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(54) **Apparatus for developing an electrostatic latent image.**

(57) An apparatus for developing an electrostatic latent image recorded on an image bearing member (10) is developed by transporting an electrically conductive developer material into contact therewith in a development zone (78). The developer material is transported by a magnetic transporting means (38), and the pressure applied on the developer material in the development zone (78) is controlled so as to maintain the conductivity thereof at a selected level. The applied pressure may be varied by controlling the mass flow rate of developer material through the development zone (78) or by controlling the magnetic field strength. Mass flow rate may be controlled by a blade (74) which defines a gap through which developer material flows, the blade position being adjustable by a positioning means (76). Alternatively, the main flow rate may be controlled by varying the rate of rotation of the rotatable part (66 or 70) of the transporting means (38).

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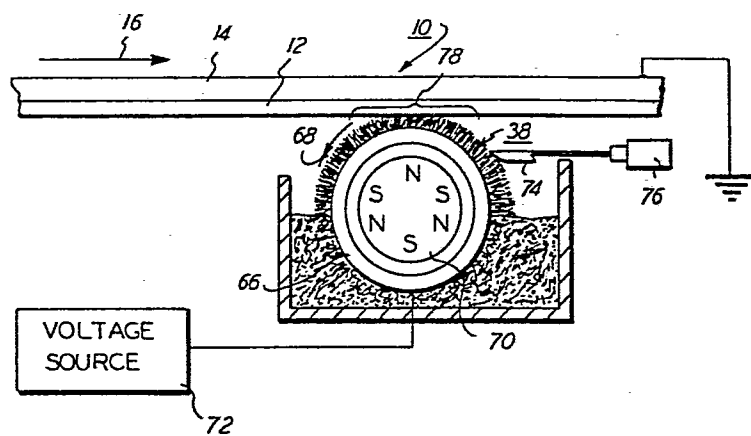


FIG. 2

0027729



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application number

EP 80 30 3676.3

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. ³)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	DE - B1 - 2 654 848 (OLYMPIA WERKE AG) * whole document *	1,3, 4-6	G 03 G 15/09
X	GB - A - 2 018 164 (HITACHI METALS) * whole document *	1-3,5, 7-9	
	US - A - 3 455 276 (G.R. ANDERSON) * claim 12; fig. 2 *	1,5,6	
	US - A - 4 084 542 (R. OKADA et al.) * claim 1; fig. 1 to 4 *	1,5,9, 10	
	CH - A - 549 824 (TURLABOR) * claims *	1,5,9, 10	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. ³)
D	RESEARCH DISCLOSURE, No. 168, April 1978 K.B. PAXTON "Customer-controlled copy contrast, fringiness, and edge enhancement" pages 4 to 5 *		G 03 G 13/00 G 03 G 15/00
A	US - A - 3 641 969 (N.L. HAKANSON) * fig. 1 to 6 *		CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS
			X: particularly relevant A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: conflicting application D: document cited in the application L: citation for other reasons
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			&: member of the same patent family, corresponding document
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Berlin		13-02-1981	HOPPE