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- **de Schamphelaere, Lucien Amedé**
B-2650 Edegem (BE)
- **van Dessel, Bart Jozef**
B-2980 St. Antonius (BE)

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(71) Applicant: **XEIKON NV**
B-2640 Mortsel (BE)

(74) Representative: **Gambell, Derek**
D Gambell & Co,
Keeley House Business Centre,
22/30 Keeley Road
Croydon, Surrey CR0 1TE (GB)

(72) Inventors:
 • **de Cock, Etienne Marie**
B-2650 Edegem (BE)

(54) **An electrostatographic printer for forming a toner image onto a receptor element web**

(57) An electrostatographic printer for forming a toner image onto a receptor element (12) is described. The printer comprises: (i) at least one toner image-producing electrostatographic station comprising rotatable endless surface means (24) onto which a toner image can be formed, means for forming an electrostatic latent image on the endless surface means and a developing unit (32) for depositing electrostatically charged toner particles onto the electrostatic latent image; (ii) means for conveying a receptor element (12) past the image-producing station; and (iii) transfer means (38) for transferring the toner image on the rotatable surface means (24) onto the receptor element web (12). The printer is characterised in that the developing unit (32) is selectively moveable between an operative position and a non-operative position while the endless surface means (24) rotates. The printer avoids smudging on the first few prints produced by the printer.

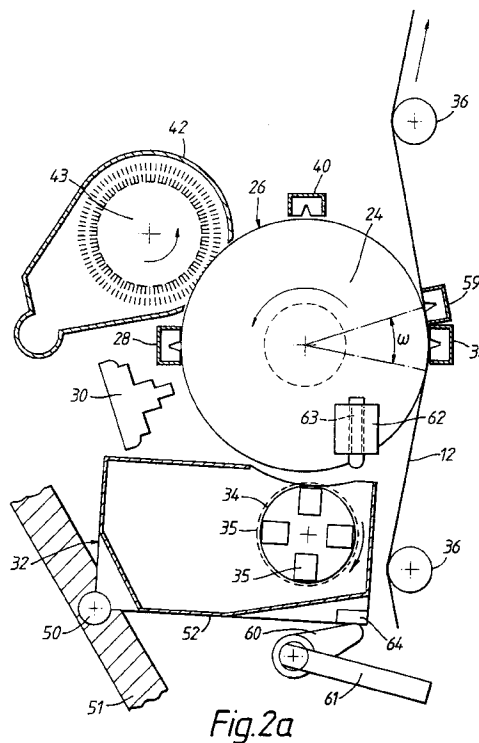


Fig. 2a

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 95 30 1257

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.6)
Y	US-A-5 147 745 (RUSSEL) * figure 1 *	1,14	G03G15/01 G03G15/08
Y	US-A-5 066 988 (MIAYKE) * figures 1,2 *	1,14	
A	US-A-5 160 946 (HWANG) * figure 1 *	1-3,5,14	
A	EP-A-0 287 122 (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND.) * figure 1 *	1-4, 8-10,12, 14	
A	FR-A-2 580 089 (CANON) * figures 1-3 *	1-4,7-9, 11,12,14	
A	GB-A-2 176 718 (RICOH) * figures 1,3 *	1,14	
A	US-A-4 339 196 (BECK, ET AL) * figure 1 *	1,14	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
A	FR-A-2 545 235 (CANON) * figures 1,5 *	1,14	G03G
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 14 February 1996	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			

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