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(54) **Developing unit for use in an electrostatographic printer**

(57) A developing unit for use in an electrostatographic printer is described. The unit comprises a housing (1) having an opening (30) defining a developing zone, an applicator (2) for applying particulate carrier / toner developer through the opening (30) towards an electrostatographic image to be developed, and agitator means (4) for agitating developer within the housing (1), for scooping up developer from within the housing (1) and projecting scooped-up developer towards the applicator (2). Supply means are located outside the width of the development zone for supplying toner to the housing (1). Primary conveyance means (25) convey developer from the supply means across the width of the development zone in one direction, while secondary conveyance means (28) receive developer from the primary conveyance means (25) and convey developer across the width of the development zone in a direction opposite and substantially parallel to the conveyance direction of the primary conveyance means (25). The primary and secondary conveyance means (25, 28) each define a respective developer transport path interconnected by a passageway outside the width of the development zone enabling the return of developer from the secondary to the primary conveyance means (25).

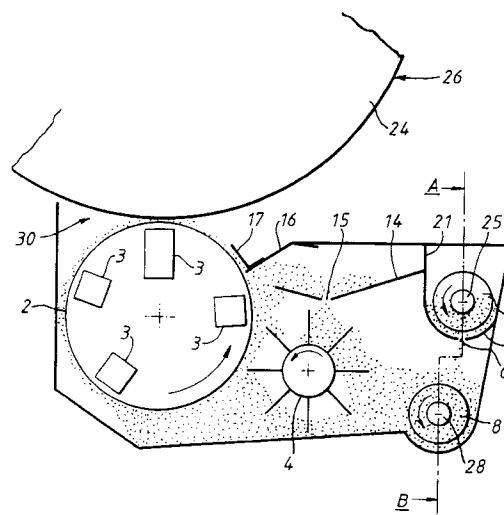


Fig.1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 95 30 1256

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)
D,A	US-A-4 576 466 (FUKUCHI, ET AL) * figures 1-3 *	1	G03G15/08
A	--- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 11 no. 274 (P-612) [2721] ,5 September 1987 & JP-A-62 073284 (FUJI XEROX) 3 April 1987, * abstract *	1	
A	--- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 12 no. 178 (P-708) [3025] ,26 May 1988 & JP-A-62 288871 (CANON) 15 December 1987, * abstract *	1	
A	--- EP-A-0 568 924 (RICOH) * figures 6-8 *	1	
D,A	--- WO-A-93 09475 (FUJITSU) * figures 1-3,9,10 * -----	1	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			G03G
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 15 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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