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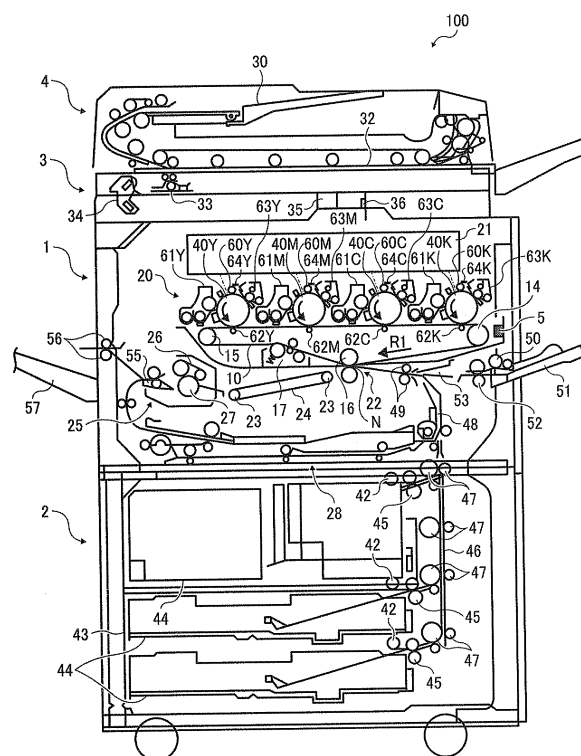
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(54) **Image forming apparatus with mechanism capable of moving transfer device with respect to toner image carrier**

(57) An image forming apparatus (100) includes a transfer device separator (70; 170; 270) that moves a transfer device (22) between a contact position where the transfer device (22) contacts a toner image carrier (10) and a first isolation position where the transfer device (22) is isolated from the toner image carrier (10) with a first interval (D1) therebetween. The transfer device (22) is at the contact position as first to third toner images (T1, T2, T3) and a blank section (S2) between the first toner image (T1) and the second toner image (T2) carried by the toner image carrier (10) pass through a transfer region (N) and at the first isolation position as a toner patch section (S1) between the first toner image (T1) and the second toner image (T2) carried by the toner image carrier (10) passes through the transfer region (N).

FIG. 1





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 16 December 2016	Examiner Mandreoli, Lorenzo
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
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5 This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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