

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 609 318 B1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention
of the grant of the patent:

18.09.1996 Bulletin 1996/38

(21) Application number: **92921850.1**

(22) Date of filing: **26.10.1992**

(51) Int Cl.⁶: **G03G 15/20**

(86) International application number:
PCT/GB92/01958

(87) International publication number:
WO 93/08512 (29.04.1993 Gazette 1993/11)

(54) **OIL TRANSFER COMPONENT**

ÖL-ÜBERTRAGUNGSKOMPONENTE

ELEMENT DE TRANSFERT D'HUILE

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE DK ES FR GB GR IE IT LI NL SE

(30) Priority: **26.10.1991 GB 9122750**

(43) Date of publication of application:
10.08.1994 Bulletin 1994/32

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- **PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 14, no. 296**
(P-1067) 26 June 1990 & JP-A-20 91 672
- **DATABASE WPIL Section Ch, Week 0486,**
Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class
A04, AN 86-023696 [04] & JP-A-60 244 365

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Description

The present invention relates to the use of a porous polytetrafluoroethylene structure as a copying machine oil transfer component for oiling and/or wiping a roll in a fuser system of a copying machine, which term includes plain paper copying and fax machines and laser printers.

In a plain-paper copying machine, toner images applied to the surface of paper or other recording medium are fixated by application of heat and pressure. In certain plain paper copying machines fixation is accomplished by passing the image-bearing recording medium between a hot thermal fixation roll and a pressure roll. When this type of thermal fixation device is used the toner material is directly contacted by a roll surface, and a portion of the toner usually becomes adhered to the roll surface. On subsequent rotation of the roll, the adhered toner material may be redeposited on the recording medium resulting in undesirable offset images, stains, or smears; or in severe cases the recording medium may stick to the adhered toner material on the roll and become wrapped around the roll.

To counter these problems, materials having good release properties such as silicone rubber or polytetrafluoroethylene are often used for the roll surfaces. Although improving performance of the thermal fixation devices, use of silicone rubber or polytetrafluoroethylene roll surfaces alone does not eliminate the problem. Another approach is to include release agents with the toner materials, which prevent the toner materials from adhering to the roll surface. These oil-less toners improve the performance of the thermal-fixation devices but again, particularly in the case of high-speed type copying machines, do not completely eliminate the problems associated with toner pick-up and transfer.

Toner pick-up by the rolls can be controlled by coating the surface of at least one of the rolls with a liquid release agent, such as a silicone oil. It is important that the release liquid be applied uniformly and in precise quantities to the surface of the roll. Too little liquid or non-uniform surface coverage, will not prevent the toner from being picked up and redeposited on the roll. On the other hand, excessive quantities of the release liquid may cause silicone rubber roll surfaces to swell and wrinkle, thus producing copies of unacceptable quality.

Devices to uniformly meter and coat a release liquid onto copy machine roll surfaces are described in Japanese laid-open patent No. 62-178992. These devices consist of an oil permeation control layer adhered to a thick porous material which serves as a wick or reservoir for supplying oil to the permeation control layer. The permeation control layer is typically a porous polytetrafluoroethylene film which has been impregnated with a mixture of silicone oil and silicone rubber followed by a heat treatment to cross-link the silicone rubber. The thick porous material to which the permeation control layer is adhered is typically a porous thermosetting resin foam

or a felt of Nomex (Trademark) fibres, glass fibres, carbon fibres, polytetrafluoroethylene fibres, or any other high temperature fibre.

Conventional plain paper copiers which use silicone oil as the liquid release agent generally comprise a means for coating the silicone oil onto the fuser roll and also a means for wiping the roll to remove undesirable adhered toner, paper dust and other undesirable material. In many cases, the coating and wiping functions are performed by a single device. In one particular type of machine, there is provided a reservoir wick which is generally formed of a Nomex felt, with a cover wick placed over the top of it for metering the flow of oil from the reservoir wick to the fuser roll and also for providing improved wear and distribution characteristics. The cover wick is typically a Nomex fabric. It is found, however, that the cover wick has only a limited lifetime, typically lasting for around 60,000 copies before requiring replacement. It would be desirable to have a cover wick which lasts as long as the life of the fuser rollers.

In another commonly used type of copying machine, the oil coating and wiping function is provided by a length of felt, typically formed of Nomex or polytetrafluoroethylene fibres. The roll is typically 435 millimetres wide by 1.4 metres long. Whilst the machine is copying, the roll, which is laden with silicone oil, travels past the fuser roll at a speed of about 2cm per hour. This oiling roll applies silicone oil. Also excess toner cleaned from the fuser roll is picked up and carried away on the oiling roll. Typically, the felt of the oiling roll has a weight of 700 grammes per square metre and a thickness of 1.3 millimetres. Due to the physical restraints of the copying machine, this limits the length of material on the oiling roll to about 1.4 metres. It is generally speaking not possible to make satisfactory felts which are lighter than 700 grammes per square metre for this purpose. In practise, it is therefore necessary to replace the oiling roll about every 10 days of operation.

British published patent application 2242431 and corresponding EP-A-0 450 894 disclose a porous polytetrafluoroethylene structure for use as a filter in industrial filtration. The porous polytetrafluoroethylene material is produced by fusing particles of polytetrafluoroethylene such as to form a porous integral network of interconnected particles. The disclosure of this patent specification is incorporated herein. The specification is particularly concerned with the filtration of aqueous slurries.

It is an object of the present invention to provide an oil transfer component having suitable oil retention characteristics and enhanced mechanical properties which allows a longer lifetime between changes.

Generally speaking, the present invention envisages the use of a porous polytetrafluoroethylene material such as disclosed in GB 2242431 for use as an oil transfer component for coating or wiping a fuser roll in a copying machine. The material is able to withstand the high temperatures (around 200°C) encountered and has excellent mechanical properties and durability in this ap-

plication.

Specifically, one aspect of the invention provides a copying machine oil transfer component for coating or wiping a fuser roll in a copying machine which comprises a porous polytetrafluoroethylene structure formed from particles of granular-type polytetrafluoroethylene fused together such as to form a porous integral network of interconnected particles.

In order to act as an oil transfer component, the porous polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) structure will generally include a support means for supporting the structure within the copying machine. In the case of a cover wick, the support means may be in the form of a frame or pair of parallel rods extending along either side of the cover wick strip. Alternatively, the porous polytetrafluoroethylene structure may be laminated to a reservoir material acting as a support structure. The porous polytetrafluoroethylene structure may also be provided in the form of a roll or may be applied onto a roller formed of an oil reservoir material (such as a foam as disclosed in Japanese 62-178992 or a porous ceramic) which is optionally covered by a felt cover. Generally, the porous polytetrafluoroethylene structure is in the form of a sheet material, typically of a thickness in the range 50 microns to 750 microns, particularly 100 to 400 microns, and especially 200 to 500 microns.

The porous polytetrafluoroethylene structure is hydrophobic but has a high affinity for liquid release agents such as silicone oil. Where the oil transfer component is to be used for coating the fuser roll, it will generally be supplied pre-loaded with release oil. The skilled man will understand that the term "release oil" includes liquid release agents in general. Typically, the oil will constitute 20 to 80% by weight of the total weight of the oil transfer component, particularly 40 to 60% by weight. In order to provide such oil retention capacities, the porous polytetrafluoroethylene structure usually has a specific gravity of 0.8 to 1.8, typically 0.9 to 1.2. In comparison, pure non-porous PTFE typically has a specific gravity of 2.16.

Preferably, the porous polytetrafluoroethylene structure does not include any filler materials, since these are generally of mineral origin and tend to be of an abrasive nature which would damage the fuser rolls.

In order to improve the wiping abilities of the oil transfer component, it is preferred that the porous polytetrafluoroethylene structure have a slightly uneven surface texture. This surface texture can be obtained by spraying onto a smooth substrate in order to produce the porous PTFE structure. After spraying and heat treating, the porous PTFE may be peeled from the substrate to yield a sheet material which is smooth on the side which was adjacent the substrate and textured on the other side as a result of the spray technique. In use the textured surface is placed adjacent the photocopier roll.

The surface texture could also be provided by spraying onto a substrate carrying an embossed pattern

of ridges, valleys, indentations, protrusions etc. such that the textured surface is provided on the side of the sheet facing the substrate.

Other methods could also be used to provide a surface texture on the porous PTFE structure, such as by pulsing the laydown of the material, e.g. by using a vibrating doctor-blade. Alternatively, the surface of the PTFE could be mechanically embossed e.g. by passage through the nip of embossing rollers.

In another embodiment, the texture is provided by applying a fabric of suitable material (e.g. a Nomex fabric) over the PTFE surface.

The surface texture acts to scrape unused material off the surface of the copier roll and to carry it away in the depressions in the textured surface pattern. The porous polytetrafluoroethylene structure of the present invention provides excellent wear characteristics in comparison to conventional materials and does not shed fibres. In the case of an oiling roll, the porous polytetrafluoroethylene structure can be provided much thinner than conventional felts, which allows much longer lengths to be used, whilst maintaining the same oiling and wiping characteristics. There is also reduced frictional drag on the rollers.

The porous polytetrafluoroethylene structure may be produced as described in patent specification GB 2242431. It is particularly preferred to form the structure from a mixture of particles of different grades of granular-type polytetrafluoroethylene. As is well known, PTFE is produced in two distinct types so-called "granular PTFE" and so-called "fine powder PTFE". These materials have quite different properties and the present invention is concerned with the former. A particularly useful product for use in the present invention comprises 40 to 60% of Teflon (Trademark) resin grade 7A; and 40 to 60% of Teflon resin grade 9B. Teflon resin grades 7A and 9B are available from Du Pont Speciality Polymers Division, Wilmington, U.S.A. The porous polytetrafluoroethylene structure is usually prepared by spraying onto a substrate, such as a ceramic tile or sheet of metal.

Another aspect of the invention relates to a copying machine which comprises said copying machine oil-transfer component.

A further aspect of the invention relates to a method of coating or wiping a roll in a fuser system of a copying machine which comprises;

- providing a porous polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) structure formed from particles of granular-type polytetrafluoroethylene fused together such as to form a porous integral network of interconnected particles;
- arranging the porous PTFE structure to be in contact with the roll in said copier fuser system; and
- operating the copying machine such that the porous PTFE structure is effective in coating the roll with oil and/or wiping off excess oil from the roll.

Embodiments of the present invention will now be described by way of example only.

The attached Figures show schematically various conventional fuser roll arrangements as used in photocopying machines, fitted with oil transfer components according to the present invention.

Figure 1 shows a conventional PTFE-covered fuser roll 2 and a silicone rubber covered roll 4, which are oiled and wiped by an oil-containing oiling roll or web 6 of porous PTFE wound on a spool 8, which passes around pressure rollers 10, 12 onto take-up spool 14.

Figure 2 shows a similar arrangement, except that oil is applied to the porous PTFE oiling roll or web by means of an oil supply mechanism 16.

Figure 3 shows a conventional PTFE covered fuser roll 2 and silicone rubber covered roll 4 to which silicone oil is applied by oil supply mechanism 16, reservoir wick 26, and cover wick 20. The cover wick is formed of porous PTFE and is supported on a pair of rods 22, 24.

Figure 4 shows use of a roller 30 to deliver oil onto the conventional PTFE-covered fuser roller 2. Alternatively, it may contact the silicone rubber covered roller 4. The roller has a porous PTFE covering. The roller may be pre-oiled, or oil may be supplied into the centre of the roller by an oil supply mechanism.

Figure 5 shows a conventional PTFE covered fuser roll 2 and a silicone rubber covered roll 4 in contact therewith, which form a fuser roll arrangement of a laser printer. An oil-containing felt 40 in channel 42 applies oil directly to the fuser roll 2. The felt has a porous PTFE covering laminated thereto. Specific Examples of the invention will now be described.

Example 1 (Cover Wick)

(1) An oiling assembly for the fuser rolls in a conventional Kodak Ektoprint 850 photocopier comprises a reservoir formed of 1600 gms per square metre Nomex felt of thickness approximately 16mm, and a cover wick comprising a Nomex felt of 400 gms per square metre fitted with side bars for locating the cover wick against the fuser roll (i.e. in the manner of Figure 3).

(a) The cover wick was removed and a strip of porous polytetrafluoroethylene sheet material of thickness 380 microns, porosity approximately 50% and density 1 gm per c.c. adhered to the side bars across the Nomex felt, such as to contact the fuser roller in use. The porous polytetrafluoroethylene material comprise 50% Teflon grade 7A and 50% Teflon grade 9B produced according to Example 1 of patent specification GB2242431. The Kodak Ektoprint 850 photocopying machine was run continuously for seven days before the machine was stopped and the cover wick inspected. In that period, about 120,000 copies had been produced. When the wick was inspected, there was no damage to the porous polytetrafluoroethylene sheet and

no fibre shed. Thereafter the machine continued to run and produced a total of about 300,000 copies before the PTFE cover wick failed mechanically by tearing at the side bars. A conventional wick usually lasts for 160-220,000 copies.

(b) In a further test, the conventional cover wick was replaced by the same porous PTFE material, but in this case the porous PTFE sheet was adhered using a gravure printed polyimide adhesive (Mitsubishi A310) pattern to a woven glassfibre fabric. The polyimide adhesive is capable of withstanding temperatures of 180-200°C. The photocopier produced 1,000,000 copies before the cover wick failed.

(2) A further trial was carried out using a Xerox 5046 photocopier in which a porous PTFE sheet as described above was adhered to a woven Nomex Scrim to produce a cover wick. The adhesive was a polyimide adhesive (Mitsubishi A310) in a gravure printed pattern. The cover wick was still intact when changed together with the fuser roller after having made 350,000 copies. A conventional woven Nomex cover wick is usually capable of producing 60,000 copies only.

Example 2 (Oiling Roll)

A conventional Siemens ND2 photocopying machine comprises an oil-containing oiling roll which oils the fuser roll with silicone oil and also wipes it clean (in the manner of Figure 1). The conventional roll is formed of 700 gms per square metre PTFE felt, of thickness 1.3 mm, 435 mm wide and 1.4 metres long. The felt is wound on bakelite spools and the roll has an overall diameter of approximately 63 mm., which represents the maximum allowed according to the photocopying machine construction. The oiling roll is advanced at a rate of 2 cm per hour of copying operation, which delivers 1.06 grams/hour to the fuser roll. Typically, the roll requires to be changed three times a month.

According to the invention, the conventional roll was replaced by a roll of porous polytetrafluoroethylene material (of composition given in Example 1) having the same width. The porous polytetrafluoroethylene material had a thickness of 375 microns, a weight of 375 gram/m², and a length of 4.2 metres for the same 63 mm diameter roll. This is three times as long as the conventional roll. The oiling roll was advanced at 2 cm per hour of copying operation. The roll contained 0.8 grams/cc of silicone oil and provided 1.6 grams/hour to the fuser roller.

In the tests, the porous polytetrafluoroethylene material transferred oil well and wiped well and produced prints of consistently high quality. There was no apparent wear nor shedding of material. It is therefore possible to obtain at least three times the lifetime from an oil retention roll of the present invention (up to 30 days of operation) as opposed to the conventional material.

Example 3 (thin oiling web)

Certain Cannon, Xerox, Minolta and Konica photocopiers use a thin web of Nomex and polyester having a weight of 25-35 grams/m² and a thickness of 0.060 - 0.080 mm (in the manner of Figure 1). A length of 10 - 13 m of the web is wound onto a metal core (roll diameter 31.5mm) and impregnated with an average of 31 grams/m² of silicone oil. The web is advanced at about 2mm per minute of copier operation, delivering 0.018 grams/min of oil to the fuser roll.

(a) According to the invention, the standard web may be replaced by a shorter length of porous polytetrafluoroethylene film of the composition of Example 1. The film has a weight of 125 grams/m² and a thickness of 0.125 mm. The final diameter of the roll (31.5mm) allows 7.2m of film to be wound onto the core. The film holds twice as much oil as the conventional web, and is therefore advanced at half the speed i.e. 1mm/min. This provides an increased lifetime for the film of 120 hours, compared to a lifetime of 96 hours for the conventional web. The film also has better oil retention properties, eliminating any oil drops; and gives good toner and paper dust adsorption. Higher fusing temperatures may be used, and there is reduced frictional drag.

(b) In another embodiment of the invention, the standard thin web in a Xerox photocopier was replaced by a PTFE film of composition as in Example 1. The thickness was 0.13mm. Its lifetime was found to be about four times as long as that of the conventional web.

(c) In another embodiment, a conventional web of layers of polyester and Nomex in a Siemens ND2 photocopying machine was replaced by a sheet of PTFE as in Example 1 having a layer of woven Nomex fabric bonded to the front face thereof (i.e. the face in contact with the fuser roll). The material performed well and had a lifetime at least three times as long as the conventional web.

Example 4 (Laser Printers)

Conventional laser printers use as the oil supply and wiping mechanism a square section length of Nomex felt, typically 2 cm x 2 cm x 40 cm (see Figure 5). Such Nomex felts conventionally suffer from fibre shed and may run dry through lack of oil towards the end of their working life.

An oil transfer component according to the present invention was produced by laminating a surface sheet of porous polytetrafluoroethylene as used in Example 1 over the surface of the Nomex felt. The life of the component was 250,000 copies in comparison to 80,000 with the conventional component.

This material may also be impregnated with oil for use as a coating/wiping component on a laser printer,

or may be used dry as a wiper.

Claims

1. A copying machine oil transfer component for coating or wiping a roll in a fuser system of a copying machine, which comprises;
a porous polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) structure formed from particles of granular-type polytetrafluoroethylene fused together such as to form a porous integral network of interconnected particles.
2. A component according to claim 1 wherein the porous PTFE has a specific gravity of 0.8 to 1.8.
3. A component according to any preceding claim wherein the porous PTFE has a specific gravity of 0.9 to 1.2.
4. A component according to any preceding claim wherein the porous PTFE is substantially free of filler materials of mineral origin.
5. A component according to any preceding claim wherein the porous PTFE structure has an uneven surface texture on a surface thereof, said surface in use contacting the roll in said fuser system.
6. A component according to any preceding claim wherein the PTFE component has been produced by spray deposition.
7. A component according to any preceding claim wherein the porous PTFE structure is in the form of a sheet material.
8. A component according to claim 7 wherein the PTFE sheet material is laminated to a woven or non-woven backing fabric.
9. A component according to claim 7 or 8 wherein the PTFE sheet material has a thickness of 50 to 750 microns.
10. A component according to any preceding claim which is pre-loaded with release oil.
11. A component according to claim 10 wherein the release oil comprises 20 to 80% by weight of the component.
12. A component according to any preceding claim in the form of a roll of sheet material.
13. A component according to any of claims 1 to 11 in the form of a cover wick.

14. A component according to any of claims 1 to 11 in the form of a roller having an outer layer of said porous PTFE material.
15. A component according to any of claims 1 to 11 which comprises an oil reservoir material having laminated thereto the porous PTFE material.
16. A copying machine which comprises a copying machine oil transfer component for coating or wiping a roll in the fuser system thereof, said oil transfer component comprising a porous polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) structure formed from particles of granular-type polytetrafluoroethylene fused together such as to form a porous integral network of interconnected particles.
17. A method of coating or wiping a roll in a fuser system of a copying machine which comprises;
- providing a porous polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) structure formed from particles of granular-type polytetrafluoroethylene fused together such as to form a porous integral network of interconnected particles;
 - arranging the porous PTFE structure to be in contact with the roll in said copier fuser system; and
 - operating the copying machine such that the porous PTFE structure is effective in coating the roll with oil and/or wiping off excess oil from the roll.
18. Use of a porous polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) structure formed from particles of granular-type polytetrafluoroethylene fused together such as to form a porous integral network of interconnected particles for the manufacture of an oil transfer component for coating or wiping a roll in a fuser system of a copying machine.
3. Eine Komponente nach einem vorhergehenden Anspruch, bei der das poröse PTFE ein spezifisches Gewicht von 0,9 bis 1,2 besitzt.
4. Eine Komponente nach einem vorhergehenden Anspruch, bei dem das poröse PTFE im wesentlichen frei von Füllstoffen mineralischen Ursprungs ist.
5. Eine Komponente nach einem vorhergehenden Anspruch, bei der die poröse PTFE-Struktur eine unebene Oberflächentextur an deren einen Oberfläche aufweist, wobei die Oberfläche bei Anwendung die Walze im Fixiersystem berührt.
6. Eine Komponente nach einem vorhergehenden Anspruch, bei dem die PTFE-Komponente durch Sprühablagerung hergestellt worden ist.
7. Eine Komponente nach einem vorhergehenden Anspruch, bei dem die poröse PTFE-Struktur in der Form eines Folienmaterials ist.
8. Eine Komponente nach Anspruch 7, bei der das PTFE-Folienmaterial auf ein gewebtes oder nicht-gewebtes Grundgewebe laminiert ist.
9. Eine Komponente nach Anspruch 7 oder 8, bei der das PTFE-Blattmaterial eine Dicke von 50 bis 750 µm aufweist.
10. Eine Komponente nach einem vorhergehenden Anspruch, die mit Trennöl vorbeladen ist.
11. Eine Komponente nach Anspruch 10, bei der das Trennöl 20 bis 80% des Gewichts der Komponente beträgt.
12. Eine Komponente nach einem vorhergehenden Anspruch in der Form einer Walze aus Folienmaterial.
13. Eine Komponente nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 11 in der Form eines Abdeckdochts.
14. Eine Komponente nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 11 in der Form einer Walze mit einer äußeren Schicht aus porösem PTFE-Material.
15. Eine Komponente nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 11, welche ein ölspeicherndes Material mit dem hierauf laminierten porösen PTFE-Material aufweist.
16. Eine Kopiermaschine, welche eine Kopiermaschinen-Ölübertragungskomponente zum Beschichten oder Wischen einer Walze in deren Fixiersystem aufweist, wobei die Ölübertragungskomponente eine poröse Polytetrafluorethylen (PTFE)-Struktur aufweist, welche aus Partikeln aus körnerartigem

Patentansprüche

1. Eine Kopiermaschinen-Ölübertragungskomponente zum Beschichten und Wischen einer Walze in einem Fixiersystem einer Kopiermaschine, wobei die Komponente eine poröse Polytetrafluorethylen (PTFE)-Struktur aufweist, welche aus Partikeln aus körnerartigem Polytetrafluorethylen aufgebaut ist, welche derartig miteinander verschmolzen sind, um ein poröses, aus einem Stück bestehendes Netzwerk von miteinander verbundenen Partikeln zu bilden.
2. Eine Komponente nach Anspruch 1, bei der das poröse PTFE ein spezifisches Gewicht von 0,8 bis 1,8 besitzt.

Polytetrafluorethylen aufgebaut ist, welche derartig miteinander verschmolzen sind, um ein poröses, aus einem Stück bestehendes Netzwerk von miteinander verbundenen Partikeln zu bilden.

17. Ein Verfahren zum Beschichten oder Wischen einer Walze in einem Fixiersystem einer Kopiermaschine, welches folgende Schritte aufweist:

- Bereitstellen einer porösen Polytetrafluorethylen (PTFE)-Struktur, welche aus Partikeln aus körnerartigem Polytetrafluorethylen aufgebaut ist, welche derartig miteinander verschmolzen sind, um ein poröses, aus einem Stück bestehendes Netzwerk von miteinander verbundenen Partikeln zu bilden;
- Anordnen der porösen PTFE-Struktur, um die Walze im Kopierfixiersystem zu berühren; und
- Betreiben der Kopiermaschine, so daß die poröse PTFE-Struktur zum Beschichten der Walze mit Öl und/oder Wegwischen von überschüssigem Öl von der Walze wirksam ist.

18. Verwendung einer porösen Polytetrafluorethylen (PTFE)-Struktur, welche aus Partikeln aus körnerartigem Polytetrafluorethylen aufgebaut ist, welche derartig miteinander verschmolzen sind, um ein poröses, aus einem Stück bestehendes Netzwerk von miteinander verbundenen Partikeln für die Herstellung einer Ölübertragungskomponente zum Beschichten oder Wischen einer Walze in einem Fixiersystem einer Kopiermaschine zu bilden.

Revendications

1. Organe de transfert d'huile pour copieur, servant à enduire ou essuyer un rouleau dans le système de four d'un copieur qui comprend :
une structure de polytétrafluoréthylène poreux (PTFE) formée de particules de polytétrafluoréthylène du type granulaire, assemblées par fusion de manière à former un réseau cohérent poreux de particules interconnectées.
2. Organe selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le PTFE poreux a une masse spécifique de 0,8 à 1,8.
3. Organe selon une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel le PTFE poreux a une masse spécifique de 0,9 à 1,2.
4. Organe selon une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel le PTFE poreux est sensiblement exempt de matières de charge d'origine minérale.

5. Organe selon une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel la structure de PTFE poreux a une texture superficielle inégale sur une de ses surfaces, ladite surface entrant en contact avec le rouleau dudit système de four en utilisation.

6. Organe selon une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel l'organe en PTFE a été produit par dépôt par pulvérisation.

7. Organe selon une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel la structure de PTFE poreux se présente sous la forme d'une matière en feuille.

8. Organe selon la revendication 7, dans lequel la matière en feuille de PTFE est stratifiée sur une étoffe de fond tissée ou non tissée.

9. Organe selon la revendication 7 ou 8, dans lequel la matière en feuille de PTFE a une épaisseur de 50 à 750 microns.

10. Organe selon une quelconque des revendications précédentes, qui est préchargé d'huile anti-adhésive.

11. Organe selon la revendication 10, dans lequel l'huile anti-adhésive représente 20 à 80 % en poids de l'organe.

12. Organe selon une quelconque des revendications précédentes, sous la forme d'un rouleau de matière en feuille.

13. Organe selon une quelconque des revendications 1 à 11, sous la forme d'une mèche de recouvrement.

14. Organe selon une quelconque des revendications 1 à 11, sous la forme d'un rouleau possédant une couche extérieure faite de ladite matière de PTFE poreux.

15. Organe selon une quelconque des revendications 1 à 11, qui constitue une matière réservoir d'huile sur laquelle la matière de PTFE poreux est stratifiée.

16. Copieur qui comprend un organe de transfert d'huile de copieur destiné à enduire ou essuyer un rouleau inclus dans son système de four, ledit organe de transfert d'huile comprenant une structure de polytétrafluoréthylène (PTFE) poreux formée de particules de polytétrafluoréthylène du type granulaire assemblées par fusion de manière à former un réseau cohérent poreux de particules interconnectées.

17. Procédé d'enduction ou d'essuyage d'un rouleau inclus dans le système de four d'un copieur, qui consiste à

- prévoir une structure de polytétrafluoréthylène (PTFE) poreux formée de particules de polytétrafluoréthylène du type granulaire assemblées par fusion de manière à former un réseau cohérent poreux de particules interconnectées ; 5
- agencer la structure de PTFE poreux de manière qu'elle soit en contact avec le rouleau inclus dans ledit système de four du copieur ; et 10
- faire travailler le copieur de manière que la structure de PTFE poreux ait pour effet d'enduire le rouleau d'huile et/ou d'essuyer l'excès d'huile sur le rouleau. 15

18. Utilisation d'une structure de polytétrafluoréthylène (PTFE) poreux formée de particules de polytétrafluoréthylène poreux de type granulaire assemblées par fusion pour former un réseau cohérent poreux de particules interconnectées pour la fabrication d'un organe de transfert d'huile destiné à enduire ou à essuyer un rouleau inclus dans le système de four d'un copieur. 20
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