

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt  
European Patent Office  
Office européen des brevets



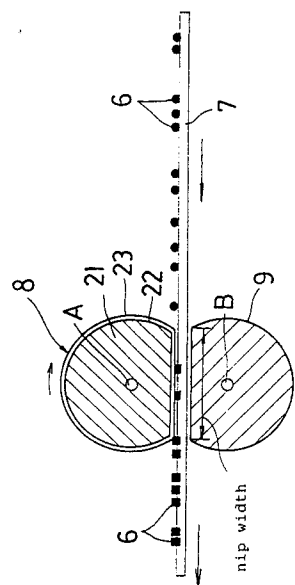
(11) Publication number:

**0 552 785 A3**

(12)

**EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**(21) Application number: **93100934.4**(51) Int. Cl.<sup>5</sup>: **G03G 15/20**(22) Date of filing: **21.01.93**(30) Priority: **23.01.92 JP 34432/92**(43) Date of publication of application:  
**28.07.93 Bulletin 93/30**(84) Designated Contracting States:  
**DE FR GB**(88) Date of deferred publication of the search report:  
**06.10.93 Bulletin 93/40**(71) Applicant: **KAO CORPORATION**  
**14-10, Nihonbashi,**  
**Kayabacho 1-chome**  
**Chuo-ku, Tokyo(JP)**(72) Inventor: **Yasuda, Shin-ichiro**  
**994, Fuke,**  
**Misaki-cho**  
**Sennan-gun, Osaka(JP)**  
Inventor: **Kawabe, Kuniyasu**  
**1-55-501,**  
**Komatsubara 6-chome**  
**Wakayama-shi, Wakayama-ken(JP)**(74) Representative: **VOSSIUS & PARTNER**  
**P.O. Box 86 07 67**  
**D-81634 München (DE)**(54) **Method for forming fixed images.**

(57) A method of forming fixed images of the present invention includes charging a photoconductor; exposing the photoconductor to light; applying a thermally dissociating encapsulated toner or an encapsulated toner whose shell is made of amorphous polyester to an electrostatic latent image formed on the photoconductor, thereby developing the electrostatic latent image to form a visible image; transferring the formed visible image to a recording medium; and fixing the transferred visible image onto the recording medium at a temperature of not more than 130 °C. The fixing is carried out using a heat roller-type fixing apparatus including a heat roller having a conductive elastomer layer formed in a uniform thickness, a pressure roller and a current supplying means. The steps of the fixing include passing an electric current into the conductive elastomer layer; and thermally fixing the visible image by heat generated in the conductive elastomer layer.

**FIG. 2****EP 0 552 785 A3**



European Patent  
Office

# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 93 10 0934  
PAGE1

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)
D,Y D,X	EP-A-0 453 857 (KAO CORP.) * the whole document *	1,8 5-7,12, 13	G03G15/20
Y	DE-B-2 306 440 (RICOH) * column 6, line 23 - line 27; figures 1,2,4 *	1,8	
P,A	EP-A-0 516 062 (KAO CORP.) * the whole document *	1,5-8, 12,13	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 11, no. 208 (P-593)(2655) 7 July 1987 & JP-A-62 030 280 ( TOKAI RUBBER IND. ) 9 February 1987 * abstract *	1,8	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 9, no. 50 (P-339)(1773) 5 March 1985 & JP-A-59 189 381 ( FUJI XEROX ) 26 October 1984 * abstract *	1,8	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 13, no. 316 (P-900)(3664) 18 July 1989 & JP-A-01 086 185 ( OKI ELECTRIC IND. ) 30 March 1989 * abstract *	1,8	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 14, no. 185 (P-1036)13 April 1990 & JP-A-20 32 368 ( CANON ) 2 February 1990 * abstract *	1,8	
A	DE-A-3 836 857 (SHARP) * the whole document *	1,8	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 27 JULY 1993	Examiner HOPPE H.
<b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b> 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			



European Patent  
Office

## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 93 10 0934  
PAGE2

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)
A	GB-A-2 197 619 (HITACHI METALS) * figures 1-3 *  -----	3	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 27 JULY 1993	Examiner HOPPE H.
<b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b> 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			