

FLUORINATED PHENYL ESTERS OF PHENYL AND CYCLOHEXYL
CARBOXYLIC ACIDS AND THEIR USE IN LIQUID CRYSTAL
COMPOSITIONS

The present invention relates to fluorinated phenyl esters of phenyl and cyclohexyl carboxylic acids and their use in liquid crystal compositions.

5 The use of liquid crystal materials to exhibit electro-optic effects in display devices such as digital calculators or watches is now well known. One of the parameters of a liquid crystal material which is important in relation to electro-optical operation is the dielectric anisotropy ($\Delta\epsilon$) of the material. This is the difference, for a given frequency and temperature, between the average dielectric constant measured parallel ($\epsilon_{\parallel}$) to the long axis of the molecules of the material, eg when aligned together, less the average dielectric constant measured perpendicular ($\epsilon_{\perp}$) to the long axis of the molecules.

15 The sign and magnitude of the dielectric anisotropy of a given liquid crystal material is one of the major parameters which determine the kinds of electro-optic devices in which that material may be used.

20 For example, materials having a large positive dielectric anisotropy, herein referred to as 'strongly positive' materials may be used in known twisted nematic effect devices. For example mixtures of 4-alkyl-or-alkoxy-4'-cyanobiphenyls and a 4"-alkyl-or-alkoxy-cyano-p-terphenyl have achieved considerable commercial success in such applications.

Materials having a large negative dielectric anisotropy may for example (depending on other properties such as resistivity) be used in known dynamic scattering effect and cholesteric memory effect devices.

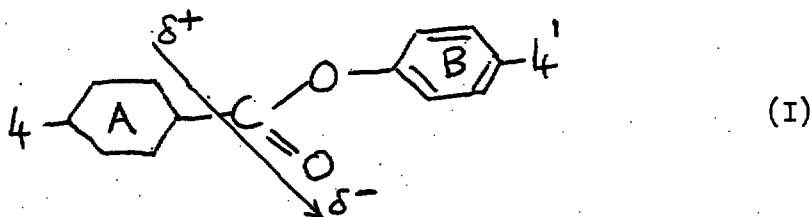
5 Materials having a small positive or negative dielectric anisotropy, herein referred to as 'weakly' positive or negative materials as appropriate, may be mixed with either strongly positive materials or strongly negative materials to modify the dielectric anisotropy.

10 For example weakly positive or negative materials are useful for blending with strongly positive materials for multiplexed twisted nematic effect devices. Furthermore, they may also be blended with strongly negative materials to form suitable mixtures for positive contrast guest-host devices.
15 They may also be used in other known applications.

It is the purpose of the present invention (in one aspect) to provide liquid crystal compounds which are either weakly positive or weakly negative materials (preferably negative).

20 The sign and magnitude of the dielectric anisotropy of a liquid crystal material is determined (inter alia) by the resultant dipole moment of the molecules of the material which in turn is determined by the various substituents within the molecule. Positive materials have a resultant dipole moment along the long axis of the molecule, whilst negative materials
25 possess a resultant dipole moment at right angles to the long axis of the molecule.

30 The known group of liquid crystals based on the ester structure (I) as given below in which the six membered ring A may be aromatic or saturated and in which both rings will carry appropriate substituents in the 4 and 4' positions,

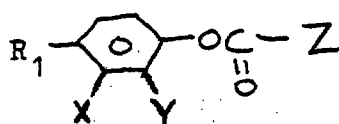


may show positive or negative dielectric anisotropy according to the degree of interactions of the 4 and 4' substituents with the dipole produced by the central carbonyl grouping.

5 Known weakly positive and negative esters having the structure as in structure (I) above are those in which the ring A is a benzene or cyclohexane ring and the substituents in the 4 and 4' positions are alkyl groups. These known esters, like many other liquid crystal materials, exhibit smectic liquid crystal phases or show tendencies to produce
10 such phases at temperatures below their nematic ranges. Such smectic properties are undesirable particularly in applications where the materials are used in mixtures, eg for multiplexed devices as described in published UK Patent Application No 78.36305, because they can give rise to large 'injected'
15 smectic areas on the mixture composition phase diagram (composition plotted against temperature). Such areas can limit the working composition range on the phase diagram limiting the choice of compositions which may be employed in devices and consequently the ability of the device designer to
20 adjust electro-optical properties by varying mixture composition.

It is an object of the present invention to provide weakly positive or negative esters showing, in general terms, reduced smectic behaviour as compared with the known esters
25 mentioned above.

According to the present invention there is provided a liquid crystal ester compound having the following molecular structure:



formula (II)

where X and Y are fluorine or hydrogen at least one being fluorine, where R_1 is an alkyl group and Z is either:

a) where R_2 is an alkyl, alkoxy, alkylcarbonyloxy or alkoxy carbonyloxy group;

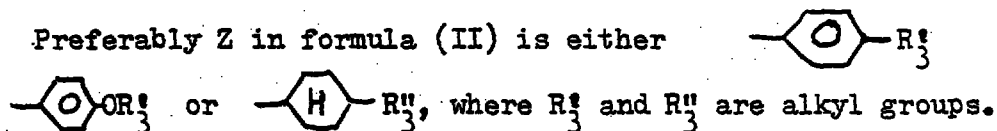
b) trans where R_3 is an alkyl group; provided that where Z is , Y is F and X is H.

Preferably, Y is F and X is H when Z is .

A compound (or compounds) having a molecular structure as in formula (II) will be referred to as a compound (or compounds), as defined.

The groups R_1 , R_2 and R_3 preferably contain less than eighteen carbon atoms, eg one to ten carbon atoms, and may be normal or branched. If one of these groups is branched it may contain a chiral centre in which case the compound is optically active.

Preferably Z in formula (II) is either



By a 'liquid crystal compound' is meant a compound in one of the following two known categories:

(i) Compounds which normally exhibit a liquid crystal phase.

(ii) Compounds which do not normally exhibit a liquid crystal phase but which nevertheless usefully affect some aspect of liquid crystal behaviour when dissolved in other liquid crystal compounds.

Compounds in category (ii) show a 'monotropic' or virtual liquid crystal to isotropic liquid transition at a temperature below the melting point of their solid phase. The monotropic or virtual transition may be detected respectively by rapid cooling of the liquid phase or by dissolving the compound in a

material exhibiting a liquid crystal phase, observing the change in the transition to the isotropic liquid phase of the material by the addition and calculating the virtual transition temperature by extrapolation.

- 5 Compounds in category (ii) might for example be usefully dissolved in other liquid crystal compounds to extend or vary the liquid crystal temperature ranges of the compounds or to vary the molecular helical pitch (in the case of 'cholesteric' liquid crystals).

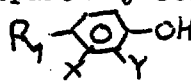
- 10 Material which exhibits a liquid crystal phase and either consists of or contains a compound as defined above will be referred to herein as a material 'as defined'.

- The liquid crystal phase exhibited by the material as defined may be nematic or cholesteric although the nematic phase is likely to be the most useful.

- 15 For a nematic phase the compound as defined should preferably have a normal alkyl group R_1 as well as a normal group R_2 or R_3 whilst for a cholesteric phase the compound as defined should preferably have a branched alkyl group
- 20 containing a chiral centre in at least one of the groups R_1 and R_2 or R_3 .

Compounds having formula (II) have been found to show, in general, reduced smectic tendencies, as compared with the known esters mentioned above.

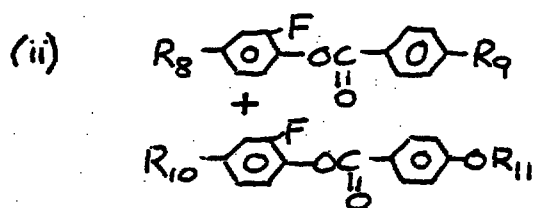
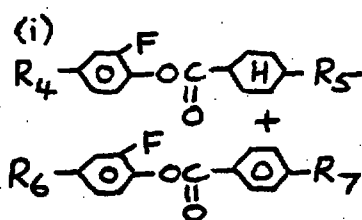
- 25 The fact that compounds as defined (II) are liquid crystal (see below) is unexpected because the introduction of lateral substituents into the molecular structure usually diminishes the lateral attractions between the molecules which produce liquid crystal properties.

- 30 Preferably compounds as defined are prepared by reacting the acid chloride $Z\text{-COCl}$ with the phenol  in the case where $Z = \text{---} \text{C}_6\text{H}_4 \text{---} R_2$ where R_2 is an alkyl or

alkoxy group or $Z = \text{---} \text{H} \text{---} R_3$. The reaction may be carried out under conditions well known for esterification reactions.

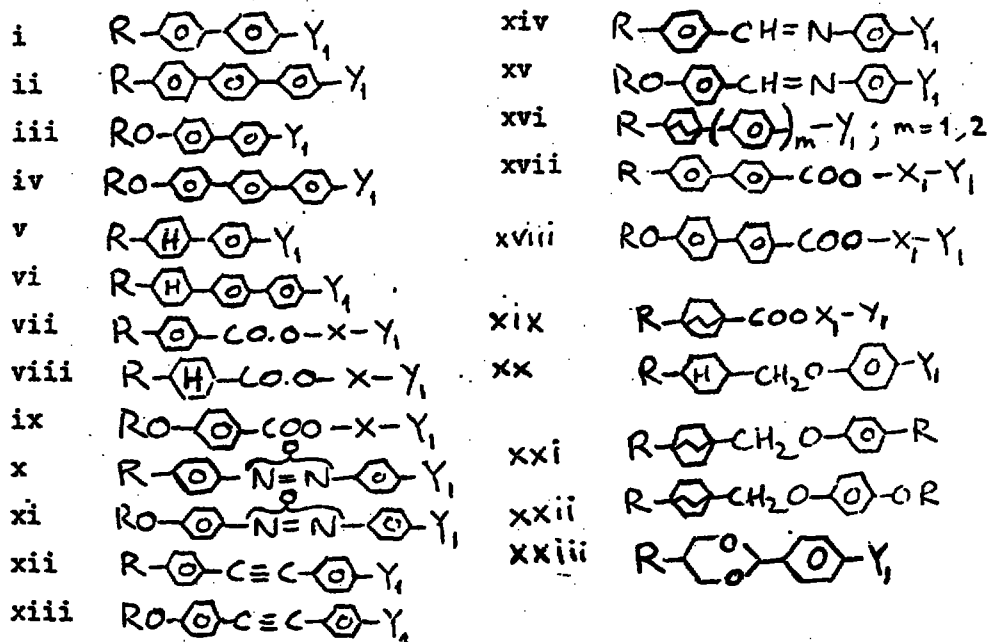
5. A compound as defined may be mixed with one or more other compounds as defined to enhance its liquid crystal properties, eg to extend its liquid crystal temperature range or otherwise to modify the properties, eg the electrical properties of the liquid crystal phase in an advantageous manner.

For example the following are examples of such mixtures:



where R_4 to R_{11} are various n-alkyl groups containing ten or less carbon atoms.

Likewise, compounds as defined may be mixed with one or more of the compounds in the following known categories:



or known laterally substituted derivatives of these compounds,

where  is a cyclohexane ring,  is a bicyclo (2.2.2) octane ring,

X is $\begin{cases} \text{a 1,4 phenylene group } \text{---}\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{---}, \text{ or} \\ \text{a 4,4' biphenyl group } \text{---}\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{---}\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{---}, \text{ or} \\ \text{a 2,6 naphthyl group } \text{---}\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_6\text{---} \end{cases}$

and Y_1 is CN, or R^1 , or OR^1 or $\text{COO}-\text{X}-\text{Y}^1$ where Y^1 is CN, or R^2 or OR^3 ; the definition of R^2 is the same as that used earlier for R_1 .

According to another aspect of the invention, an electro-optic liquid crystal device includes two adjacent plates at least one of which is optically transparent, a layer of liquid crystal material contained in the space between the plates wherein the liquid crystal material is the material as defined above, and deposited on the inner facing surfaces of the plates, electrodes to allow an electric field to be applied across the layer. The electro-optic device may for example be a display device used, for instance, in an instrument such as a time watch or clock. The device may be one of the following known kinds: twisted nematic effect ; (cholesteric-to-nematic) phase change effect; Freedericksz effect; dynamic scattering effect; or cholesteric memory effect. It is well known to those skilled in the art how materials may be used in these various applications and it will be apparent to such persons how to prepare suitable materials depending on the applications.

Compounds as defined above are, in general, reasonably chemically and photochemically stable liquid crystal compounds which have a low dielectric anisotropy and low birefringence and, in the case where $Z = \text{---} \langle \text{H} \rangle \text{---} \text{R}_3$, low viscosity.

The low birefringence makes the compounds as defined particularly useful for blending with other liquid crystal materials which together give a long helical pitch cholesteric material for use in (cholesteric-to-nematic) phase change effect devices (of either positive or negative contrast as explained below).

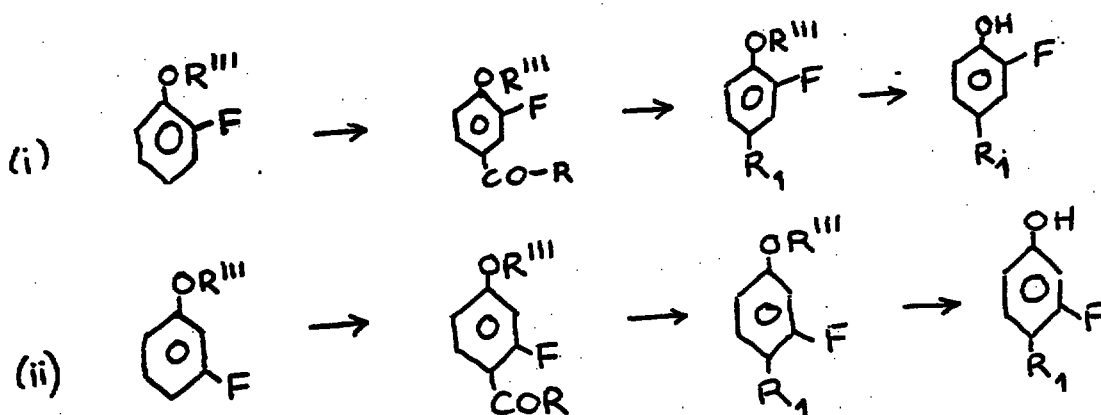
The small dielectric anisotropy makes the compounds as defined useful for blending with other materials to form mixtures having a reduced (positive or negative) dielectric anisotropy. Examples of materials and devices in which the compounds as defined may be used in this way are any of those given above. It is well known to those skilled in the art that the dielectric anisotropy of a mixture can be controlled by appropriate control of the relative proportions of the materials blended together to form the mixture.

The compounds as defined are particularly suitable for use in mixtures with positive dielectric anisotropy materials, eg cyanobiphenyls, for use in multiplexed twisted nematic devices. This use is further described in a copending UK Patent Application No 7934125.

Examples of the preparation and properties of compounds as defined above will now be given.

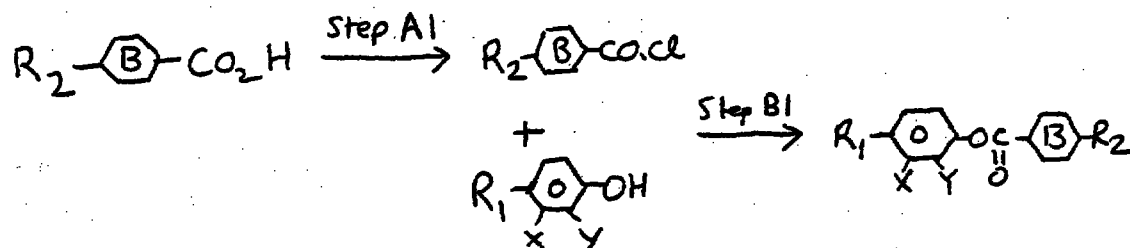
EXAMPLE 1: Preparation of compounds as defined above wherein Z is $\text{---}\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{---}\text{R}_3$, R_3 = alkyl, or $\text{---}\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{---}\text{R}_2^1$, R_2^1 = alkyl or alkoxy.

- These compounds are preferably prepared by the esterification of the acid chlorides of the appropriate 4-n-alkyl- and -alkoxybenzoic acids (known) or trans-4-n-alkyl-cyclohexane-1-carboxylic acids (synthesised by standard synthetic methods) as appropriate together with the appropriate 4-n-alkyl-2-or-3-fluorophenols which are prepared (as described in copending UK Patent Application No 7934128 - Published Serial No. GB 2058 789A) as follows:



where R, R''' and R₁ are alkyl groups.

Thus the reaction pathway is preferably:



where B is a trans-cyclohexane ring, R₂ being n-alkyl, or where B is a phenyl ring, R₂ being n-alkyl or n-alkoxy and X being H and Y being F.

- 5 The preparation of 2-fluoro-4-n-pentylphenyl 4'-n-butyloxybenzoate typifies the esterification procedure used to prepare these esters. This compound has been produced as follows.

STEP A1

- 10 4-n-butyloxybenzoic acid (0.0082 M) was converted into the acid chloride using freshly distilled thionyl chloride (15 cm³).

STEP B1

- 15 To a cold, stirred solution of the acid chloride prepared in Step A1 in dry dichloromethane (15 cm³) was added, dropwise, a cold solution of 4-n-pentyl-2-fluorophenol (0.0082 M) in dry dichloromethane (15 cm³) and triethylamine (10 cm³), keeping the temperature below 10°C. When the addition had been completed, the reaction mixture was heated under reflux, with
20 stirring for 3 hr.

After cooling, the dichloromethane and triethylamine were distilled off, under reduced pressure, and ether was then added to the residue. The undissolved triethylamine hydrochloride was filtered off and the ethereal extract washed

successively with 10% hydrochloric acid, 5% aqueous sodium carbonate, and water and finally dried (Na_2SO_4).

The crude residual ester was then column chromatographed on silica gel, eluting with chloroform (2): light petroleum (bp 60-80°) (1). Several recrystallisations from ethanol gave the 4-n-pentyl-2-fluorophenyl 4'-n-butyloxybenzoate as a colourless crystalline solid, 1.9 g (61% yield).

Esters such as 2-fluoro-4-n-pentylphenyl 4'-n-butylbenzoate and 2-fluoro-4-n-pentylphenyl trans-4'-n-butylcyclohexyl-carboxylate were purified by the above chromatographic procedure and then further purified by distillation under reduced pressure, to afford the esters as colourless liquids. The cyclohexane ester mentioned above was further recrystallised from ethanol, using solid carbon dioxide, to give this ester as a colourless crystalline solid, which rapidly melted at room temperature.

Some products prepared by the above method, together with their liquid crystal transition temperatures, are listed in Tables 1 - 4 below.

Spectroscopic analysis, thin layer chromatography, and gas liquid chromatography were carried out on all the esters prepared by the method to verify their structure and/or purity.

Examples of products of Step B1 are given in Tables 1-4 below.

In the Tables the following symbols are used:

- N-I = nematic to isotropic liquid transition temperature
- C-N = crystalline solid to nematic transition temperature
- C-I = crystalline solid to isotropic liquid transition temperature
- C-Ch = crystalline solid to cholesteric transition temperature

- Ch-I = cholesteric to isotropic liquid transition temperature
- C-S_A = crystal to smectic A transition temperature
- S_A-N = smectic A to nematic transition temperature
- S_B-S_A = smectic B to smectic A transition temperature
- S_A-I = smectic A to isotropic liquid transition temperature
- () = monotropic transition temperature
- [] = virtual transition temperature
- (+)- = optically active compound having a positive optical rotation angle

Table 1. Compounds of the form $R_3-\text{C}_6\text{H}_{10}-\text{COO}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4(\text{F})-\text{R}_1$
(where C_6H_{10} trans 1,4 disubstituted cyclohexane ring)

R_3	R_1	C-N or C-S _A or (°C) C-I	N-I (°C)	Ch-I (°C)	S _A -N (°C)
CH ₃	n-C ₃ H ₇	27	[-27]		
CH ₃	n-C ₅ H ₁₁	13.5	[-36]		
CH ₃	n-C ₇ H ₁₅	18.5	[-24]		
C ₂ H ₅	n-C ₅ H ₁₁	23	[-10]		
C ₂ H ₅	n-C ₇ H ₁₅	13	(-5.5)		
n-C ₄ H ₉	n-C ₃ H ₇	10.5	10.9		
n-C ₅ H ₁₁	n-C ₄ H ₉	10	23		
n-C ₅ H ₁₁	n-C ₆ H ₁₃	10	32.8		
n-C ₅ H ₁₁	n-C ₈ H ₁₇	25	39.4		
n-C ₅ H ₁₁	n-C ₉ H ₁₉	38	43.8		
n-C ₅ H ₁₁	(+)-2 methyl- butyl	38		[-1]	
n-C ₆ H ₁₃	n-C ₃ H ₇	22	29.6		

Table 1 continued

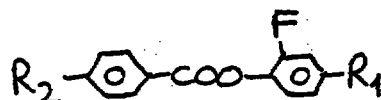
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R_3	R_1	C-N or C-S _A or C-I (°C)	N-I (°C)	Ch-I (°C)	S _A -N (°C)
n-C ₆ H ₁₃	n-C ₅ H ₁₁	11.5	34.3		
n-C ₆ H ₁₃	n-C ₆ H ₁₃	11	30.7		
n-C ₆ H ₁₃	n-C ₇ H ₁₅	22	38.9		
n-C ₆ H ₁₃	n-C ₈ H ₁₇	16	36.2		
n-C ₆ H ₁₃	n-C ₉ H ₁₉	28.5	43.0		
n-C ₇ H ₁₅	n-C ₃ H ₇	30.5	39.2		
n-C ₇ H ₁₅	n-C ₄ H ₉	14.5	24.1		
n-C ₇ H ₁₅	n-C ₅ H ₁₁	24.5	43.4		
n-C ₇ H ₁₅	n-C ₆ H ₁₃	18.5	37.8		
n-C ₇ H ₁₅	n-C ₇ H ₁₅	30	46.4		
n-C ₇ H ₁₅	n-C ₈ H ₁₇	33	45.0		
n-C ₇ H ₁₅	n-C ₉ H ₁₉	37	49.3		
n-C ₇ H ₁₅	n-C ₁₁ H ₂₃	42.5	52		47
n-C ₇ H ₁₅	(+)-2 methyl- butyl	26.5		(12.1)	
n-C ₈ H ₁₇	n-C ₃ H ₇	21.5	38.5		
n-C ₈ H ₁₇	n-C ₅ H ₁₁	23.5	41.0		
n-C ₈ H ₁₇	n-C ₇ H ₁₅	22.5	44.0		
n-C ₉ H ₁₉	n-C ₅ H ₁₁	41.0	47.7		
n-C ₉ H ₁₉	n-C ₇ H ₁₅	34.0	49.3		
n-C ₃ H ₇	C ₃ H ₇	32.5	(19)		
n-C ₃ H ₇	n-C ₅ H ₁₁	36	(26.5)		
n-C ₃ H ₇	n-C ₇ H ₁₅	27	30.3		
n-C ₄ H ₉	n-C ₅ H ₁₁	10.5	16.1		
n-C ₄ H ₉	n-C ₇ H ₁₅	16	26.7		

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R_3	R_1	C-N or C-S _A or (°C) C-I	N-I (°C)	Ch-I (°C)	S _A -N (°C)
n-C ₅ H ₁₁	C ₃ H ₇	30	30.7		
n-C ₅ H ₁₁	C ₅ H ₁₁	17.5	35.0		
n-C ₅ H ₁₁	C ₇ H ₁₅	33	41.4		

Table 2. Compounds of the form

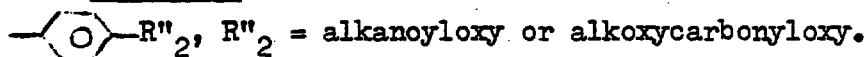


R_2	R_1	C-N or C-I or C-Ch (°C)	N-I (°C)	Ch-I (°C)
CH ₃ O	n-C ₅ H ₁₁	28	(20)	
n-C ₄ H ₉ O	n-C ₅ H ₁₁	44	(37.9)	
n-C ₆ H ₁₃ O	n-C ₅ H ₁₁	28	37.0	
n-C ₃ H ₇	n-C ₇ H ₁₅	23	[-7]	
n-C ₄ H ₉	n-C ₅ H ₁₁	16	[-14]	
n-C ₅ H ₁₁	n-C ₅ H ₁₁	14	(1.2)	
n-C ₅ H ₁₁	n-C ₇ H ₁₅	24	(4.2)	
n-C ₅ H ₁₁	n-C ₃ H ₇	7.0	[<-20]	
n-C ₅ H ₁₁	(+)- 2-methylbutyl	1.5		4.7
n-C ₆ H ₁₃	n-C ₅ H ₁₁	19.5	[-5]	
n-C ₇ H ₁₅	n-C ₅ H ₁₁	19.0	(4.3)	
n-C ₇ H ₁₅	(+)- 2-methylbutyl	27.0		(14.1)

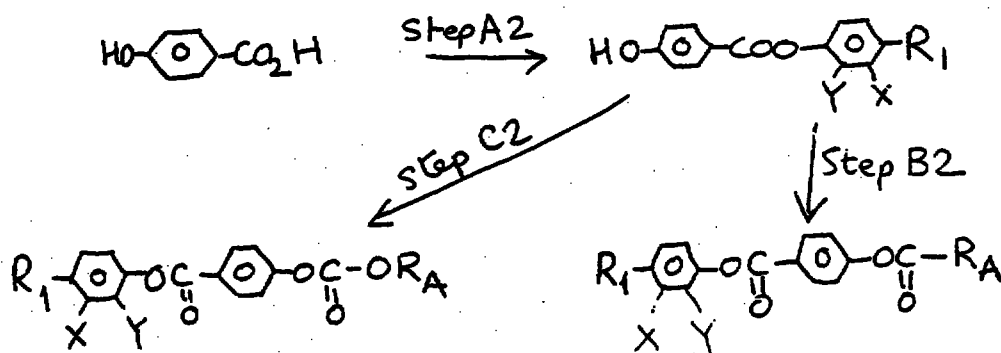
Table 3. Compounds of the form $R_3-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{COO}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_3(\text{F})-\text{R}_1$

R_3	R_1	C-I (°C)	S_A-N (°C)	S_B-S_A (°C)	S_A-I (°C)	N-I (°C)
$n\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7$	$n\text{-C}_5\text{H}_{11}$	26.5				(9.2)
$n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9$	$n\text{-C}_5\text{H}_{11}$	14.5	(-3.7)			(7.4)
$n\text{-C}_5\text{H}_{11}$	$n\text{-C}_5\text{H}_{11}$	27.5	(18.7)			(26.3)
$n\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{13}$	$n\text{-C}_5\text{H}_{11}$	29.0			(24.7)	
$n\text{-C}_7\text{H}_{15}$	$n\text{-C}_5\text{H}_{11}$	33.5		(21.7)	34.4	
$n\text{-C}_5\text{H}_{11}$	$n\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7$	33.5				[14]

EXAMPLE 2: Preparation of compounds as defined above wherein Z is



The following route is preferable used for the preparation of these compounds:



where R_A = alkyl

STEP A2

4-Hydroxybenzoic acid is converted into the hydroxy ester by a method as described by Lowrance (Tetrahedron Lett. 1971, 3453) in which the reactants (4-hydroxybenzoic acid and the appropriate fluorophenol) are dissolved in toluene and heated in a Dean and Stark apparatus together with sulphuric acid and boric acid as catalysts.

STEP B2

The hydroxy ester is converted into the alkanoyl derivative by a standard esterification procedure using the appropriate acid chloride $R_A\text{COCl}$.

STEP C2

The hydroxy ester is converted into the alkyloxy carbonyloxy derivative by a standard esterification procedure using the appropriate alkyl chloroformate ClCOOR_A .

A liquid crystal device embodying the invention will now be described by way of example only with reference to the accompanying drawings of which:-

Figure 1 is an exploded view of a twisted nematic display;

Figure 2 is a front view of a watch having a twisted nematic liquid crystal display constructed as shown in Figure 1; and

Figure 3 is a sectional view of the display part of the watch in Figure 2 but drawn to an enlarged scale.

As shown in Figure 1 a 'twisted nematic' type display includes a polariser 1 arranged with its polarisation axis 2 vertical. A liquid crystal cell 3 comprises two glass slides 4, 5 containing a layer of liquid crystal 6, consisting basically of a nematic material which may contain a small proportion (eg 1%) of a cholesteric compound. Electrodes 7, 8, eg of tin oxide, are arranged on the inner faces of the slides 4, 5. Behind the cell 3 is an analyser or second polariser 11

arranged with its polarisation axis 12 horizontal. A brushed aluminium reflector 27 is behind the analyser 11.

Prior to assembling the cell the slides 4, 5 are coated on their inner faces with silicon monoxide or magnesium fluoride. This coating is formed by evaporating a stream of eg silicon monoxide onto the slide at an angle of about 5° to the surface as for example described in UK Patent Specification No 1,454,296. On assembly the slides are arranged with the evaporation direction on two slides 4, 5 at 90° to one another. With such a coating liquid crystal molecules at the coated surfaces lie in a single direction (parallel to the evaporation direction) and at an angle of about 25° to 35° typically about 30° to the slide surface. As a result the liquid crystal molecules progressively twist from one slide 4 to the other slide 5 in a twisted homogeneous texture. Thus the plane of plane polarised light is rotated through 90° on passing through the cell 3 providing the direction 13 of the molecules at the surface of the slide 4, 5 is parallel (or perpendicular) to the polarisers axis 2, 12 respectively. Thus when zero voltage is applied to the cell light passes through the analyser 1, cell 3 and analyser 11, and is then reflected back to an observer 15.

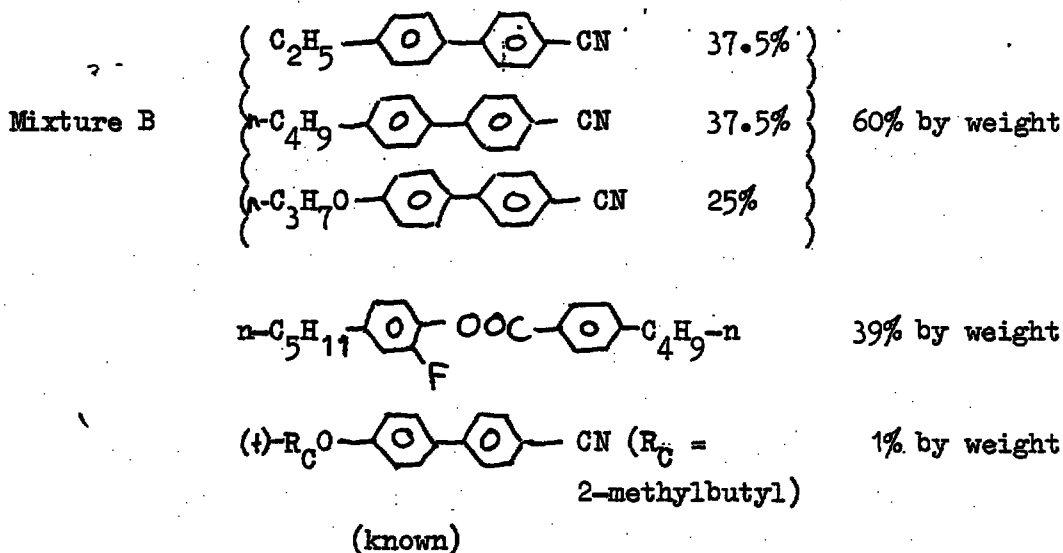
When a suitable voltage is applied between the electrodes 7, 8 the molecules between the electrodes are caused to align parallel to the applied field and light transmitted by the polariser is transmitted without rotation to the analyser 11. Since the polariser and analyser 11 are crossed no light is transmitted to the reflector and no light is reflected back to the observer at those parts of the cell 3 between electrodes 7, 8 which therefore appear dark on a lighter background. Thus by shaping each electrode 7, 8 into say seven discrete parts separately connectable to a voltage source the numbers 0 to 9 may be displayed.

In the watch display of Figures 2, 3 the electrodes 7, 8 are arranged to provide four seven bar numeric characters plus a period dot which may be arranged to pulse once per second.

The voltage required to align the molecules parallel to the applied field, is the 'ON' state, is dependent on layer 6 thickness, materials used, temperature and surface treatment of the slides 4, 5. A typical thickness of layer is 12 μ m. The material used must be stable over the temperatures of use ie ambient temperatures which can be assumed constant for comparison purposes. A surface treatment ie evaporation of silicon monoxide at 5° giving large tilt eg 30° of molecules reduces the voltage necessary to turn the cell 'ON' at the expense of a degraded contrast or speed.

In typical watch displays using twisted nematic liquid crystal displays a 1.5 volt battery is used to drive the oscillator and logic circuits of the watch and an up converter is used to raise the voltage to 3.0 volts for operating the display.

Material embodying the invention suitable for use as the liquid crystal 6 is:



Addition of the ester $n\text{-C}_{5\text{H}_{11}}\text{---}\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{---}\text{OOC---C}_6\text{H}_4\text{---C}_{4\text{H}_9}\text{---}n$ to the biphenyl Mixture B reduces the temperature dependence of the threshold voltage of the device described above and this improves the multiplexibility of a matrix-type liquid crystal display of this kind.

In an alternative embodiment of the invention (cholesteric-to-nematic) phase change effect device incorporates a material as defined above.

A cell is prepared containing a long helical pitch cholesteric material sandwiched between electrode-bearing glass slides as in the twisted nematic cell described above. However the polarisers and surface preparations for homogeneous alignment, eg treatment of the glass slide surfaces with SiO_2 , are not used in this case.

If the glass slides are untreated and the liquid crystal material has a positive dielectric anisotropy ($\Delta\epsilon$) the liquid crystal material is in a twisted focal conic molecular texture in the OFF state which scatters light. The effect of an electric field applied between a pair of electrodes on the respective inner surface of the glass slides is to convert the region of liquid crystal material between the electrodes into the ON state which is a homeotropic nematic texture which is less scattering than the OFF state.

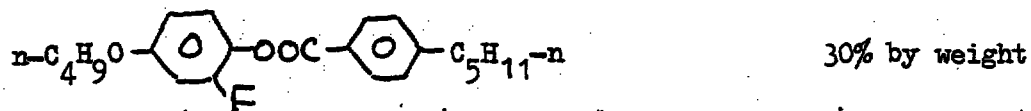
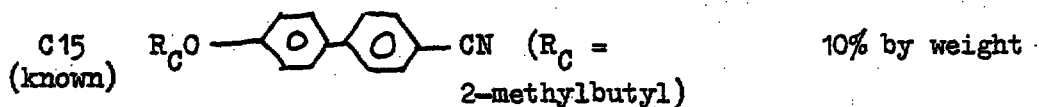
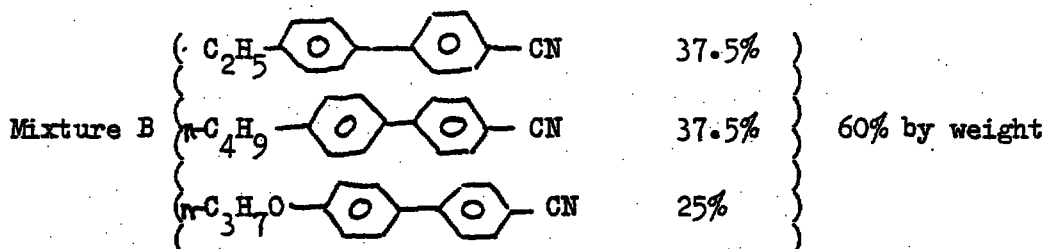
If the inner glass slide surfaces are treated, eg with a coating of lecithin, to give alignment perpendicular to those surfaces, and the liquid crystal material has $\Delta\epsilon$ negative the material in the OFF state is in a homeotropic texture which has little scattering effect on incident light. If an electric field is applied between a pair of electrodes on the respective inner surfaces of the glass slides the region of liquid crystal material between the electrodes is converted

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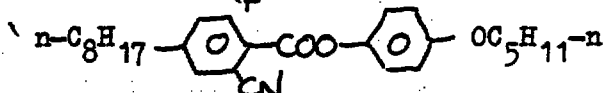
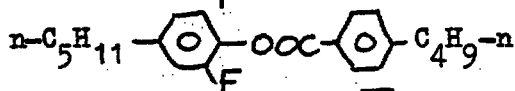
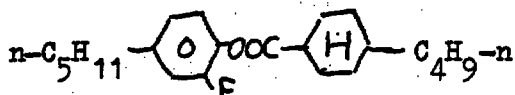
to a twisted homogeneous texture which scatters light (the ON state).

The contrast between the two states in each case may be enhanced by the addition of a small amount of a suitable pleochroic dye (eg 1% by weight of 1,5-bis-4-n-butylphenylamino anthraquinone in the case where $\Delta\epsilon$ is positive) to the liquid crystal material.

A suitable positive dielectric anisotropy material embodying the invention for use in a phase change effect device is:



A suitable negative dielectric anisotropy material embodying the invention for use in a phase change effect device may comprise the following components:



($\text{R}_C =$ 2-methylbutyl)

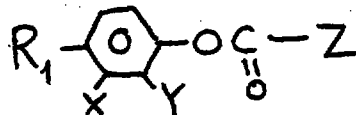
The esters in the above device mixtures wherein $X = H$ and $Y = F$ may be replaced by, or substituted partly in weight percentage by esters wherein $Y = H$ and $X = F$ (see Formula I

above), eg $n-C_{5H_{11}}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{OCC}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{C}_{5H_{11}}-n$.

F

CLAIMS

1. A liquid crystal ester compound having a molecular structure



formula (II)

where X and Y are fluorine or hydrogen, at least one being fluorine, R₁ is an alkyl group and Z is either

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a) $-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{R}_2$ where R₂ is an alkyl, alkoxy, alkylcarbonyloxy or alkoxy carbonyloxy group,

b) trans $-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{R}_3$, where R₃ is an alkyl group provided that where Z is $-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{R}_2$, Y is F and X is H.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 and wherein Z is $-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{R}_2$ where R₂ is alkyl or alkoxy.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 and wherein X is hydrogen and Y is fluorine and Z is trans $-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{R}_3$ where R₃ is alkyl.

4. A compound as claimed in claim 1 and wherein X is fluorine and Y is hydrogen and Z is trans $-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{R}_3$ where R₃ is alkyl.

5. A compound as claimed in claim 2 and wherein R₁ is n-C₃H₇ and R₂ is n-C₅H₁₁.

6. A compound as claimed in claim 2 and wherein R₁ is (+)-2-methylbutyl and R₂ is n-C₅H₁₁.



7. A compound as claimed in claim 2 and wherein R_1 is $n-C_5H_{11}$ and R_2 is $n-C_6H_{13}$.
8. A compound as claimed in claim 2 and wherein R_1 is $n-C_5H_{11}$ and R_2 is $n-C_7H_{15}$.
9. A compound as claimed in claim 2 and wherein R_1 is (+)-2-methylbutyl and R_2 is $n-C_7H_{15}$.
10. A compound as claimed in claim 2 and wherein R_1 is $n-C_5H_{11}$ and R_2 is $n-C_4H_9O$.
11. A compound as claimed in claim 2 and wherein R_1 is $n-C_5H_{11}$ and R_2 is $n-C_6H_{13}O$.
12. A compound as claimed in claim 2 and wherein R_1 is $n-C_7H_{15}$ and R_2 is $n-C_3H_7$.
13. A compound as claimed in claim 2 and wherein R_1 is $n-C_5H_{11}$ and R_2 is $n-C_4H_9$.
14. A compound as claimed in claim 2 and wherein R_1 is $n-C_5H_{11}$ and R_2 is $n-C_5H_{11}$.
15. A compound as claimed in claim 2 and wherein R_1 is $n-C_7H_{15}$ and R_2 is $n-C_5H_{11}$.
16. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n-C_7H_{15}$ and R_3 is $n-C_3H_7$.
17. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n-C_5H_{11}$ and R_3 is $n-C_4H_9$.
18. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n-C_7H_{15}$ and R_3 is $n-C_4H_9$.
19. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n-C_3H_7$ and R_3 is $n-C_5H_{11}$.
20. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n-C_5H_{11}$ and R_3 is $n-C_5H_{11}$.
21. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n-C_7H_{15}$ and R_3 is $n-C_7H_{15}$.



22. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7$ and R_2 is $n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9$.
23. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9$ and R_2 is $n\text{-C}_5\text{H}_{11}$.
24. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{13}$ and R_2 is $n\text{-C}_5\text{H}_{11}$.
25. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n\text{-C}_8\text{H}_{17}$ and R_2 is $n\text{-C}_5\text{H}_{11}$.
26. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n\text{-C}_9\text{H}_{19}$ and R_2 is $n\text{-C}_5\text{H}_{11}$.
27. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is (+)-2-methylbutyl and R_2 is $n\text{-C}_5\text{H}_{11}$.
28. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7$ and R_2 is $n\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{13}$.
29. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n\text{-C}_5\text{H}_{11}$ and R_2 is $n\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{13}$.
30. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{13}$ and R_2 is $n\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{13}$.
31. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n\text{-C}_7\text{H}_{15}$ and R_2 is $n\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{13}$.
32. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n\text{-C}_8\text{H}_{17}$ and R_2 is $n\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{13}$.
33. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n\text{-C}_9\text{H}_{19}$ and R_2 is $n\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{13}$.
34. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7$ and R_2 is $n\text{-C}_7\text{H}_{15}$.
35. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n\text{-C}_5\text{H}_{11}$ and R_2 is $n\text{-C}_7\text{H}_{15}$.
36. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{13}$ and R_2 is $n\text{-C}_7\text{H}_{15}$.



37. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n-C_7H_{15}$ and R_2 is $n-C_7H_{15}$.

38. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n-C_8H_{17}$ and R_2 is $n-C_7H_{15}$.

39. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n-C_9H_{19}$ and R_2 is $n-C_7H_{15}$.

40. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n-C_{11}H_{23}$ and R_2 is $n-C_7H_{15}$.

41. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is (+)-2-methylbutyl and R_2 is $n-C_7H_{15}$.

42. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n-C_3H_7$ and R_2 is $n-C_8H_{17}$.

43. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n-C_5H_{11}$ and R_2 is $n-C_8H_{17}$.

44. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n-C_7H_{15}$ and R_2 is $n-C_8H_{17}$.

45. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n-C_5H_{11}$ and R_2 is $n-C_9H_{19}$.

46. A compound as claimed in claim 3 and wherein R_1 is $n-C_7H_{15}$ and R_2 is $n-C_9H_{19}$.

5 47. An electro-optic liquid crystal device including two adjacent plates at least one of which is optically transparent, a layer of liquid crystal material contained in the space between the plates wherein the material includes at least one compound as claimed in claim 1 and, deposited on the inner facing surfaces of the plates, electrodes to allow an electric field to be applied across the layer.

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