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(54) **An image fixing apparatus.**

(57) An image fixing apparatus for fixing a toner image on an image supporting material. A guiding member (2) for guiding the image supporting material (P) is provided without contact to an image fixing rotatable member (1) but with a predetermined small clearance. In order to maintain the predeter-

mined clearance, spacers (4) are provided at positions outside the maximum image forming region. The rotatable image fixing member is prevented from being damaged, and in addition, the image supporting material is prevented from being wrapped on the rotatable member.

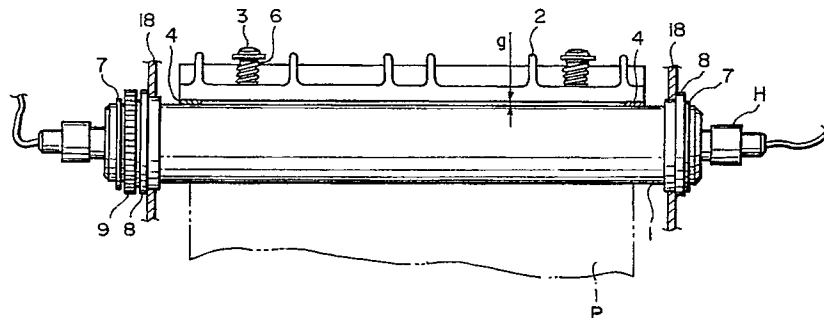


FIG. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

EP 90 10 2410

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.5)
P,X	US-A-4 821 064 (B.H. MILLS et al.) * figures 1,2 * - - -	1,5-8,10, 17	G 03 G 15/20
A	US-A-3 938 950 (E.A. WEILER et al.) * figures 1,2 * - - -	1,5-8,10, 17	
A	US-A-3 981 085 (E.B. FRANKO) * figure 2 * - - -	1,5-8,10, 17	
A	US-A-4 065 120 (M. IMAIZUMI et al.) * figures 1-6 * - - -	1,5-8,10, 17	
A	US-A-4 687 696 (F. SATOJI) * complete document * - - -	4	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 6, no. 209 (P-150)(1087), 21 October 1982; & JP - A -57116375 (SUMITOMO DENKI KOGYO) 20.07.1982 - - -	1,10,17	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 11, no. 383 (P-646)(2830), 15 December 1987; & JP - A -62150369 (MINOLTA CAMERA) 04.07.1987 - - - - -	1,10,17	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5) B 65 H 29/00 G 03 B 27/00 G 03 G 15/00
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Berlin		Date of completion of search 10 April 91	Examiner HOPPE H
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			