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(54) Developing device accommodating apparatus and image forming apparatus and developing device.

(57) An image forming apparatus includes an image bearing member (11), image forming station for forming a latent image on the image bearing member, a conveying passage (104, 112) extending toward the image bearing member to guide a developing device (13), a first moving mechanism for engaging with the developing device in the conveying passage and moving it in a substantially horizontal plane, wherein the image bearing member, the latent image forming station, the conveying passage that the first moving mechanism are provided in a main body (103) of the image forming apparatus, a device (150) for accommodating a plurality of developing devices (13A-D). The accommodating device is mounted to the main body, the accommodating device includes, a second moving mechanism for moving the developing device opposed to the conveying passage into the conveying passage in a substantially horizontal plane and an accommodating case having partition stages (151a-d) arranged substantially vertically for accommodating plural developing devices and movable together with the developing devices accommodated therein, and a driver for

transmitting a driving force selectively to the first driving mechanism, the second driving mechanism and the accommodating case.

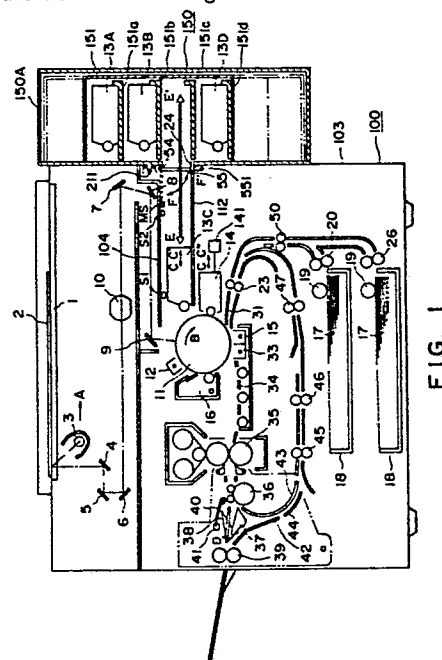


FIG. 1



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			EP 87309441.1
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
A	<u>US - A - 4 542 979</u> (PERCIC) * Fig. 1; column 4 * --	1,19	G 03 G 15/01
A	<u>DE - B2 - 2 452 644</u> (HITACHI) * Fig. 1; column 3, line 63ff * --	1,19	
A	<u>GB - A - 2 153 301</u> (CANON) ----		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4)
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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	