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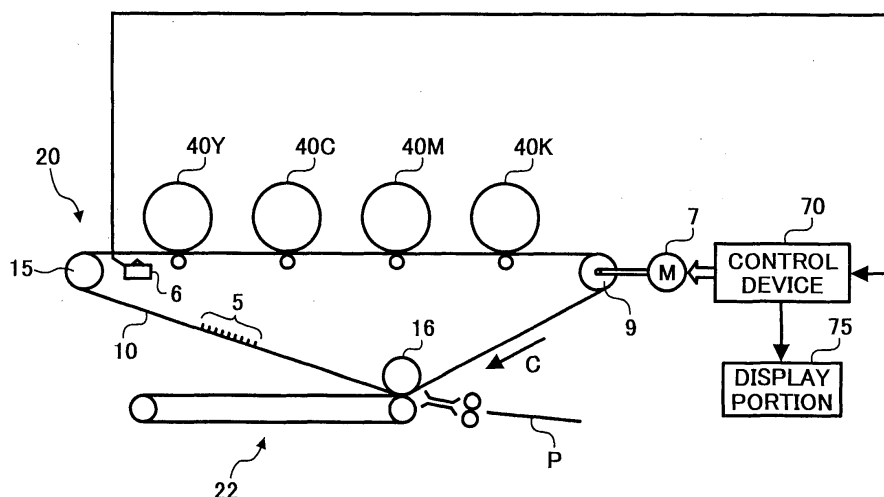
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(54) **Belt device, image forming apparatus, and method to control belt speed**

(57) A first sensor (6, 70) detects a first speed of the belt (10) based on detection of marks on the belt (10) and a first belt speed controlling unit (70) controls a speed of the belt (10) based on the first speed. A second sensor (65, 70') detects a second speed of the belt (10) based on some other method and a second belt speed controlling unit (70') controls a speed of the belt (10) based on the second speed. A scale-mark degradation determining unit (73) that determines whether there is a degradation in the quality of the marks and detects an amount of

degradation upon determining that there is a degradation in the quality of the marks. The first belt speed controlling unit (70) is made to control a speed of the belt (10) if the amount of degradation detected by the scale-mark degradation determining unit (73) is less than a predetermined value, and the second belt speed controlling unit (70') is made to control a speed of the belt (10) if the amount of degradation detected by the scale-mark degradation determining unit (73) is not less than the predetermined value.

FIG.1





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 05 25 2414

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
A	JP 2004 021236 A (RICOH KK) 22 January 2004 (2004-01-22) * abstract; figures 1-21 * -----	1-9	INV. G03G15/16
A	US 2004/022557 A1 (KUDO KOICHI [JP]) 5 February 2004 (2004-02-05) * abstract; figures 1-31 * -----	1-9	
A	JP 11 024507 A (RICOH KK) 29 January 1999 (1999-01-29) * abstract; figures 1-7 * -----	1-9	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			G03G
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 21 January 2011	Examiner Laeremans, Bart
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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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 05 25 2414

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The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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21-01-2011

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82