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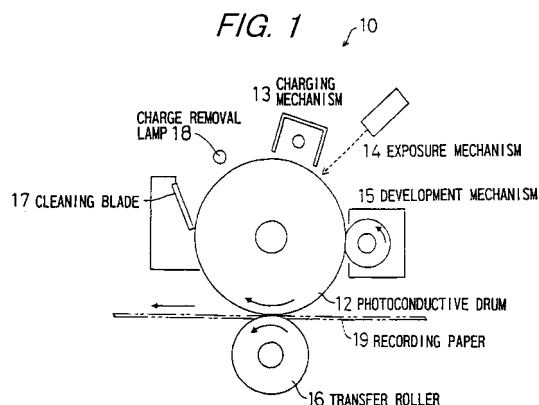
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(54) **Image forming apparatus**

(57) A first control member (22) is disposed in a drum shaft (21) away from a photoconductive drum (12), and a second control member (23) is disposed in a roller shaft (25) away from a transfer roller (16). The first and second control members (22, 23) abut on each other at their circumferential surfaces. This helps reduce an amount of displacement resulting from an impact caused by insertion of a recording paper sheet (19) in between the photoconductive drum (12) and the transfer roller (16), and thereby reduce vibrations in the photoconductive drum (12). Consequently, a toner image formed on the photoconductive drum (12) and an unfixed toner image transferred onto the recording paper sheet (19) are not affected by vibrations, so that a high-quality image is obtained that is free from blurriness or irregularities.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 00 1962

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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X	----- JP 2000 250335 A (KYOCERA MITA CORP) 14 September 2000 (2000-09-14) * abstract; figures 1,3,4 * & US 6 256 472 B1 (KYOCERA MITA CORP.) 3 July 2001 (2001-07-03)	10-18	
X	----- US 6 144 822 A (YAMAGUCHI TOSHITAKA [JP] ET AL) 7 November 2000 (2000-11-07) * column 7, line 9 - column 8, line 44 * * figure 1 *	10,19	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			G03G
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 14 November 2007	Examiner Götsch, Stefan
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**CLAIMS INCURRING FEES**

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

- ☐ Only part of the claims 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 claim(s):
- ☐ 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 requirements 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.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ 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 respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☐ None 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 invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number
EP 02 00 1962

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

1. claims: 1-9

gap controlling mechanism between the image carrier roller
and the transfer or other roller.

2. claims: 10-19

a guide member located adjacent the transfer roller for
guiding the copy sheets into the transfer nip.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 02 00 1962

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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14-11-2007

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