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(54) Toner supply roll and production method therefore

(57) A toner supply roll comprises a shaft (1) and a soft polyurethane sponge layer (2) provided on an outer circumferential surface of the shaft, wherein not less than 90% of cell walls defining boundaries between respective adjacent cells have openings. The soft polyurethane sponge layer of the toner supply roll is of an open-cell foam structure in which the cells are three-dimensionally connected to one another via the openings in the cell walls, so that air contained in the sponge layer smoothly flows out when the sponge layer is depressed. Therefore, the sponge layer has a lower hardness than a soft polyurethane sponge layer of a closed-cells foam structure. Since not less than 90% of the cell walls defining the boundaries between the respective adjacent cells have openings, toner fluidity can properly be maintained. Therefore, the toner supply roll can minimise degradation of the toner during prolonged use and stably maintain toner scrapability and toner supplying capability, thereby ensuring formation of high quality images for an extended period of time.

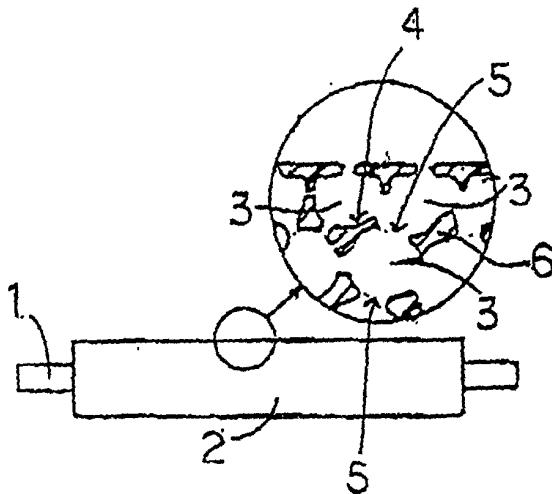


Fig. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			G03G
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search		Examiner
MUNICH	20 November 2003		Borowski, M
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone	T : theory or principle underlying the invention		
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ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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