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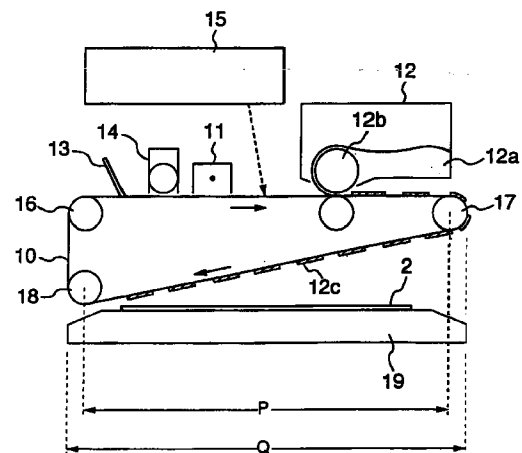
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(54) Image forming apparatus

(57) In an image forming apparatus of transverse transfer type, toner images, carried by a toner-image carrying member extended by a plurality of rollers in a direction perpendicular to a direction of feed of printing paper, are transferred by a transfer opposed roller to the printing paper in a direction perpendicular to the direction of feed of the printing paper to be fixed. Among the rollers extending the toner image-carrying member, at least one of those rollers except for the transfer opposed roller, which come closest to the transfer opposed roller at starting and terminal ends of a longest path of movement of the transfer opposed roller, respectively, is provided at a position spaced from a transfer surface of the printing paper, by a distance larger than a diameter of the transfer opposed roller. With this construction, a non-transfer region, in which the transfer opposed roller can not move, is reduced, and therefore a body of the image forming apparatus can be made smaller in size.

FIG. 1





European Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 30 0561

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X Y A	EP 0 698 833 A (OCE NEDERLAND BV) 28 February 1996 * abstract; claims; figures 1-3 * ---	1,3,5 7,9,10, 12,14,15 17,18	G03G15/16
X A	FR 2 126 817 A (PHILIPS NV) 6 October 1972 * page 4, line 29 - page 5, line 28 * ---	1,5,9 11,12	
D,Y	EP 0 466 127 A (OKI ELECTRIC IND CO LTD) 15 January 1992 * the whole document * ---	7,9,10, 12,15	
Y	US 4 845 519 A (FUSE MASASHI) 4 July 1989 * the whole document * -----	14	
<p style="text-align: center;">-The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p>			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		1 October 1998	G. Lipp
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>..... & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

- No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

- Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

- None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:
1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1,3,5,7,9,10,12,14,15,16,18

Photosensitive belt drive roller system for transverse transfer type image forming apparatus to avoid non-transfer regions for smaller size.

2. Claims: 2,4,6,8,11,13,17

Transverse transfer type image forming apparatus with photosensitive belt tensioning system to maintain surface contact between belt and copy paper after transfer for higher transfer accuracy.