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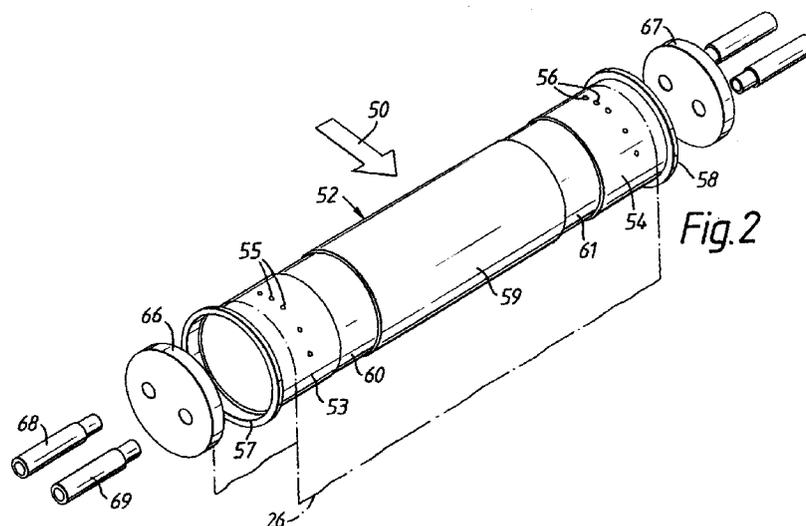
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(54) **Electrostatographic printing apparatus with endless recording belt**

(57) Electrostatographic printing apparatus with a recording member in the form of an endless belt (26), and an air bearing (50) for guiding such belt along an endless path, which air bearing comprises two belt-supporting end sections (53, 54) with a certain circumferential size, arranged for producing supporting air cushions for supporting both marginal portions of the endless belt (26) while the belt (26) is angularly wrapped about said

sections (53, 54), an intermediate section (59) located between such end sections (53, 54) for providing support for the belt (26) if a central portion thereof would tend to become displaced exaggeratedly inwardly of the bearing (50), and two air cushion relief sections (61, 62), each one located inwardly adjacent to a corresponding end section of the bearing (50), and having a circumferential size which is smaller than that of said end sections (53, 54).





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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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)
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 006, no. 141 (P-131), 30 July 1982 & JP 57 064255 A (FUJI XEROX CO LTD), 19 April 1982 * abstract *	1	G03G15/00 G03G15/01
A	US 4 197 002 A (HAMAKER RALPH A ET AL) 8 April 1980 * abstract; figures *	1	
A	US 4 558 944 A (BOTHNER CARL R) 17 December 1985 * claims 1,3; figures 1,2 *	1	
A	"WEB TRACKING DEVICE WITH RAMP SUPPORT MEANS" RESEARCH DISCLOSURE, no. 331, 1 November 1991, pages 836-839, XP000271486 * figures *	1	
A	US 5 337 123 A (FISHER DONALD J) 9 August 1994 * figures 1,2 *	7-9	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) G03G
A	EP 0 602 853 A (XEROX CORP) 22 June 1994 * figure 1 *	7-9	
A	US 5 164 783 A (TAGUCHI KAZUSHIGE ET AL) 17 November 1992 * figure 1 *	7-9	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 11 November 1998	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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