A sign pattern is a matrix whose entries are $+$, $-$, or $0$. An $n \times n$ sign pattern is called spectrally arbitrary if any self-conjugate spectrum can be achieved by a matrix in the pattern as its spectrum. In 2004, T. Britz et al. conjectured that an $n \times n$ spectrally arbitrary pattern has at least $2n$ nonzero entries for $n \geq 2$. In this paper, we present an affirmative result towards this conjecture, and we show that the Jacobian method introduced by J.H. Drew et al. does not work for $n \times n$ sign patterns with $2n - 1$ nonzero entries. (Received October 05, 2004)