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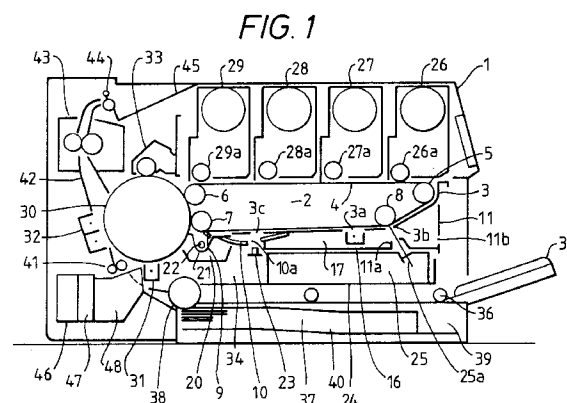
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(54) **An electro-photography apparatus, a toner unit therefor, and a method of removing toner from such an apparatus.**

(57) An electro-photography, such as a copier or laser printer, has a photosensitive belt (4) for transporting toner. The photosensitive belt (4) is mounted in a cartridge (2), and the cartridge (2) is removably mounted in a holder (11). The holder (11) is insertable into and withdrawable from the main body (1) of the apparatus. Therefore, when the photosensitive belt (4) has reached the end of its useful life, the holder (11) is withdrawn and the cartridge (2) removed. A new cartridge (2), and hence a new photosensitive belt (4), may then be mounted in the holder (11) and the holder (11) inserted into the main body (1) of the apparatus. To prevent surfaces of the cartridge (2) and/or holder (11) from becoming contaminated with toner, a gap (17) is formed therebetween, and the holder (11) has an air inlet (11b) and an air outlet. Thus, air is caused to flow between the opposed surfaces of the holder (11) and the cartridge (2) to entrain any toner and remove such toner from the interior of the holder (11).





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 93 30 1763

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	US-A-5 038 174 (KATO ET AL.) * abstract; figures 2-5 * * column 4, line 36 - column 7, line 3 * ---	1,8,9	G03G15/00 G03G21/00
A	US-A-4 540 268 (TOYONO ET AL.) * abstract; claims; figures * ---	1,8,9	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 12, no. 431 (P-786)15 November 1988 & JP-A-63 163 472 (RICOH CO LTD) 6 July 1988 * abstract *	1,2,8,9	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 8, no. 159 (P-289)24 July 1984 & JP-A-59 057 258 (CANON K.K.) 2 April 1984 * abstract *	1,8,9	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 6, no. 82 (P-116)(960) 20 May 1982 & JP-A-57 017 957 (CANON K.K.) 29 January 1982 * abstract *	1,8,9	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 8, no. 14 (P-249)(1451) 21 January 1984 & JP-A-58 173 779 (CANON K.K.) 12 October 1983 * abstract *		G03G
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 17 AUGUST 1993	Examiner LEISNER C.O.D.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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