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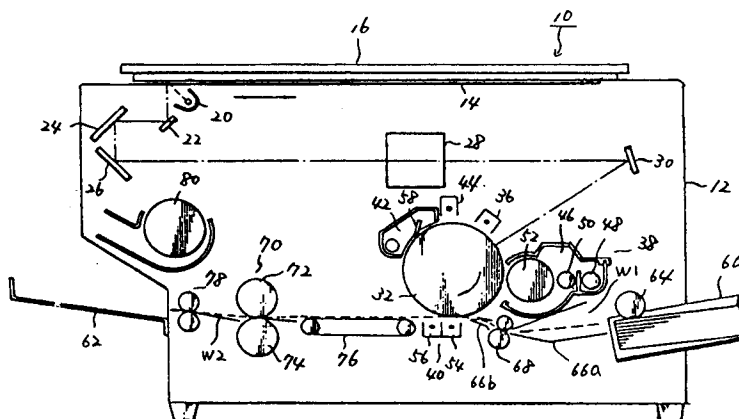
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(54) **Image forming apparatus including a developing device for developing a latent image.**

(57) An image forming apparatus (10) for forming an image on an image bearing member (32) includes a developing unit (38) for developing a latent image formed on the image bearing member (32). The developing unit (38) includes a developing roller (52) for transporting a developer to the image bearing member, a blade (86) for forming a layer of the developer on the developing roller (52) and a preventing member for covering the layer of the devel-

oper formed on the developing roller so as to prevent the developer from leaking outside the developing unit. By a simple construction, the image forming apparatus of the present invention prevents developer from leaking outside the developing unit when the developer is mechanically scraped up by a blade and is transported to the image bearing member by the developing roller.

**FIG. 1**



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 92 30 6261

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 13, no. 162 (P-859)(3510) 19 April 1989 & JP-A-64 000 584 (RICOH) 5 January 1989 * abstract * ---	1,2,4,6	G03G15/08
X	US-A-4 792 831 (TAKEDA, ET AL) * figures 1,2,4 * ---	1,2,4,6	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 7, no. 82 (P-189)(1227) 6 April 1983 & JP-A-58 011 970 (CANON) 22 January 1983 * abstract * ---	1,4	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 6, no. 225 (P-154)(1103) 10 November 1982 & JP-A-57 128 367 (RICOH) 9 August 1982 * abstract * ---	1,4	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 12, no. 156 (P-701)(3003) 13 May 1988 & JP-A-62 273 590 (MINOLTA CAMERA) 27 November 1987 * abstract * -----	1,4	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			G03G
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
BERLIN		09 MARCH 1993	HOPPE H.
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