

(19)



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(11)

EP 0 762 224 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
24.09.1997 Bulletin 1997/39

(51) Int Cl.⁶: **G03G 9/107**, G03G 9/113

(43) Date of publication A2:
12.03.1997 Bulletin 1997/11

(21) Application number: **96305857.3**

(22) Date of filing: **09.08.1996**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
CH DE FR GB IT LI

(30) Priority: **11.08.1995 JP 252077/95**

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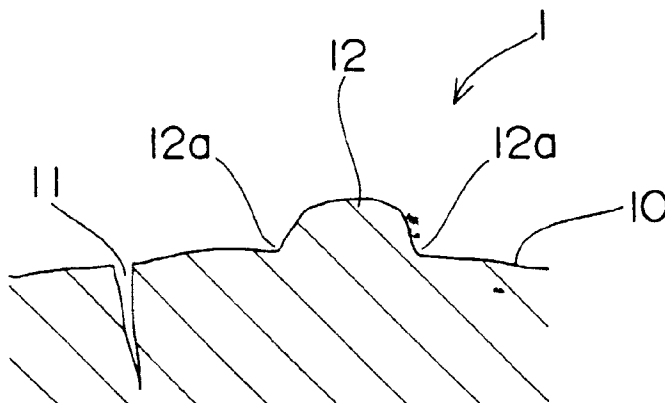
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(54) **Electrophotographic carrier**

(57) The electrophotographic carrier of the present invention comprises magnetic particles having such a specific surface state that the adhesion rate of a resin due to a method for forcibly adhering resin is within the

range from 0.01 to 0.50%, or magnetic particles wherein at least concave parts and projection peripheral parts of the surface are coated with a resin, thereby certainly preventing the occurrence of spent toner.

Fig. 7



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 96 30 5857

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,X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 010, no. 364 (P-524), 5 December 1986 & JP 61 158339 A (MINOLTA CAMERA CO LTD;OTHERS: 01), 18 July 1986, * abstract *	1	G03G9/107 G03G9/113
X	--- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 95, no. 003 & JP 07 064344 A (KAO CORP), 10 March 1995, * abstract *	1	
X	--- US 5 204 204 A (SHINTANI YUJI ET AL) 20 April 1993 * example 11 *	3	
X	--- DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 9339 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class A14, AN 93-306088 XP002035189 & JP 05 216 281 A (MINOLTA CAMERA KK) , 27 August 1993 * abstract *	3	
P,X	--- EP 0 694 818 A (MITA INDUSTRIAL CO LTD) 31 January 1996 * examples *	3-5	
P,X	--- EP 0 704 767 A (MITA INDUSTRIAL CO LTD) 3 April 1996 * claim 9; tables 1,4 *	3-5	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 14 July 1997	Examiner Heywood, C
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			

EPO FORM 1503 (01.82) (P04/C01)



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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ All claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ Only part of the claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid,
namely claims:
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions,
namely:

see sheet -B-

- ☒ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respects of which search fees have been paid,
namely claims:
- ☐ None of the further search fees has been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims,
namely claims:

**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION**

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions, or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims 1,2,6,7 : Magnetic particles electrophotographic carrier including them + method of producing said carrier.
2. Claims 3-5 : Electrophotographic carrier with coating.