

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

(11) Publication number:

0 250 793
A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number: **87106798.9**(51) Int. Cl.4: **G03G 15/08 , B01F 15/00**(22) Date of filing: **11.05.87**(30) Priority: **12.05.86 US 861813**(43) Date of publication of application:
07.01.88 Bulletin 88/01(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB(88) Date of deferred publication of the search report:
12.07.89 Bulletin 89/28(71) Applicant: **EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY (a
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D-7000 Stuttgart 60(DE)**(54) **Ribbon blender having a plurality of sections jointly forming ribbons.**

(57) A ribbon blender (32) has a shaft (34), and a plurality of blender sections (40, 42, 44) are positioned on the shaft and rotate with it. Three types of modular ribbon blender sections are used in forming the blender, including a center section (44) and first and second end sections (40, 42) assembled on opposite sides of the center section. The end sections are substantially the mirror image of each other. Each of the sections have a hub portion (46, 60, 72) and first ribbon segments (54, 68, 80) and second ribbon segments (56, 70, 82) located in generally helical paths that are spaced from the hub portion. The sections are assembled on the shaft so that the ribbon segments of one section form a continuation of segments of an adjacent section, thus forming substantially continuous helical ribbons around the shaft. The ribbon segments (80, 82) of the center section join an outer ribbon segment of one of the end sections with an inner ribbon segment of the other ribbon section to provide for cross mixing of material in the area of the center section of the ribbon blender. Such a ribbon blender is especially useful for mixing developer material in the sump of an electrographic apparatus, such as a copier/duplicator.

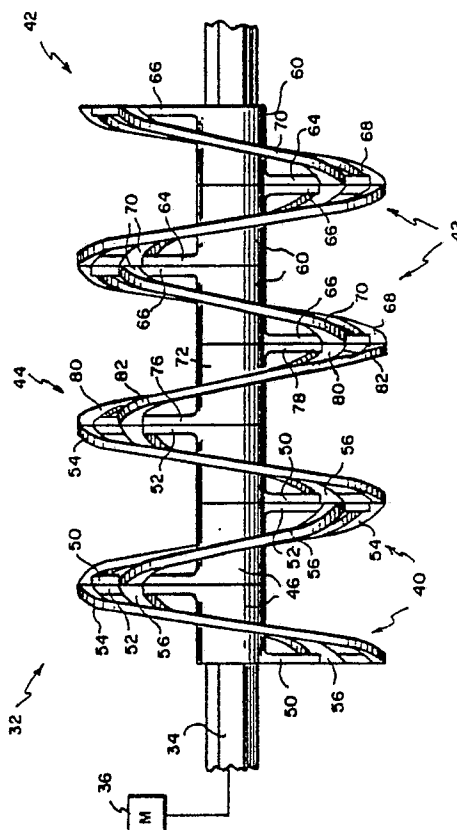


FIG. 2

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EP 87 10 6798

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. 4)
A	EP-A-0 160 830 (EASTMAN KODAK CO.) * Page 5, line 9 - page 6, line 29; figures 2,4 *	1,5,6	G 03 G 15/08 B 01 F 15/00
A	US-A-4 187 030 (GODLEY) * Column 3, lines 7-37; figures 1-7 *	1,4,5	
P,X	US-A-4 610 068 (SCHULTZ) * Claims 1,2; abstract; figures 1-6 *	1,4	
D,P A	EP-A-0 216 190 (EASTMAN KODAK CO.) * Abstract; figure 2 *	1,5	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			G 03 G 15/08 B 01 F 15/00
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 18-04-1989	Examiner CIGOJ P.M.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
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		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 & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	