

Liquid Crystal Compositions

This invention relates to liquid crystal materials suitable for use in twisted nematic displays and to twisted nematic displays incorporating such materials.

Liquid crystal devices are commonly formed by sandwiching
5 a layer typically 7 to 12 μm thick, of a liquid crystal material between optically transparent electrically insulating substrates, eg glass slides. Electrode structures on the substrates enable voltages to be applied across the layer and change the molecular arrangement of the liquid crystal molecules in selected regions.
10 This causes an observable effect in those regions which can be used in displays of various types, for example, digital watches, small calculators, voltage meters, etc.

There are several different display effects which may be obtained from electrical re-arrangement of liquid crystal molecules.
15 These depend on the liquid crystal material employed and the initial molecular alignment (if any). This invention is concerned particularly with the twisted nematic effect in which an essentially nematic material is arranged in its OFF state (zero or low applied voltage) in an arrangement in which the molecules
20 gradually twist, usually through 90° , from one substrate surface to the other as defined by fixed alignments at these surfaces. Such an arrangement is optically active, ie rotates the plane of polarized light in this state. An applied voltage greater than a threshold essentially causes the twist to be destroyed so that
25 the molecular arrangement is no longer optically active. Thus, when placed between plane (linear) polarizers a twisted nematic effect device provides one or more optical shutters which are

switchable from a light state to a dark state or vice versa depending on whether the polarizers are in a parallel or cross relationship.

5 Such shutters may in a single device form the component elements of a series of letters, words or numerals, ie in an information display, as defined by the electrode structures on the substrates and the applied voltages. An example of a twisted nematic effect device is further described in UK Patent Number 1,478,592.

10 Conventionally, liquid crystal materials used in twisted nematic displays are basically nematic mixtures of compounds having a high positive dielectric anisotropy $\Delta\epsilon$, eg $|\Delta\epsilon| > +3$. The dielectric anisotropy is the difference between the average dielectric constant measured parallel ($\epsilon_{||}$) to the molecules and
15 the average dielectric constant ($\epsilon_{\perp}$) measured perpendicular to the molecules when aligned together. The individual compounds in the mixture are normally compounds containing a terminal cyano group in the p-position of a benzene ring. They are also nematogenic, which means that they show nematic liquid crystal properties or
20 tendencies and exhibit a nematic liquid crystal phase when formed into a mixture together with other nematogenic compounds.

For example mixtures of cyanobiphenyls and terphenyls as described in UK Patent No 1,433,130 have found wide use in twisted nematic displays and give an excellent range of properties for
25 many purposes in such displays. One example of such a mixture is the well known material E7 marketed by BDH Chemicals Ltd of Broom Road, Poole, Dorset, England.

One problem with which the present invention is concerned relates to the temperature dependence of operation of a twisted
30 nematic liquid crystal display. If such a display is designed for optimum performance at a given value of temperature, eg 20°C, it is clearly desirable that the performance should vary as little as possible if the ambient temperature varies from that given value. The temperature dependence of operation may be designated as $1/V \times$

($\Delta V/\Delta T$) where V is the voltage required to achieve the ON state and ΔV is the change in the voltage V caused by a change in temperature ΔT . The value of this parameter is determined primarily by the liquid crystal material used in the display.

5 As noted above, cyanobiphenyls and cyanoterphenyls have found wide use particularly in twisted nematic effect displays. However, mixtures of these materials give typical values of from 0.8 to 0.9% per $^{\circ}\text{C}$ over the temperature range 0 to 40°C in twisted nematic displays and this is considered to be rather high.

10 Another problem with which the present invention is concerned relates to the multiplexibility of a twisted nematic display. Multiplexing involves applying electric potentials to lines of electrodes connected in series, each region or display element, eg each individual shutter in a twisted nematic effect display,
15 being defined by the intersection of the electrodes on the two substrates. Examples of multiplexed displays are the matrix displays described in UK Patent Number 1,458,045.

In multiplexed displays all electrodes in the display receive a non-zero electrical potential, even when they are in the OFF
20 state. Consequently it is difficult to provide sufficient contrast between the ON and OFF states. The contrast can vary with viewing angle, temperature and liquid crystal material as well as applied voltage. As described in UK Patent Application

No 2031010A a figure of merit which may be used to define
25 multiplexibility, is the usefulness of any given material in a multiplexed twisted nematic effect display is the parameter M_{20} . This is the ratio, at 20°C , of voltages $V_{10}(0^{\circ})$; $V_{90}(45^{\circ})$ which are voltages which may be designated as necessary to achieve the ON and OFF states respectively. In fact $V_{10}(0^{\circ})$ is the minimum
30 voltage required to achieve along an axis normal to the display substrates 10% of the maximum light transmission along that axis for a twisted nematic effect cell: the incident light is plane polarized parallel to the surface alignment of the liquid crystal molecules upon which the light is first incident and the analyzer

is arranged with its polarizing axis perpendicular to that alignment and parallel to the surface alignment of the molecules from which the light emerges.

5 $V_{90}(45^\circ)$ is the maximum voltage which gives along an axis at a viewing angle of 45° to the alignment directions on the substrate surfaces 90% of the maximum transmission along that direction for the same cell for which $V_{10}(0^\circ)$ is measured. Of the four possible directions which are at 45° to the alignment directions the direction having the lowest value of $V_{90}(45^\circ)$ is selected for the measurement.

10 An ideal material would have M_{20} equal or just greater than unity so that a very small change in applied voltage could be used to switch between the OFF and ON states. In practice, other liquid crystal properties, eg the temperature range of the nematic mesophase, have to be taken into account as well.

15 Although cyanobiphenyls, eg mixed together with a cyano-p-terphenyl, have found wide use in twisted nematic displays in general it is not easy to achieve multiplexing with them. For example the material E7 mentioned above has a value of 1.81 for M_{20} which is considered not to be low enough.

20 In UK published Patent Application No 2031010A it is described how M_{20} may be reduced by mixing cyanobiphenyls together with benzoate esters. However the mixtures formed have certain properties relevant to multiplexed operation which could preferably be improved. For example, such mixtures do not have particularly low values of $1/V (\Delta V/\Delta T)$ in the cases where the better values of M_{20} (which is desirably as low as possible) are obtained. In such cases $1/V (\Delta V/\Delta T)$ is typically 0.6% per $^\circ\text{C}$ (compared to 0.85% per $^\circ\text{C}$ for E7).

It is the purpose of this invention to provide a liquid crystal material for multiplexed twisted nematic displays showing a reasonably good multiplexibility as well as a low value of $1/V \times (\Delta V/\Delta T)$.

According to the present invention in a first aspect a nematic liquid crystal composition suitable for use as the liquid crystal material of a multiplexed twisted nematic electro-optical display comprises a mixture of Components A, B and C as follows:

Component A: a high positive dielectric anisotropy component;

Component B: a low dielectric anisotropy component;

Component C: a high clearing component having a clearing point greater than 80°C ;

wherein Component A forms from 25% to 50% inclusive by weight of the composition and consists of a mixture of compounds having a terminal cyano group and includes at least one compound having Formula I as follows:



Formula I

where R_1 is a n-alkyl group having up to 7 carbon atoms and

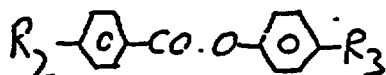
C_6H_4 represents a trans-1,4 disubstituted cyclohexane ring; and at least one compound having Formula III as follows:



Formula III

wherein R is n-alkyl having up to 7 carbon atoms;

wherein Component B forms from 20% to 50% by weight inclusive of the composition and consists of one or more low dielectric anisotropy compounds, at least 50% of Component B being formed by one or more ester compounds having Formula II as follows:



Formula II

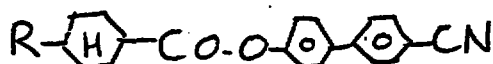
where R_2 and R_3 are independently n-alkyl groups having up to 7 carbon atoms, and wherein Component C forms from 15% to 35% by weight inclusive of the composition and consists of compounds having a clearing point greater than 80°C and at least 50% by weight of Component C is formed by one or more compounds selected from the families whose general formulae are represented by Formulae IV to VIII as follows:



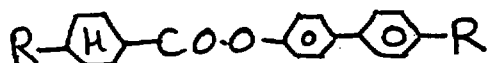
Formula IV



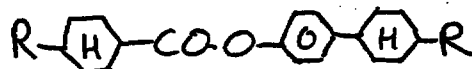
Formula V



Formula VI



Formula VII



Formula VIII

where each R is independently n-alkyl having up to 7 carbon atoms and C_6H_4 represents a trans-1,4-disubstituted cyclohexane ring;

the percentages by weight of Components A, B and C adding to 100%.

By 'high positive dielectric anisotropy' is meant a positive dielectric anisotropy magnitude greater than 3.

By 'low dielectric anisotropy' is meant a dielectric anisotropy (positive or negative) magnitude less than 2.

Preferably, the one or more components of Formula I form at least 40% by weight of Component A.

The high clearing point compounds of Formulae IV to VIII may form 100% of Component C.

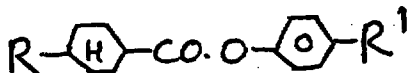
Component B may, in addition to the ester compounds of Formula II, include one or more compounds selected from the families whose general formulae are represented by Formulae IX to XVIII as follows:



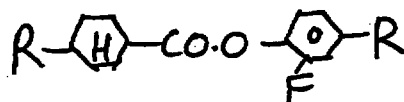
Formula IX



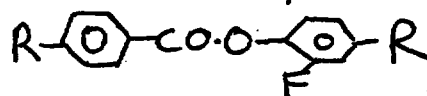
Formula X



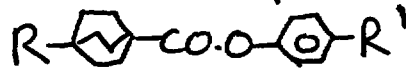
Formula XI



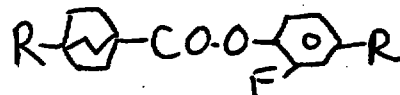
Formula XII



Formula XIII



Formula XIV



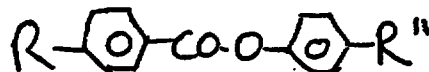
Formula XV



Formula XVI



Formula XVII



Formula XVIII

where each R is independently n-alkyl having up to 7 carbon atoms, each R' is independently n-alkyl or n-alkoxy having up to 7 carbon atoms, and each R'' is independently n-alkoxy having up to 7 carbon atoms,  represents a trans-1,4-disubstituted cyclohexane ring and  represents a bicyclo(2,2,2)octane ring.

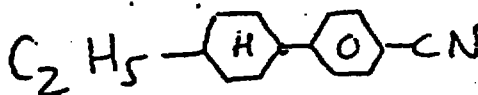
Preferably at least 80% by weight of Component B consists of ester compounds. The ester compounds of Formula II may in fact form 100% of Component B.

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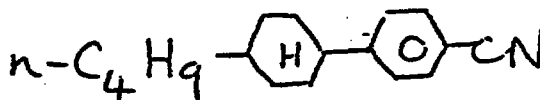
One example of a class of compositions embodying the present invention is one which includes:

- (i) one or more compounds of Formula I and one or more compounds of Formula III together forming from 35% to 45% inclusive by weight of the composition;
- (ii) one or more compounds of Formula II forming from 35% to 45% inclusive by weight of the composition;
- (iii) one or more compounds selected from Formulae IV to VIII forming from 15% to 30% inclusive by weight of the composition.

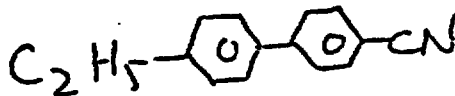
Preferably, the one or more compounds of Formula I include either:



and/or

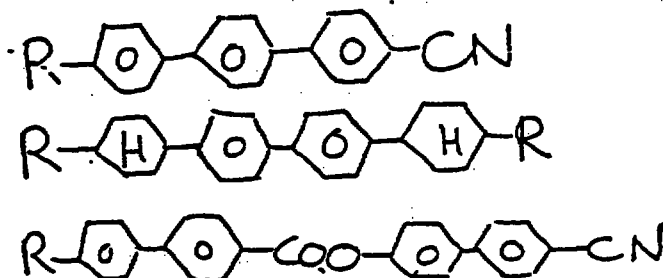


Preferably, the compound of Formula III is:



Preferably, the esters of Formula II have an odd number of carbon atoms in their n-alkyl groups.

Component C may include one or more other high clearing point compounds selected from:



5 where each R is independently n-alkyl having up to 7 carbon atoms.

For application to a twisted nematic effect device the composition according to the present invention may be mixed together with a chiral additive normally forming not more than 10 1.5% by weight of the overall mixture. Optically active 4-alkyl-or-alkoxy-4'-cyanobiphenyls are preferred as chiral additives. Such additives are well known in the art to avoid display patchiness arising from reverse molecular twists.

15 By specially formulating compositions in accordance with the present invention examples of liquid crystal materials may be formed which show relatively low values of $1/V$ ($\Delta V/\Delta T$), eg less than 0.4% per $^{\circ}\text{C}$ together with low viscosity eg 36 cps (36 mPa.s) at 20°C when $1/V$ ($\Delta V/\Delta T$) = 0.45% per $^{\circ}\text{C}$.

According to the present invention in a second aspect a multiplexed twisted nematic liquid crystal electro-optical display includes two dielectric substrates at least one of which is transparent, a film of liquid crystal material sandwiched between the substrates, the molecular arrangement in the material being such as to give the twisted nematic effect, and electrodes on the inner surfaces of the substrates for applying electric fields across the liquid crystal material, the electrodes being in a configuration whereby the electric fields are applicable to a multiplexed fashion, wherein the improvement comprises the liquid crystal material being the composition of the first aspect.

Examples of devices and materials embodying the invention will now be described by way of example only with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a sectional view of a digital display;

Figure 2 is a sectional view of Figure 1;

Figure 3 shows a rear electrode configuration for Figure 1;

Figure 4 shows a front electrode configuration for Figure 1;

Figures 5, 6, 7 show schematic views of the device of Figures 1 to 4 with typical addressing voltages.

The display of Figures 1 to 4 comprises a cell 1, formed of two, front and back, glass slides 2, 3 respectively, spaced $7\mu\text{m}$ apart by a spacer 4 all held together by an epoxy resin glue.

In front of the front glass slide 2 is a front polarizer 5 arranged with its axis of polarization axis horizontal. A reflector 7 is arranged behind a back polarizer 6 behind the slide 3.

Electrodes 8, 9 of tin oxide typically $100\text{\AA}$ thick are deposited on the inner faces of the slides 2, 3 as a complete layer and etched to the shapes shown in Figures 3, 4. The display has seven bars per digit 10 plus a decimal point 11 between each digit. As shown in Figure 3 the rear electrode structure is formed into three electrodes x_1 , x_2 , x_3 . Similarly the front

electrode structure is formed into three electrodes per digit and decimal point $y_1, y_2, y_3 \dots$. Examination of the six electrodes per digit shows that each of the eight elements can independently have a voltage applied thereto by application of suitable voltage to appropriate x, y electrodes.

Prior to assembly the electrode clear slides 2, 3 are cleaned then dipped in a solution of 0.2% by weight of poly vinyl alcohol (PVA) in water. When dry, the slides are rubbed in a single direction with a soft tissue then assembled with the rubbing direction orthogonal to one another and parallel to the optical axis of the respective adjacent polarizers. When a nematic liquid crystal material 12 is introduced between the slides 2, 3 the molecules at the slide surfaces lie along the respective rubbing directions with a progressive 90° twist between the slides.

When zero voltage is applied to the cell 1 light passes through the front polarizer 5, through the cell 1 (whilst having its plane of polarization rotated 90°) through its rear polarizer 6 to the reflector 7 where it is reflected back again to an observer, (shown at an angle of 45° to the axis Z normal to axes X and Y in the plane of the slides 2, 3). When a voltage above a threshold value is applied between the electrode 8, 9 the liquid crystal layer 12 loses its rotary power, or optical activity, the molecules being re-arranged to lie perpendicular to the slides 2, 3, ie along the axis Z. Thus light at that position does not reach the reflector 7 and does not reflect back to the observer who sees a dark display of one or more bars of a digit 10.

Voltages are applied as follows as shown in Figures 5, 6 and 7 for three successive time intervals. An electric potential of $3V/2$ is scanned down each x electrode in turn whilst $-V/2$ is applied to the remaining x electrodes. Meanwhile $-3V/2$ or $V/2$

is applied to the y electrodes. A coincidence of $3V/2$ and $-3V/2$ at an intersection results in a voltage $3V$ across the liquid crystal layer 12. Elsewhere the voltage is V or $-V$. Thus by applying $-3V/2$ to appropriate y electrodes as $3V/2$ is scanned down the x electrodes selected intersections are turned ON as indicated by solid circles. The electric voltage V is an ac signal of eg 100 Hz square wave, and the sign indicates the phase.

Each OFF intersection receives V for the entire scan period whilst each ON intersection receives $3V$ for one third of the scan period and V for the rest of the scan period making an rms value of 1.91 V . Thus the material of layer 12 preferably has M_{20} less than 1.91 to give a reasonable contrast between the ON and OFF states.

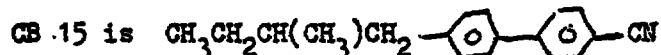
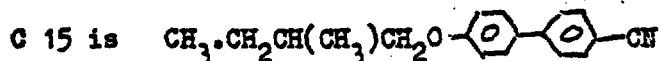
For similar displays having more than three rows of electrodes the figure of 1.91 V is reduced accordingly.

This illustrates the importance of the parameter M_{20} .

Suitable nematic mixtures for use to form the layer 12 in the above device are described below.

Small amounts of a cholesteric material may be added to the nematic material to induce a preferred twist in the molecules in the liquid crystal layer. This and the use of appropriate slide surface treatment removes the problems of display patchiness as taught in UK Patent Serial Number 1,472,247 and 1,478,592.

C 15 about 0.1 to 0.5% by weight and CB 15 about 0.01 to 0.05% by weight.



The following mixtures are examples of nematic materials embodying the invention which may be used in the above device. In the properties of the mixtures:

M_{20} is as defined above;

M'_{20} is a similarly measured ratio but is the voltage required to give 50% transmission at an angle of 10° to the normal to the twisted nematic cell divided by the voltage

$$V_{90}(45^\circ); \text{ ie } M'_{20} = \frac{V_{50}(10^\circ)}{V_{90}(45^\circ)}$$

- 5 this is another figure of merit for the multiplexibility of a material in twisted nematic operation; a typical value for a mixture of cyanobiphenyls alone is 1.36 (for the material E7).

$1/V (\Delta V/\Delta T)$ is as defined above;

- 10 N-I represents nematic liquid crystal to isotropic liquid transition temperature;

Δn represents birefringence measured at 20°C and 589 nm;

t represents the average thickness of the liquid crystal layer (separation of the substrates) for a twisted nematic cell;

Margin (1:3) is the parameter $\frac{1.92 - A}{1.92 + A} \times 100 (\%)$

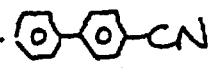
- 15 where $A = \frac{V_{50}(10^\circ) \text{ at } 0^\circ\text{C}}{V_{90}(45^\circ) \text{ at } 40^\circ\text{C}}$ This term is explained further below.

$$V_{Th} = V_{90}(45^\circ) \text{ (as defined above) at } 20^\circ\text{C}$$

- 20 Ratio (1:2) is the ratio of the amount by weight of the first component present to the amount by weight of the second component present, the first and second components being two ringed cyano compounds and benzoate esters respectively.

EXAMPLE 1

Mixture 1

Component	Weight %
C_2H_5 -  -CN	15
$n-C_4H_9$ -  -CN	3
$n-C_4H_9$ -  -CN	20
$n-C_3H_7$ -  -CN	40
C_2H_5 -  -CN	11
$n-C_5H_{11}$ -  -CN	11

Ratio (1:2) for Mixture 1 = 47:53

Properties of Mixture 1

N-I ($^{\circ}C$)	= 61
Δn	= 0.15
Viscosity	
at $20^{\circ}C$	= 40 cps (40 mPa.s)
at $0^{\circ}C$	= 154 cps (154 mPa.s)
(V_{Th})	= 1.02 Y
(M_{20})	= 1.75
for $t = (M'_{20})$	= 1.32
6.0 $(\mu_m (1/V (\Delta V/\Delta T)) (\% \text{ per } ^{\circ}C))$	= 0.44
(Margin 1:3 (%))	= 8.5

EXAMPLE 2

Mixture 2

Component	Weight %
C_2H_5 - 	15
$n-C_4H_9$ - 	15
$n-C_3H_7$ - 	40
C_2H_5 - 	15
$n-C_5H_{11}$ - 	15

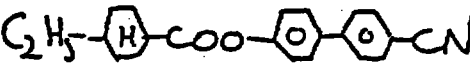
Ratio (1:2) for Mixture 2 = 43:57

Properties of Mixture 2

N-I ($^{\circ}C$)	= 78
Δn	= 0.17
Viscosity	
at $20^{\circ}C$	= 44 cps (44 mPa.s)
at $0^{\circ}C$	= 178 cps (178 mPa.s)
(V _{Th})	= 1.16 V
(M20)	= 1.74
for (	
t = (M' 20)	= 1.34
η_{sp} (	
(1/V ($\Delta V/\Delta T$)) (% per $^{\circ}C$)	= 0.38
(	
(Margin 1:3 (%))	= 10

EXAMPLE 3

Mixture 3

Component	Weight %
C_2H_5 - 	15
$n-C_4H_9$ - 	3
$n-C_4H_9$ - 	20
$n-C_3H_7$ - 	30
$n-C_5H_{11}$ - 	16
C_2H_5 - 	16

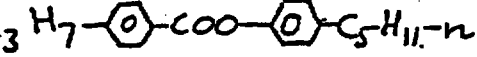
Ratio (1:2) for Mixture 3 = 56:44

Properties of Mixture 3

N-I ($^{\circ}C$)	= 83
Δn	= 0.17
Viscosity	
at $20^{\circ}C$	= 48 cps (48 mPa.s)
at $0^{\circ}C$	= 192 cps (192 mPa.s)
(V_{Th})	= 1.11 V
for (M_{20})	= 1.76
$t = (M'_{20})$	= 1.36
η_{sp} $(1/V (\Delta V/\Delta T))$ (% per $^{\circ}C$)	= 0.36
(Margin 1:3 (%))	= 9.1

EXAMPLE 4

Mixture 4

Component	Weight%
C_2H_5 - 	15
$n-C_4H_9$ - 	15
$n-C_4H_9$ - 	20
$n-C_3H_7$ - 	20
$n-C_3H_7$ - 	20
C_2H_5 - 	10

Ratio (1:2) for Mixture 4 71:29

Properties of Mixture 4

N-I ($^{\circ}C$)	= 72
Δn	= 0.145
Viscosity at $20^{\circ}C$	= 36 cps (36 mPa.s)
(ν_{Th})	= 1.12 V
(M_{20})	= 1.82
for $t = (M'_{20})$	= 1.35
$10\mu m (1/V (\Delta V/\Delta T) (\% \text{ per } ^{\circ}C))$	= 0.45
(Margin 1:3 (%))	= 8.3

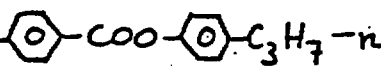
EXAMPLE 5

Mixture 5

The same as Mixture 4 but with $n-C_3H_7$ - replaced by $n-C_3H_7$ - (the components being in the same proportions by weight as in Mixture 4).

EXAMPLE 6

Mixture 6

Component	Weight %
C_2H_5 -  -CN	15
$n-C_4H_9$ -  -CN	15
$n-C_3H_7$ -  -n	40
$n-C_5H_{11}$ -  -CN	15
C_2H_5 -  -CN	15

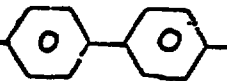
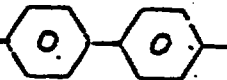
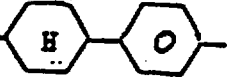
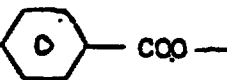
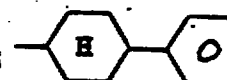
Ratio (1:2) for Mixture 6 = 43:57

Properties of Mixture 6

N-I ($^{\circ}C$)	= 75
(V _{Th})	= 1.11V
(M ₂₀)	= 1.73
t = (1/V ($\Delta V/\Delta T$) (% per $^{\circ}C$))	= 0.34
7 μm (M ₂₀)	= 1.33
(Margin 1:3 (%))	= 11.0

EXAMPLE 7

MIXTURE 7

Component	Weight %
C_2H_5 -  -CN	15
$n-C_4H_9$ -  -CN	6
$n-C_3H_7$ -  -CN	23
$n-C_3H_7$ -  -CN	30
$n-C_5H_{11}$ -  -CN	13
C_2H_5 -  -CN	13

Mixture 7 has the following properties in a twisted nematic cell having a liquid crystal material thickness of 7 μm .

Melting point. = $-10^\circ C$

N-I = $69^\circ C$

Δn = 0.164 at $20^\circ C$

$V_{90}(45^\circ)$ at $20^\circ C$ = 1.01 volts

M_{20} = 1.8

M_{20}^1 = 1.36

$\frac{1}{V} \left(\frac{\Delta V}{\Delta T} \right) 0^\circ C \rightarrow 40^\circ C$ = 0.42% per C°

Margin 1:3 = 8%

For a particular number of lines to be addressed, a particular matrix (multiplexing) addressing selection scheme is chosen which determines a fixed voltage discrimination ratio (V_{on}/V_{off}), supplied by the addressing and drive electronics of the display.

A given minimum V_{off} ($V_{90}(45^\circ)$ at 40°C) and maximum V_{on} ($V_{50}(10^\circ)$ at 0°C) condition exists for the material over a specified temperature range (eg $0-40^\circ\text{C}$) under ideal twisted nematic cell conditions.

In practice, variations within the cell construction can cause the discrimination ratio $\left[\frac{V_{50}(10^\circ)(10^\circ\text{C})}{V_{90}(45^\circ)(40^\circ\text{C})} \right]$ required to

drive the material over the whole display to increase from the ideal case. The margin is a measure expressed as a percentage of the maximum amount the discrimination ratios (ie in the ideal and practical cases) can vary relative to one another without a fall off in the optical performance occurring.

The values obtained for $\frac{1}{V} \left(\frac{\Delta V}{\Delta T} \right)$ in the above Examples, particularly Examples 1 to 4, 6 and 7, which are less than 0.5% per $^\circ\text{C}$, are generally better than the values, typically between 0.5% per $^\circ\text{C}$ and 0.7% per $^\circ\text{C}$ obtained for the known cyanobiphenyl/benzoate ester multiplexing mixtures.

In Examples 1-7 the stated constituent percentages may be varied by up to 10% (relative to the composition) without significantly affecting the nature of the composition provided that such variations provide compositions within the scope of the first aspect of the present invention as defined above.



CLAIMS

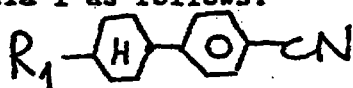
1. A nematic liquid crystal composition suitable for use as the liquid crystal material of a multiplexed twisted nematic electro-optical display comprising a mixture of Components A, B and C as follows:

5 Component A: a high positive dielectric anisotropy component;

Component B: a low dielectric anisotropy component;

Component C: a high clearing component having a clearing point greater than 80°C;

10 wherein Component A forms from 25% to 50% inclusive by weight of the composition and consists of one or more two ringed compounds having a terminal cyano group and includes at least one compound having Formula I as follows:



Formula I

where R₁ is an n-alkyl group having up to 7 carbon atoms and

 represents a trans-1,4 disubstituted cyclohexane ring; and

15 at least one compound having formula III as follows:

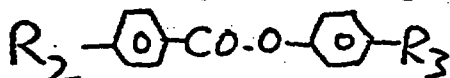


Formula III

where R is an n-alkyl group having from 1 to 7 carbon atoms;

wherein Component B forms from 20% to 50% inclusive by weight of the composition and consists of one or more low dielectric anisotropy compounds, at least 50% of Component B being formed by

20 one or more ester compounds having Formula II as follows:



Formula II

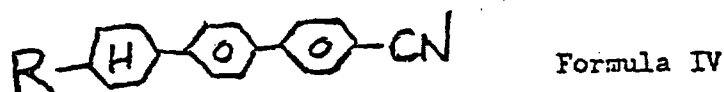
where R₂ and R₃ are independently n-alkyl groups having up to seven carbon atoms; and wherein Component C forms from 15% to 35% inclusive by weight of the composition and consists of compounds having a clearing point greater than 80°C and at least

25 50% by weight of Component C is formed by one or more compounds



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selected from the families whose general formulae are represented by Formulae IV to VIII as follows:

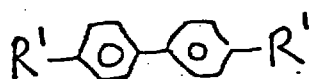


where each R is independently n-alkyl having up to seven carbon atoms and C_6H_4 represents a trans-1,4-disubstituted cyclohexane ring;

the percentages by weight of Components A, B and C adding to 100%.

2. A composition as claimed in claim 1 and wherein the one or more components of Formula I form at least 40% by weight of Component A.
3. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 and wherein the one or more esters of Formula II form 100% of Component B.
4. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 and wherein the one or more compounds of Formulae IV to VIII form 100% of Component C.
5. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 and wherein Component B includes in addition to the ester compounds of Formula II one or more compounds selected from the families whose general formulae are represented by Formulae IX to XVIII as follows:

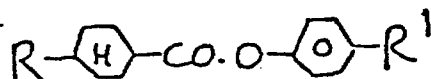
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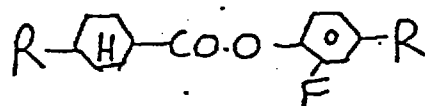
Formula IX



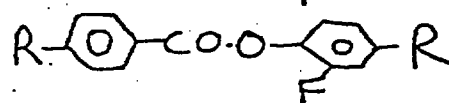
Formula X



Formula XI



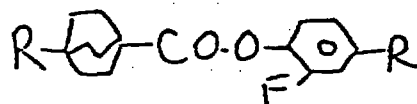
Formula XII



Formula XIII



Formula XIV



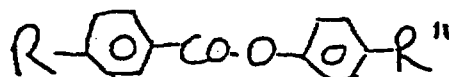
Formula XV



Formula XVI



Formula XVII



Formula XVIII

where each R is independently n-alkyl having up to 7 carbon atoms, each R¹ is independently n-alkyl or n-alkoxy having up to 7 carbon atoms, and each R'' is independently n-alkoxy having up to 7 carbon atoms,  represents a trans-1,4-disubstituted cyclohexane ring and  represents a bicyclo(2,2,2)octane ring.

6. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 and wherein a chiral additive is added to the composition and forms up to 1.5% by weight of the total composition.



7. A composition as claimed in Claim 6 and wherein the chiral additive comprises one or more chiral 4-alkyl-or-alkoxy-4'-cyanobiphenyls.

8. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 and wherein component A comprises a mixture of one or more compounds of Formula I as specified in Claim 1 together with the compound of Formula IIIa as follows:



9. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 and which comprises the following:

- i one or more compounds of Formula I and one or more compounds of Formula III together forming from 35% to 45% inclusive by weight of the composition;
- ii one or more compounds of Formula II as specified in Claim 1 forming from 35% to 45% by weight inclusive of the composition.
- iii one or more compounds selected from Formulae IV to VIII as specified in Claim 1 forming from 15% to 30% by weight inclusive of the composition.

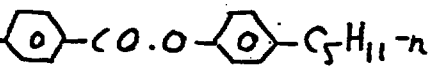
10. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 and wherein the one or more compounds of Formula I are one or more compounds selected from trans-1-ethyl-4-(-4'-cyanophenyl)cyclohexane and trans-1-n-butyl-4(-4'-cyanophenyl)cyclohexane.

11. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 and wherein the one or more compounds of Formula II are one or more compounds having an odd number of carbon atoms in their n-alkyl groups.

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12. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 and which comprises the following stated components in the stated percentage by weight or percentages which differ therefrom by not more than 10% of the composition:

Component	Percentage by weight
C_2H_5 - 	15
$n-C_4H_9$ - 	3
$n-C_4H_9$ - 	20
$n-C_3H_7$ - 	40
$n-C_5H_{11}$ - 	11
C_2H_5 - 	11



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13. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 and which comprises the following stated components in the stated percentage by weight or percentages which differ therefrom by not more than 10% of the composition:

Component	Percentage by weight
C_2H_5 -  -  -CN	15
$n-C_4H_9$ -  -  -CN	15
$n-C_3H_7$ -  -COO-  - C_5H_{11} -n	40
C_2H_5 -  -COO-  -  -CN	15
$n-C_5H_{11}$ -  -  -  -CN	15

14. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 and which comprises the following stated components in the stated percentage by weight or percentages which differ therefrom by not more than 10% of the composition:

Component	Percentage by weight
C_2H_5 -  -  -CN	15
$n-C_4H_9$ -  -  -CN	3
$n-C_4H_9$ -  -  -CN	20
$n-C_3H_7$ -  -COO-  - C_5H_{11} -n	30
$n-C_5H_{11}$ -  -  -  -CN	16
C_2H_5 -  -COO-  -  -CN	16

15. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 and which comprises the following stated components in the stated percentage by weight or percentages which differ therefrom by not more than 10% of the composition:

Component	Percentage by weight
C_2H_5 -  -  -CN	15
$n-C_4H_9$ -  -  -CN	20
$n-C_3H_7$ -  -COO-  - $C_5H_{11}-n$	20
$n-C_3H_7$ -  -COO-  -  - $C_5H_{11}-n$	20
C_2H_5 -  -CO.O-  -  -CN	10
$n-C_4H_9$ -  -  -CN	15

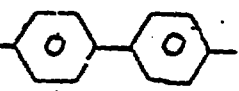
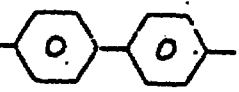
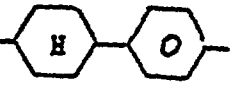
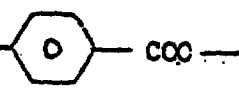
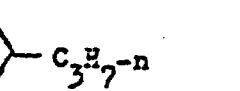
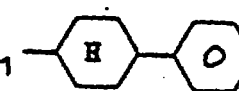
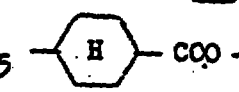
16. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 and which comprises the following stated components in the stated percentage by weight or percentages which differ therefrom by not more than 10% of the composition:

Component	Percentage by weight
C_2H_5 -  -  -CN	15
$n-C_4H_9$ -  -  -CN	15
$n-C_3H_7$ -  -COO-  - C_3H_7-n	40
$n-C_5H_{11}$ -  -  -  -CN	15
C_2H_5 -  -COO-  -  -CN	15



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17. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 and which comprises the following stated components in the stated percentage by weight or percentages which differ therefrom by not more than 10% of the composition:

Component	Percentage by weight
C_2H_5 -  -CN	15
$n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9$ -  -CN	6
$n\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7$ -  -CN	23
$n\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7$ -  -COO-  - $\text{C}_3\text{H}_7\text{-n}$	30
$n\text{-C}_5\text{H}_{11}$ -  -CN	13
C_2H_5 -  -COO-  -CN	13

18. A multiplexed twisted nematic liquid crystal electro-optical display which includes two dielectric substrates at least one of which is transparent, a film of liquid crystal material sandwiched between the substrates, the molecular arrangement in the material being such as to give the twisted nematic effect, and electrodes on the inner surfaces of the substrates for applying electric fields across the liquid crystal material, the electrodes being in a configuration whereby the electric fields are applicable in a multiplexed fashion, wherein the improvement comprises the liquid crystal material being the composition claimed in Claim 1.