The mask may be implemented as a rotating designed mask **120**, with bands formed by metal strips on the substrate. When the bands completely block the UV radiation, polymerization can be performed in a two-step process. In the first step, mask is held in place over the film structure, and the portions of solution which are not blocked by the mask are at least partially polymerized by exposure at a given UV intensity. This results in the formation of relatively small LC inclusions in the exposed regions. The mask is then removed and the film exposed again, but at a lesser UV intensity, resulting in the formation of relatively larger LC inclusions in the areas not previously polymerized. Alternately, the masked exposure could be performed at a lesser UV intensity than the unmasked exposure.

In another embodiment the mask moves synchronously to the PDLC film movement during the curing process. This is done by adding the specific components to the curing machine.

In one preferred embodiment of the invention, the variation in curation is enabled by means of a photomask that rotates concomitantly with the passage of the film through the UV curator compartment.

A second technique comprises modification of the optical properties of the film by means of introducing a variable in the UV (or EB) exposure time during the curation of the polymer by means of a fixed photomask. This variation allows the existence of different size of droplets within the same film. Reference is now made to Figure 2. Schematic illustration of a roll-to-roll continuous manufacturing process for the preparation of liquid crystal film, comprising a device **2000** for manufacturing PDLC, where liquid crystal **240** dispersed in polymer is being poured into two layers of glass or plastic comprising very thin, transparent, conducting films (like ITO, silver or any other coating material) **250**, then inserted into the curation machine **210**, in which the uncured PDLC **260a** is being exposed to ultraviolet rays (UV) or electron beam (EB) **230** in order to begin the polymerization process. The cured PDLC **260b** exits the device with characteristics that are depended on the polymerization conditions over the film area. Photomask **220** is designed to impose a spatial focalized amount of UV (or EB) radiation reaching the underlying solution **260b**, with a corresponding spatial variation in its rate of polymerization by means of the time exposure to each segment of the PDLC. This in turn produces a spatial

variation in the LC inclusion size within the finished PDLC film **260b**, the distribution of LC inclusion sizes being controlled by the time of exposure **270**.

In another preferred embodiment of the invention, the variation in curation is enabled by means of changing the time of exposure in different segments of the PDLC. This can be achieved by increasing the speed of the passage of the film through the UV curing compartment, providing longer exposure at the beginning of the film and shorter exposure at the end of it. This technique requires to concentrate the UV exposure to the film to a small area. This is done using a special photomask that, instead of rotating concomitantly to the film, it doesn't rotate.

A third technique comprises cutting the conductive film material in order to create isolated zones of conduction within the PDLC. In this case any method of curation can be used.

Reference is now made to Figure 3. Schematic illustration of a roll-to-roll continuous manufacturing process for the preparation of liquid crystal film, comprising a first step of mechanically **320** interrupting the continuous phase of the conductive film **350a** in order to create a new conductive film comprising a pattern **350b**; and a second step, comprising a device **3000** for manufacturing PDLC, where liquid crystal **340** dispersed in polymer is being poured into two layers of glass or plastic comprising very thin, transparent, one patterned and one not, conducting films (like ITO, silver or any other coating material) **350a-b**, then inserted into the curation machine **310**, in which the uncured PDLC **360a** is being exposed to any kind of curation method, in this specific case ultraviolet rays (UV) **330** in order to begin the polymerization process. The cured PDLC **360b** exits the device with characteristics that are depended on the etching patterns created over the conductive film area **370**.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, a pattern can be applied by mechanical pressure to the conductive film in order to create independent conduction zones, which can be activated in any possible order. From this point on mechanical pressure refers to any of the following: etching, engraving, cutting, carving and any action that can describe the removal of specific material from a specific area of the conductive film.

Reference is now made to Figure 4. Schematic illustration of a roll-to-roll continuous manufacturing process for the preparation of liquid crystal film, comprising a first step of interrupting, by means of a laser beam **420**, the continuous phase of the conductive film **450a** in order to create a new conductive film comprising a pattern **450b**; and a second step, comprising a

device **4000** for manufacturing PDLC, where liquid crystal **440** dispersed in polymer is being poured into two layers of glass or plastic comprising very thin, transparent, one patterned and one not, conducting films (like ITO, silver or any other coating material) **450a-b**, then inserted into the curation machine **310**, in which the uncured PDLC **460a** is being exposed to any kind of curation method, in this specific case ultraviolet rays (UV) **430** in order to begin the polymerization process. The cured PDLC **460b** exits the device with characteristics that are depended on the etching patterns created over the conductive film area **470**.

In another preferred embodiment of the invention, a laser is applied to the conductive film in order to create independent conduction zones, which can be activated in any possible order.

In the technique using the etching techniques, the different segments in the patterned PDLC can be activated and deactivated individually and in any possible order and timing due to The Multichannel Controller (Gauzy Multichannel LC Controller). In the technique using the photomask, there is no need for the multichannel controller since all the film is in one piece and the difference is in the morphology. Therefore in this approach by changing the voltage to the entire film different parts of the film will work at different voltage levels.

For example: at 0V all film is opaque; at 15V a certain pattern turns transparent; at 45V another pattern turns transparent and at 70V all the film turns transparent.

In order to control the different parts, Gauzy's dimmer technology (US 20130188105 A1 – incorporated herein as reference) will be used to power this type of film.

Reference is now made to Figure 5. Schematic illustration of the multichannel controller connected to the segmented PDLC. It is shown that the multichannel controller is connected independently to each segment of the PDLC in order to control each segment independently of the others.

Reference is now made to Figure 6. Schematic illustration of the multichannel controller connected to the segmented PDLC and further connected to the human controlling interfaces, like a wall switch manual control, a smart home automatic systems or a smartphone/tablet.

Reference is now made to Figure 7. Schematic block diagram illustration of the multichannel controller, which is composed of two units: a System Manager Unit and a Segment Control Unit. System Manager Unit (1) is responsible to handle human interface commands, perform all timing

operations and send commands to Segment Control Units (2) to turn ON or OFF the individual segments. The System Manager Unit controls the order of the operation of the segments, the time between each segment is being operated, and also includes the user interface circuitry, and the network connection (Ethernet block). Segment Control Units (2, 2a-2n) are segment controls, one per segment in the blind or pattern, which are responsible to directly operate the segment. Includes protection, dimming control for the segment, ability to change the speed of changing from opaque to transparent.

Reference is now made to Figure 8. Schematic block diagram illustration of the System Manager Unit. A Control Unit (3), composed by but not limited to a microcontroller device, is responsible to calculate and perform all the timing to operate the pattern segments. The microcontroller (3) outputs a signal for each segment to initiate the transition from opaque to transparent or from transparent to opaque. This device (3) is the general management unit of the system. User interface (4) is composed from circuitry to accept and interpret commands from external user interface actions like wall switches, smart home relays, automatic control systems, etc. Ethernet block (5) is used to connect the System Manager Unit to the internet and connect the system to remote management and receive operation commands remotely. Signal generator (6) generates the square wave signal according to gauzy technology (US 20130188105 A1) in order to drive the PDLC segments (C1, C2 ... Cn, Cn+1, Cn+m).

Reference is now made to Figure 9. Schematic diagram of an example of the timing signals from the Control Unit (3) located in the System Manager Unit (1) towards each segment in order to operate the pattern in a selected sequence. In this case it is shown a sequence suitable to create a blind. Where T – is the delay or time between operations of each segment. T is adjustable in the Control Unit (3).

Reference is now made to Figure 10. Schematic block diagram illustration of the segment control unit (2). Controlled switch (7) to provide the electrical signal to the PDLC segment. It can be a mechanical relay controlled from signal Cn or a complex transistor array with soft start mechanism to enable dimming actuation (select the speed at which the PDLC changes from opaque to transparent and vice versa). Protection circuitry (8) is a short circuit protection, over voltage protection, overload protection.

Example

In a preferred embodiment of the invention the patterns are in rectangular shapes, in a way that they have a blind-like formation on the PDLC device. In one state the window is completely transparent, while in other states parts of the rectangular patterns are being activated. This activation is time and velocity dependent accordingly with the instructions received in the Manager System Unit.

Reference is now made to Figure 11. Schematic illustration of an example of the directionality of which the blinds can be operated.

In a preferred embodiment the PDLC device with the signage and/or pattern can be enclosed between two glasses or may be retrofitted on existing interior and exterior architectural glazing, automotive windows, and other interior glazing. A transparent wet or dry adhesive can be used to stick the panel to the window, which may be integral with the panel or separately provided. The panel may also be applied to original windows before installation.

In another preferred embodiment any of the transparent flexible films can be coated with an anti-scratch hard coating. Furthermore, any of said transparent flexible films can be coated with a dry or wet adhesive to create a retrofit film. Therefore, said PDLC can be a stand-alone device or retrofitted into an already existing surface.

This invention can be used in a wide variety of applications including, but not limited to: advertising, store windows, blinds, decorative glass, home appliances like refrigerators, and architectural privacy windows.

What is claimed is:

1. A polymer dispersed liquid crystal (PDLC) film, comprising:
 - a. at least one first transparent flexible film coated with conductive material;
 - b. at least one liquid crystal dispersion, allocated between said at least one first transparent flexible film and at least one second transparent flexible film;
 - c. at least one second transparent flexible film coated with conductive material;wherein said PDLC comprises a pattern or a signage.
2. The PDLC film of claim 1, wherein said PDLC comprises a step of photopolymerization accomplished by ultraviolet rays (UV) or electron beam (EB) light exposure.
3. The PDLC film of claim 2, wherein the conditions of said photopolymerization are spatially varied by spatially varying the exposure intensity over the film.
4. The PDLC film of claim 3, wherein said exposure intensity is spatially varied by exposing the film through a mask having a spatial variation in transmissivity.
5. The PDLC film of claim 4, wherein said mask is at least partially transmissive or said spatial variation in transmissivity, thereby enabling substantially the entire film to polymerize at generally the same time but at spatially varying polymerization rates corresponding to the spatial variation in mask transmissivity.
6. The PDLC film of claim 1, wherein the solution is polymerized in a two-step polymerization process comprising an exposure through said mask at one exposure intensity in one step, and an exposure without the mask at a different exposure intensity in another step.
7. The PDLC film of claim 1, wherein said conductive film coating is characterized by discontinuity of the coating by means of etching by mechanical pressure.
8. The PDLC film of claim 1, wherein said conductive film coating is characterized by discontinuity of the coating by means of etching by laser beam.
9. The PDLC film of claim 1, wherein said PDLC is characterized by a morphology in polymer matrix of nano-droplets, micro-droplets, macro-droplets or polymer network.
10. The PDLC film of claim 1, wherein said PDLC could be made by phase separation methods.

11. The PDLC film of claim 1, wherein said PDLC could be made by micro-encapsulation methods.
12. The PDLC film of claim 1, wherein said PDLC is characterized by the possibility of containing dichroic organic and metal-organic dye.
13. The PDLC film of claim 1, wherein said PDLC is characterized by the possibility of containing nematic mixtures for static solar-reflection mode.
14. The PDLC film of claim 1, wherein said PDLC is characterized by the possibility of containing broad-band cholesteric materials for dynamic solar-control mode.
15. The PDLC film of claim 1, wherein said PDLC is characterized by the possibility of containing metal-organic mesogens dispersed in the liquid crystal composition.
16. The PDLC film of claim 1, further comprising a Multichannel Controller characterized by:
 - a. at least one system manager unit; and,
 - b. at least one segment control unit, interconnected to said system controller on one side and interconnected to the segment of said PDLC.
17. The system controller of claim 16, further comprising at least one microcontroller unit, at least one user interface, at least one Ethernet block and at least one signal generator.
18. The microcontroller unit of claim 17, wherein said microcontroller is adapted to calculate and perform the timing to operate said segments.
19. The PDLC film of claim 1, further comprising a dimmer and switch adapted for driving a capacitive or complex capacitive-resistive load.
20. The PDLC film of claim 1, wherein any of said transparent flexible films can be coated with an anti-scratch hard coating.
21. The PDLC film of claim 1, wherein any of said transparent flexible films can be coated with a dry or wet adhesive to create a retrofit film.
22. The PDLC film of claim 1, wherein said PDLC can be a stand-alone device or retrofitted into an already existing surface.
23. A polymer dispersed liquid crystal (PDLC) film, comprising:
 - a. at least one first transparent flexible film coated with conductive material;

- b. at least one liquid crystal dispersion, allocated between said at least one first transparent flexible film and at least one second transparent flexible film;
- c. at least one second transparent flexible film coated with conductive material;

wherein said first transparent flexible film is characterized by a discontinuous coating of conductive material having a predetermined pattern.

- 24. The PDLC film of claim 23, wherein said PDLC comprises a step of photopolymerization accomplished by any curing technique.
- 25. The PDLC film of claim 23, wherein said conductive film coating is characterized by discontinuity of the coating by means of etching by mechanical pressure.
- 26. The PDLC film of claim 23, wherein said conductive film coating is characterized by discontinuity of the coating by means of etching by laser beam.
- 27. The PDLC film of claim 23, wherein said PDLC is characterized by a morphology in polymer matrix of nano-droplets, micro-droplets, macro-droplets or polymer network.
- 28. The PDLC film of claim 23, wherein said PDLC could be made by phase separation methods.
- 29. The PDLC film of claim 23, wherein said PDLC could be made by micro-encapsulation methods.
- 30. The PDLC film of claim 23, wherein said PDLC is characterized by the possibility of containing dichroic organic and metal-organic dye.
- 31. The PDLC film of claim 23, wherein said PDLC is characterized by the possibility of containing nematic mixtures for static solar-reflection mode.
- 32. The PDLC film of claim 23, wherein said PDLC is characterized by the possibility of containing broad-band cholesteric materials for dynamic solar-control mode.
- 33. The PDLC film of claim 23, wherein said PDLC is characterized by the possibility of containing metal-organic mesogens dispersed in the liquid crystal composition.
- 34. The PDLC film of claim 23, further comprising a Multichannel Controller characterized by:
 - a. at least one system manager unit; and
 - b. at least one segment control unit, interconnected to said system controller on one side and interconnected to the segment of said PDLC.

35. The system controller of claim 34, further comprising at least one microcontroller unit, at least one user interface, at least one Ethernet block and at least one signal generator.
36. The microcontroller unit of claim 35, wherein said microcontroller is adapted to calculate and perform the timing to operate said segments.
37. The PDLC film of claim 23, wherein any of said transparent flexible films can be coated with an anti-scratch hard coating.
38. The PDLC film of claim 23, wherein any of said transparent flexible films can be coated with a dry or wet adhesive to create a retrofit film.
39. The PDLC film of claim 23, wherein said PDLC can be a stand-alone device or retrofitted into an already existing surface.
40. A polymer dispersed liquid crystal (PDLC) film, comprising:
 - a. at least one first transparent flexible film coated with conductive material;
 - b. a liquid crystal dispersion, allocated between said flexible transparent conductive film; and
 - c. at least one second transparent flexible film coated with conductive material;wherein said PDLC film is characterized by different optical properties in said liquid crystal dispersion by means of variation of ultraviolet rays (UV) or electron beam (EB) light exposure during the curing process of the same.
41. The PDLC film of claim 40, wherein said PDLC comprises a step of photopolymerization accomplished by ultraviolet rays (UV) or electron beam (EB) light exposure.
42. The PDLC film of claim 41, wherein the conditions of said photopolymerization are spatially varied by spatially varying the exposure intensity over the film.
43. The PDLC film of claim 42, wherein said exposure intensity is spatially varied by exposing the film through a mask having a spatial variation in transmissivity.
44. The PDLC film of claim 40, wherein said mask is at least partially transmissive or said spatial variation in transmissivity, thereby enabling substantially the entire film to polymerize at generally the same time but at spatially varying polymerization rates corresponding to the spatial variation in mask transmissivity.
45. The PDLC film of claim 40, wherein the solution is polymerized in a two-step polymerization process comprising an exposure through said mask at one exposure

intensity in one step, and an exposure without the mask at a different exposure intensity in another step.

46. The PDLC film of claim 40, wherein said PDLC is characterized by a morphology in polymer matrix of nano-droplets, micro-droplets, macro-droplets or polymer network.
47. The PDLC film of claim 40, wherein said PDLC could be made by phase separation methods.
48. The PDLC film of claim 40, wherein said PDLC could be made by micro-encapsulation methods.
49. The PDLC film of claim 40, wherein said PDLC is characterized by the possibility of containing dichroic organic and metal-organic dye.
50. The PDLC film of claim 40, wherein said PDLC is characterized by the possibility of containing nematic mixtures for static solar-reflection mode.
51. The PDLC film of claim 40, wherein said PDLC is characterized by the possibility of containing broad-band cholesteric materials for dynamic solar-control mode.
52. The PDLC film of claim 40, wherein said PDLC is characterized by the possibility of containing metal-organic mesogens dispersed in the liquid crystal composition.
53. The PDLC film of claim 40, further comprising a dimmer and switch adapted for driving a capacitive or complex capacitive-resistive load.
54. The PDLC film of claim 40, wherein any of said transparent flexible films can be coated with an anti-scratch hard coating.
55. The PDLC film of claim 40, wherein any of said transparent flexible films can be coated with a dry or wet adhesive to create a retrofit film.
56. The PDLC film of claim 40, wherein said PDLC can be a stand-alone device or retrofitted into an already existing surface.
57. A method for producing polymer dispersed liquid crystal (PDLC) film, comprising the steps of:
 - a. providing materials for producing a PDLC, comprising:
 - i. a first transparent flexible film coated with conductive material;
 - ii. a liquid crystal dispersion;
 - iii. a second transparent flexible film coated with conductive material;

- b. allocating said liquid crystal dispersion between a transparent flexible films coated with conductive material;
- c. curing said PDLC film by means of UV or electron beam light;

wherein said step of curing further comprising step of inducing different exposure rates of said UV or electron beam light to said PDLC film.

- 58. The method of claim 57, wherein said step of inducing different exposure rates of said UV to said PDLC film is provided by using of a photomask.
- 59. The method of claim 57, wherein said conditions of said photopolymerization are spatially varied by spatially varying the exposure intensity over the film.
- 60. The method of claim 59, wherein said exposure intensity is spatially varied by exposing the film through a mask having a spatial variation in transmissivity.
- 61. The method of claim 60, wherein said mask is at least partially transmissive or said spatial variation in transmissivity, thereby enabling substantially the entire film to polymerize at generally the same time but at spatially varying polymerization rates corresponding to the spatial variation in mask transmissivity.
- 62. The method of claim 57, wherein the step of curing further comprises two-step polymerization process comprising a first step of exposing through said mask at one exposure intensity, and a second step of exposing without the mask at a different exposure intensity.
- 63. The method of claim 57, wherein said PDLC is characterized by a morphology in polymer matrix of nano-droplets, micro-droplets, macro-droplets or polymer network.
- 64. The method of claim 57, wherein said PDLC could be made by phase separation methods.
- 65. The method of claim 57, wherein said PDLC could be made by micro-encapsulation methods.
- 66. The method of claim 57, wherein said step of providing liquid crystal dispersion further comprises a step of introducing dichroic organic and metal-organic dye into said liquid crystal dispersion.

67. The method of claim 57, wherein said step of providing liquid crystalal dispersion further comprises a step of introducing nematic mixtures for static solar-reflection mode into said liquid crystal dispersion.
68. The method of claim 57, wherein said step of providing liquid crystalal dispersion further comprises a step of introducing broad-band cholesteric materials for dynamic solar-control mode into said liquid crystal dispersion.
69. The method of claim 57, wherein said step of providing liquid crystalal dispersion further comprises a step of introducing metal-organic mesogens into said liquid crystal dispersion.
70. The method of claim 57, further comprising a step of providing a Multichannel Controller characterized by:
 - a. at least one system manager unit; and,
 - b. at least one segment control unit, interconnected to said system controller on one side and interconnected to the segment of said PDLC.
71. The method of claim 57, further comprising a step of providing at least one microcontroller unit, at least one user interface, at least one Ethernet block and at least one signal generator.
72. The method of claim 57, further comprising the step of adapting said microcontroller to calculate and perform the timing to operate said segments.
73. The method of claim 57, further comprising a step of coating any of said transparent flexible films with an anti-scratch hard coating.
74. The method of claim 57, further comprising a step of coating any of said transparent flexible films with a dry or wet adhesive to create a retrofit film.
75. The method of claim 57, further comprising the step a retrofitting said PDLC film into an already existing surface.
76. The method of claim 57, further comprising a step of enabling the mask to move synchronously to the PDLC film movement during the curing process.
77. A curing method for producing polymer dispersed liquid crystal (PDLC) film, comprising steps of:
 - a. providing materials for producing a PDLC, comprising:
 - i. a first transparent flexible film coated with conductive material;

- ii. a liquid crystal dispersion;
- iii. a second transparent flexible film coated with conductive material;
- b. allocating said liquid crystal dispersion between a transparent flexible films coated with conductive material;
- c. introducing said PDLC film in the curing machine; thereby producing said PDLC;

wherein said curing method comprising step of inducing different exposure rates of said UV to said PDLC film by means of a photomask.

- 78. The method of claim 77, wherein said PDLC comprises a step of photopolymerization accomplished by ultraviolet or electron beam light exposure.
- 79. The method of claim 77, wherein the conditions of said photopolymerization are spatially varied by spatially varying the exposure intensity over the film.
- 80. The method of claim 77, wherein the exposure intensity is spatially varied by exposing the film through said mask having a spatial variation in transmissivity.
- 81. The method of claim 77, wherein said mask is at least partially transmissive or said spatial variation in transmissivity, thereby enabling substantially the entire film to polymerize at generally the same time but at spatially varying polymerization rates corresponding to the spatial variation in mask transmissivity.
- 82. The method of claim 77, wherein the step of curing further comprises two-step polymerization process comprising a first step of exposing through said mask at one exposure intensity, and a second step of exposing without the mask at a different exposure intensity.
- 83. The method of claim 77, wherein said PDLC is characterized by a morphology in polymer matrix of nano-droplets, micro-droplets, macro-droplets or polymer network.
- 84. The method of claim 77, wherein said PDLC could be made by phase separation methods.
- 85. The method of claim 77, wherein said PDLC could be made by micro-encapsulation methods.
- 86. The method of claim 77, wherein said step of providing liquid crystal dispersion further comprises a step of introducing dichroic organic and metal-organic dye into said liquid crystal dispersion.

87. The method of claim 77, wherein said step of providing liquid crystal dispersion further comprises a step of introducing nematic mixtures for static solar-reflection mode into said liquid crystal dispersion.
88. The method of claim 77, wherein said step of providing liquid crystal dispersion further comprises a step of introducing broad-band cholesteric materials for dynamic solar-control mode into said liquid crystal dispersion.
89. The method of claim 77, wherein said step of providing liquid crystal dispersion further comprises a step of introducing metal-organic mesogens into said liquid crystal dispersion.
90. The method of claim 77, further comprising a step of providing a dimmer and switch adapted for driving a capacitive or complex capacitive-resistive load.
91. The method of claim 77, further comprising a step of enabling the mask to move synchronously to the PDLC film movement during the curing process.
92. A method for producing polymer dispersed liquid crystal (PDLC) film, comprising the steps of:
- a. providing materials for producing a PDLC, comprising:
 - i. a first transparent flexible film coated with conductive material;
 - ii. a liquid crystal dispersion;
 - iii. a second transparent flexible film coated with conductive material;
 - b. allocating said liquid crystal dispersion between a transparent flexible films coated with conductive material;
 - c. curing said PDLC film by means of UV or electron beam light;
- wherein said step of providing a first transparent film coated with conductive material further comprising step of inducing discontinuity of the coating by means of etching by mechanical pressure or by laser beam.
93. The method of claim 92, wherein said PDLC comprises a step of photopolymerization accomplished by any kind of curation technique.
94. The method of claim 92, wherein said PDLC is characterized by a morphology in polymer matrix of nano-droplets, micro-droplets, macro-droplets or polymer network.

95. The method of claim 92, wherein said PDLC could be made by phase separation methods.
96. The method of claim 92, wherein said PDLC could be made by micro-encapsulation methods.
97. The method of claim 92, wherein said step of providing liquid crystalal dispersion further comprises a step of introducing dichroic organic and metal-organic dye into said liquid crystal dispersion.
98. The method of claim 92, wherein said step of providing liquid crystalal dispersion further comprises a step of introducing nematic mixtures for static solar-reflection mode into said liquid crystal dispersion.
99. The method of claim 92, wherein said step of providing liquid crystalal dispersion further comprises a step of introducing broad-band cholesteric materials for dynamic solar-control mode into said liquid crystal dispersion.
100. The method of claim 92, wherein said step of providing liquid crystalal dispersion further comprises a step of introducing metal-organic mesogens into said liquid crystal dispersion.
101. The method of claim 92, further comprising a step of coating any of said transparent flexible films with an anti-scratch hard coating.
102. The method of claim 92, further comprising a step of coating any of said transparent flexible films with a dry or wet adhesive to create a retrofit film.
103. The method of claim 92, further comprising the step of retrofitting said PDLC film into an already existing surface.
104. A transparent flexible film coated with conductive material;
wherein said transparent flexible film is characterized by a discontinuous coating of conductive material having a predetermined pattern.
105. The transparent flexible film of claim 104, wherein discontinuations are made by means of etching by mechanical pressure.
106. The transparent flexible film of claim 104, wherein discontinuations are made by means of etching by laser beam.

107. A method for producing discontinuations in the coating of a transparent flexible film coated with conductive material, said method comprising steps of:
- a. providing at least one transparent flexible film coated with conductive material;
 - b. etching said conductive material by means of mechanical pressure according to a predefined scheme;
- wherein said step of etching by mechanical pressure creates a pattern.
108. A method for producing discontinuations in the coating of a transparent flexible film coated with conductive material, said method comprising steps of:
- a. providing at least one transparent flexible film coated with conductive material;
 - b. etching said conductive material by means laser beam according to a predefined scheme;
- wherein said step of etching by laser beam creates a pattern.

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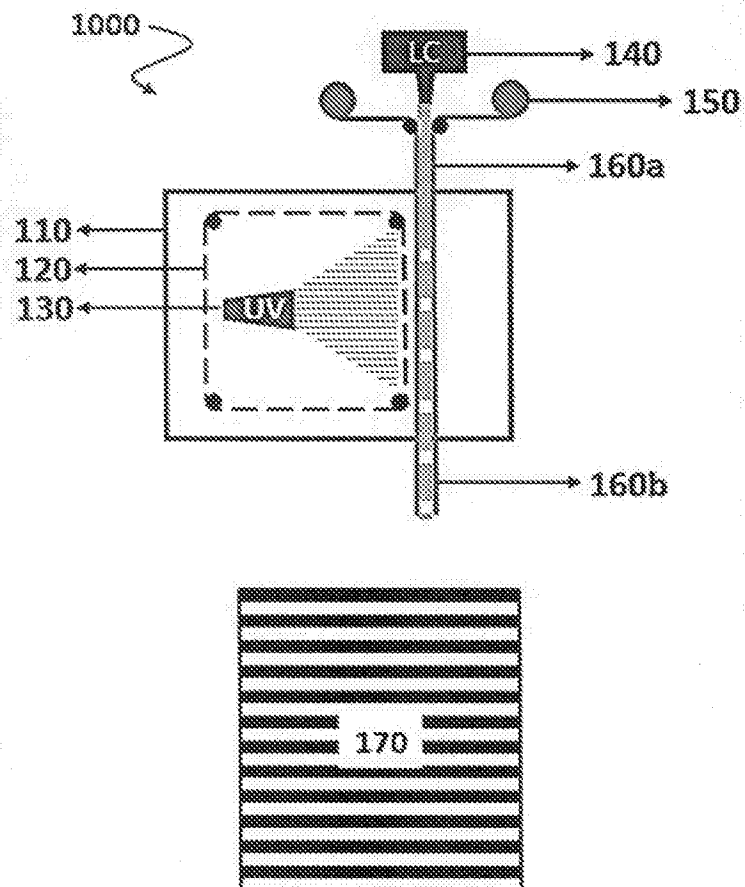


Figure 1

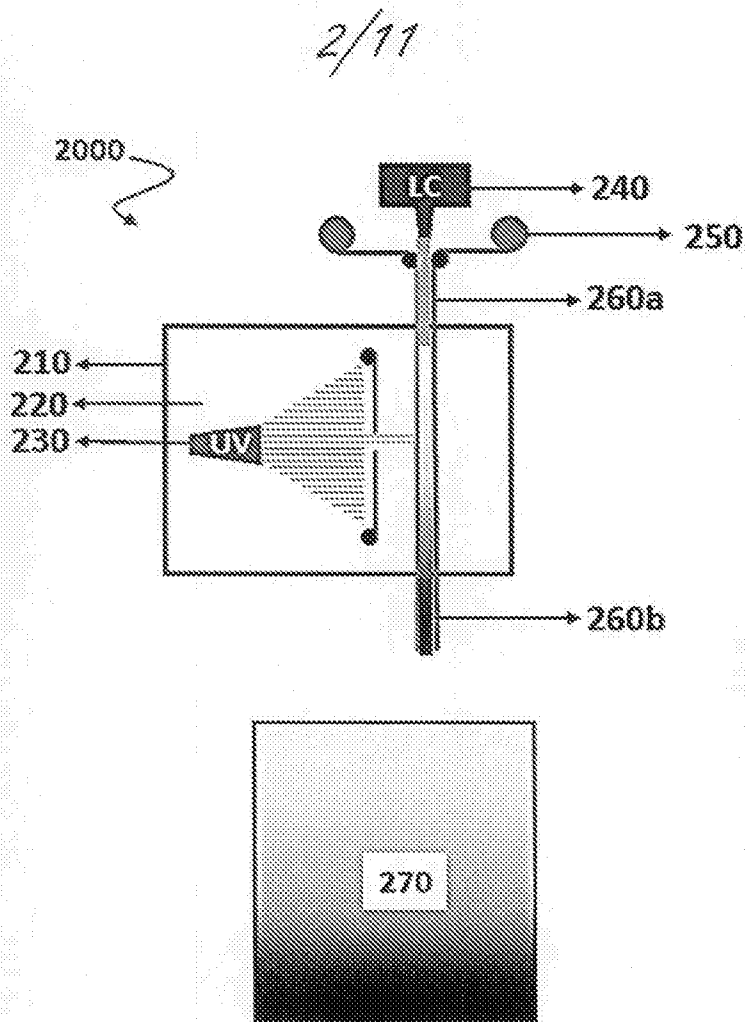


Figure 2

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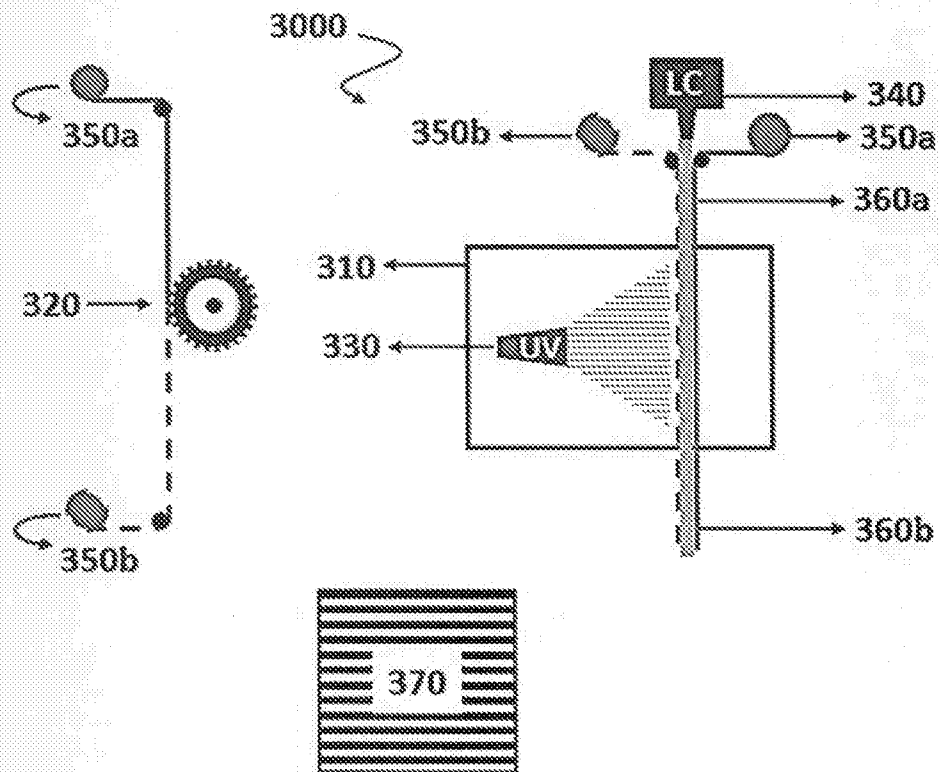


Figure 3

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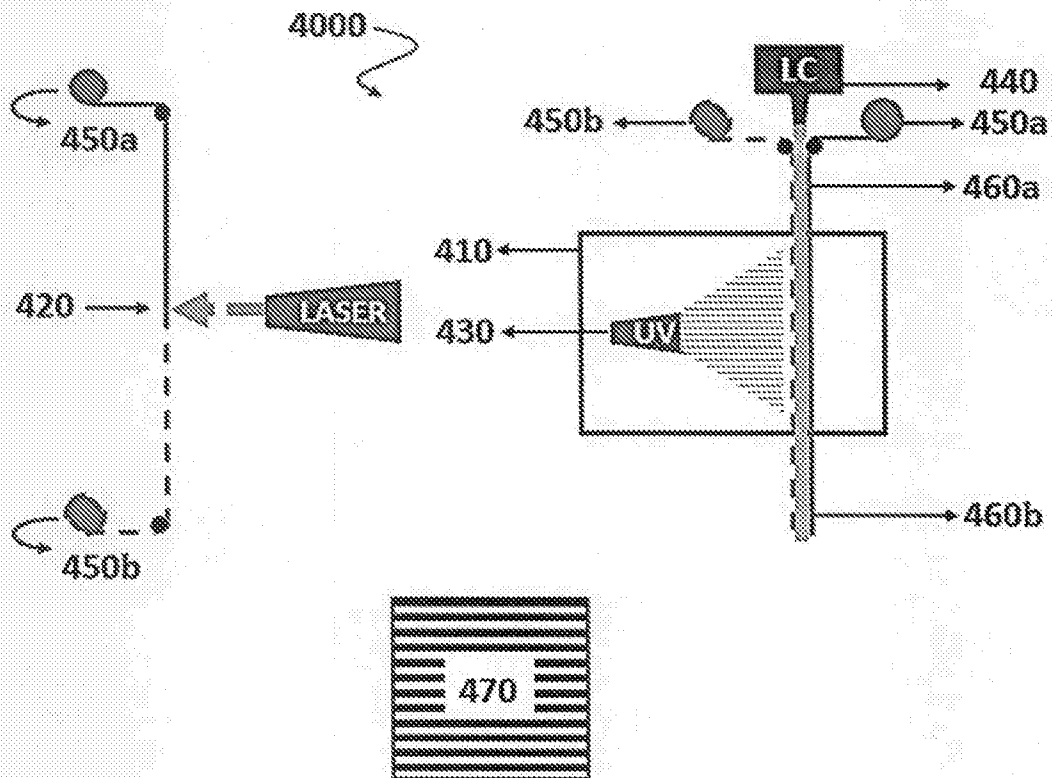


Figure 4

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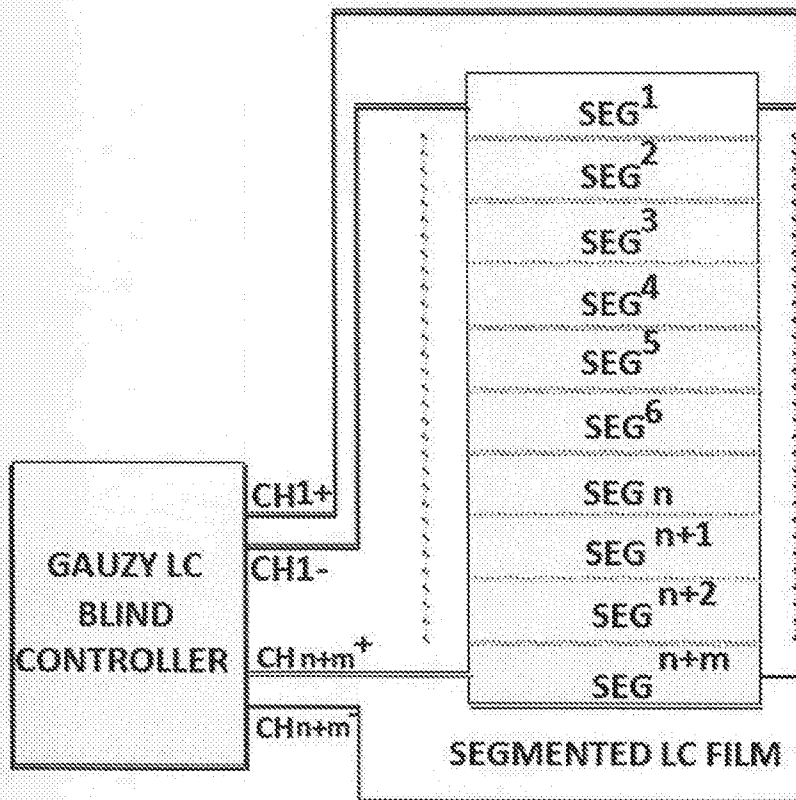


Figure 5

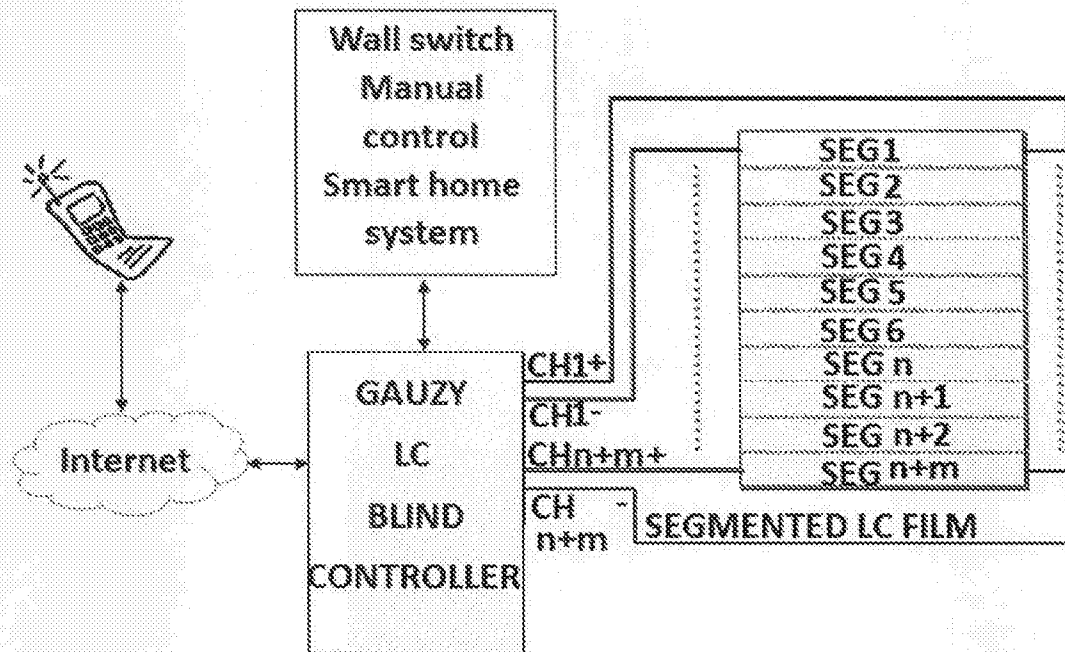
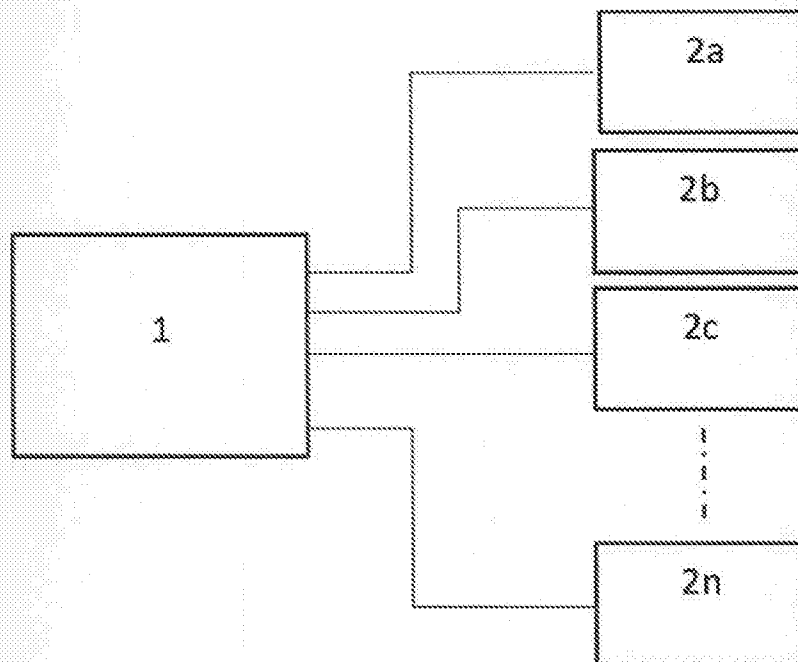
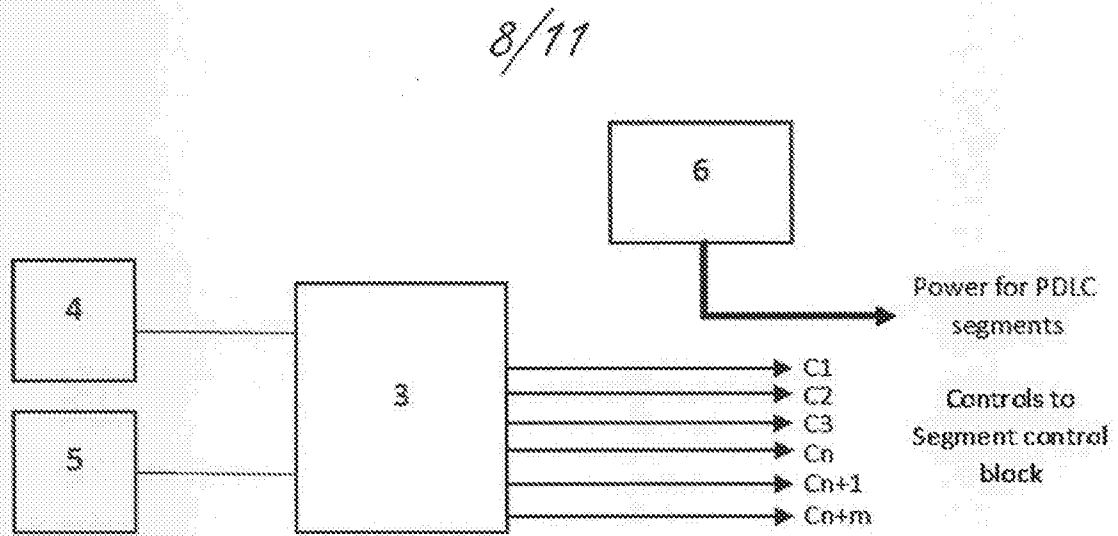


Figure 6

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*Figure 7*

*Figure 8*

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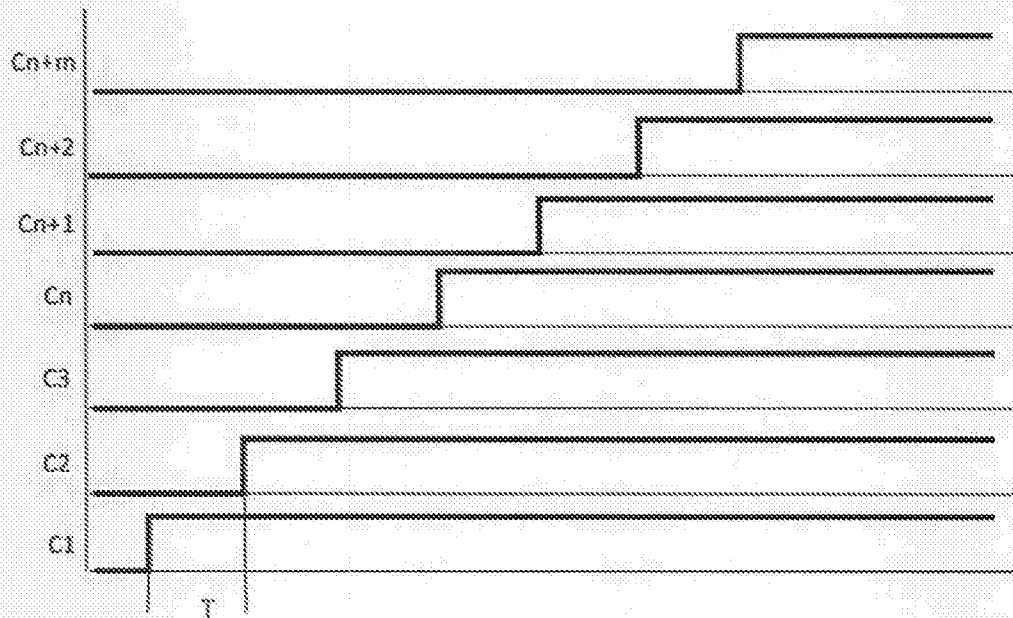


Figure 9

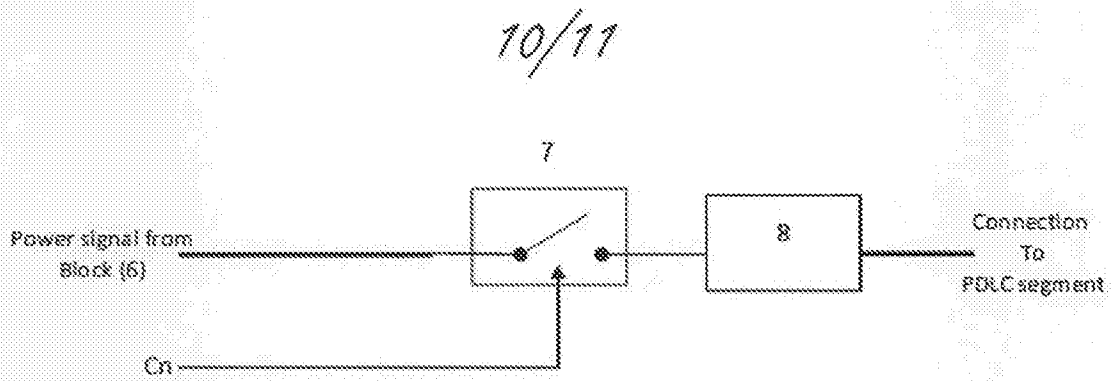
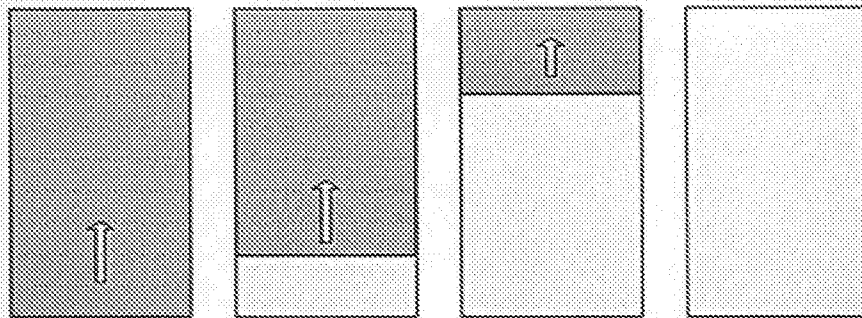
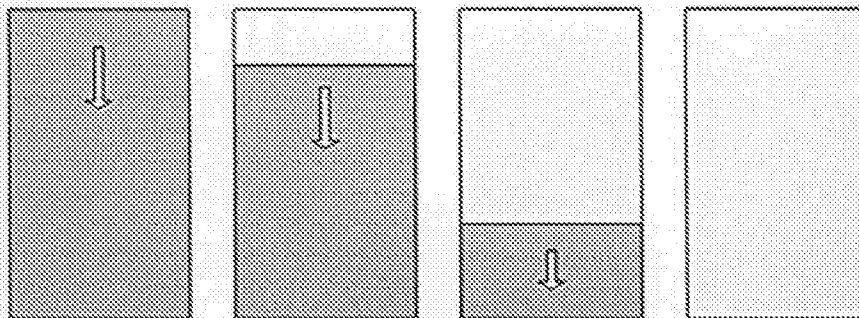


Figure 10

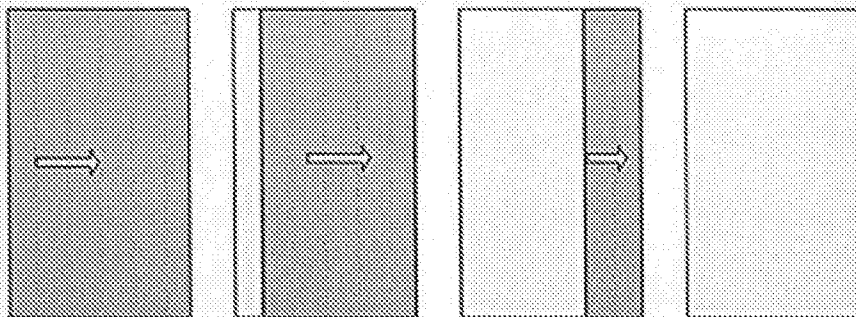
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VERTICAL UP



VERTICAL DOWN



HORIZONTAL RIGHT

Figure 11