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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An active-matrix liquid crystal display device employing the in-plane switching mode in which an electric field substantially parallel to the substrate surface is applied to the liquid crystals, characterized by weak torsional anchoring of the liquid crystal molecules and the alignment layer surface at the liquid crystal/alignment layer interface to an extent that the extrapolation length which expresses the strength of said torsional anchoring will become not less than 10% of the gap between the substrates. For obtaining such weak torsional anchoring, an organic alignment layer comprising a polymer and/or oligomer having long-chain alkylene and/or fluoro groups, or an inorganic alignment layer formed by oblique evaporation technique, or a photo-reactive alignment layer formed by linearly polarized light irradiation is used.