WHAT IS CLAIMED IS :

1. A process cartridge detachably mountable to a main assembly of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, the process cartridge comprising:

a photosensitive drum;

a coupling portion provided at an end portion of the photosensitive drum and including a driving force receiving portion configured to receive a driving force for rotating the photosensitive drum from outside of the process cartridge; and

a gear portion including gear teeth configured to receive, independent of the coupling portion, a driving force from outside of the process cartridge,

wherein the gear teeth are helical gear teeth and the gear portion includes an exposed portion exposed to outside of the process cartridge,

wherein at least a part of the exposed portion is disposed outside of the driving force receiving portion in an axial direction of the photosensitive drum and is faced to an axis of the photosensitive drum, and wherein a shortest distance from the axis of the photosensitive drum to a tooth tip of the exposed portion of the gear portion measured along a direction perpendicular to the axis of the photosensitive drum is no less than 90% and no more than 110% of a radius of the photosensitive drum.

2. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein each of the gear teeth is inclined toward a rotational moving direction of the gear portion as goes from outside of the photosensitive drum toward inside thereof in the axial direction of the photosensitive drum.

3. A process cartridge according to Claim 2, wherein as viewed in a direction that the photosensitive drum rotates counterclockwise, each of the gear teeth inclines in a counterclockwise direction from outside of the photosensitive drum toward inside thereof in the axial direction of the photosensitive drum.

4. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said driving force receiving portion is inclined in a rotational moving direction of the photosensitive drum as goes from an outside of the photosensitive drum toward an inside thereof in the axial direction of the photosensitive drum.

5. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, further comprising a developing roller configured to carry developer to develop a latent image formed on the photosensitive drum.

6. A process cartridge according to Claim 5, wherein the developing roller is rotated by the driving force received by the gear portion.

7. A process cartridge according to Claim 5, wherein as viewed in a direction that the gear portion rotates clockwise, the developing roller is rotatable in

the clockwise direction.

8. A process cartridge according to Claim 5, wherein the gear portion and the developing roller are arranged coaxially with each other.

9. A process cartridge according to Claim 5, further comprising a development gear provided on the developing roller, wherein the development gear includes the gear portion.

10. A process cartridge according to Claim 5, further comprising a drive input gear including the gear portion, a development gear provided on the developing roller, and at least one idler gear configured to the driving force from the drive input gear to the development gear.

11. A process cartridge according to Claim 10, wherein there is an odd number of the idler gears.

12. A process cartridge according to Claim 11, wherein there is one idler gear.

13. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein a distance between axes of the gear portion and the coupling portion is variable.

14. A process cartridge according to Claim 13, further comprising a first unit including the coupling portion, and a second unit including the gear portion,

wherein the distance between the axes of the gear portion and the coupling portion changes by the second unit moving relative to the first unit.

15. A process cartridge according to Claim 14, wherein the second unit is rotatably connected to the first unit.

16. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, further comprising a stopper,

wherein at lease a part of the stopper is disposed outside beyond the driving force receiving portion of the coupling portion in the axial direction of the photosensitive drum.

17. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, further comprising a stopper provided on the same side as the coupling portion with respect to the axial direction, the stopper facing the axis of the photosensitive drum and protruding outwardly in the axial direction.

18. A process cartridge according to Claim 16, wherein at least a part of the stopper is disposed outside beyond a free end of the coupling portion.

19. A process cartridge according to Claim 16, wherein, in a plane perpendicular to the axis of the photosensitive drum, the stopper is disposed in an angular range of 0 ‹ - 180 ‹ around the center of the photosensitive drum as from a half line extending from the center of the photosensitive drum to a center of the gear portion toward an upstream side in a rotational moving direction of the photosensitive drum.

20. A process cartridge according to Claim 16, wherein, in a plane perpendicular to the axis of the photosensitive drum, the stopper is disposed on a side opposite from a side where the photosensitive drum is exposed, with respect to a line passing through a center of the photosensitive drum and a center of the gear portion.

21. A process cartridge according to Claim 16, further comprising a charging member configured to charge the photosensitive drum,

wherein s the stopper is disposed on a side provided with the charging member with respect to a line passing through a center of the photosensitive drum and a center of the gear portion in a plane perpendicular to an axis of the photosensitive drum.

22. A process cartridge according to Claim 16, wherein, in a plane perpendicular to the axis of the photosensitive drum, the stopper is provided so as to cross a line inclined by (90+f¿) degrees around a center of the photosensitive drum as from a half line extending from the center of the photosensitive drum to a center of the gear portion toward an upstream side with respect to a rotational moving direction of the photosensitive drum, where f¿ is a transverse pressure angle of the gear portion.

23. A process cartridge according to Claim 16, wherein in a plane perpendicular to the axis of the photosensitive drum, and at least a part of the stopper is disposed in an angular range of (75+f¿) - to (105+f¿) around the center of the photosensitive drum as from a half line extending from a center of the photosensitive drum to a center of the gear portion toward an upstream side with respect to a rotational moving direction of the photosensitive drum.

24. A process cartridge according to Claim 16, wherein in a plane perpendicular to the axis of the photosensitive drum, a distance from a center of the photosensitive drum to the stopper is longer than a distance from the center of the photosensitive drum to a tooth tip of the gear portion and shorter than a distance from the center of the photosensitive drum to the center of the gear portion.

25. A process cartridge according to Claim 16, wherein the stopper is

disposed at a position satisfying:

BF < BB,

where BB is a distance measured along a direction perpendicular to the axis of the photosensitive drum from the axis of the photosensitive drum to the stopper, and BF is a shortest distance measured along the direction perpendicular to the axis of the photosensitive drum from the axis of the photosensitive drum to a free end of the gear portion.

26. A process cartridge according to Claim 16, wherein the stopper is disposed at a position satisfying:

BB<AX+BA,

where BB is a distance measured along a direction perpendicular to the axis of the photosensitive drum from the axis of the photosensitive drum to the stopper, and BA is a radius of an inscribed circle that inscribes a minimum equilateral triangle circumscribing the coupling portion and having a gravity center on the axis of the photosensitive drum, and AX is a distance measured along a direction perpendicular to the axis of the photosensitive drum from the axis of the photosensitive drum to a tooth bottom of the gear portion.

27. A process cartridge according to Claim 16, wherein the stopper is disposed at a position satisfying:

BH<BG,

where BG is a distance measured along a direction perpendicular to the axis of the photosensitive drum from the axis of the photosensitive drum to the stopper, and BH is a radius of an inscribed circle that inscribes a minimum equilateral triangle circumscribing the coupling portion and having a gravity center on the axis of the photosensitive drum.

28. A process cartridge according to Claim 16, wherein the stopper is disposed at a position satisfying:

BJ<BG,

where BG is a distance measured along a direction perpendicular to the axis of the photosensitive drum from the axis of the photosensitive drum to the stopper, and BJ is a shortest distance measured along a direction perpendicular to the axis of the photosensitive drum from the axis of the photosensitive drum to a free end of the gear portion.

29. A process cartridge according to Claim 16, wherein the stopper is disposed at a position satisfying:

BG<BK,

where BG is a distance measured along a direction perpendicular to the axis of the photosensitive drum from the axis of the photosensitive drum to the stopper, and BK is a distance measured along a direction perpendicular to the axis of the

photosensitive drum from the axis of the photosensitive drum to an axis of the gear portion.

30. A process cartridge according to Claim 16, wherein the stopper is disposed at a position satisfying:

BG<BL,

where BG is a distance measured along a direction perpendicular to the axis of the photosensitive drum from the axis of the photosensitive drum to the stopper, and BL is a radius of a minimum circumscribed circle which circumscribes the coupling portion and which is coaxial with the photosensitive drum.

31. A process cartridge according to Claim 16, wherein the stopper defines a bay portion opening toward the axis of the photosensitive drum.

32. A process cartridge according to Claim 16, wherein the stopper has a curved surface opening toward the axis of the photosensitive drum.

33. A process cartridge according to Claim 16, wherein the stopper comprises a plurality of discrete portions.

34. A process cartridge according to Claim 16, wherein when the gear portion and the stopper are projected on the photosensitive drum, at least parts of projected areas of the gear portion and the stopper overlap with each other.

35. A process cartridge according to Claim 16, wherein, in a plane perpendicular to the axis of the photosensitive drum, a distance from a center of the photosensitive drum to the stopper is greater than 12.715 mm and less than 14.262 mm.

36. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, further comprising a charging member configured to charge the photosensitive drum,

wherein in a plane perpendicular to the axis of the photosensitive drum, a center of the gear portion is disposed in an angle range of 64 ‹ - 90 ‹ around the center of the photosensitive drum as from a half line extending from the center of the photosensitive drum to a center of the charging member toward a downstream side with respect to a rotational moving direction of the photosensitive drum.

37. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, further comprising a stirring member configured to stir the developer by a driving force received by the gear portion.

38. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein the coupling portion is in the form of a projection.

39. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein the coupling portion is in the form of a twisted substantially triangular prism.

40. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein, in a cross-section of the process cartridge taken along a line perpendicular to the axis of the photosensitive drum passing through the exposed portion, when an imaginary circle which has a radius equal to the shortest distance from the axis of the photosensitive drum to the tooth tip of the exposed portion and which is coaxial with the photosensitive drum is drawn, an inside of the imaginary circle is a vacant space.

41. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, further comprising a positioned portion which is provided on a side of the process cartridge where the coupling portion is provided, with respect to the axial direction of the photosensitive drum and which is projected inward of the process cartridge in the axial direction of the photosensitive drum,

wherein, when the positioned portion and the coupling portion are projected on the axis of the photosensitive drum, at least parts of projection areas of the positioned portion and the coupling portion are overlapped with each other.

42. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, further comprising a positioned portion which is provided on a side of the process cartridge where the coupling portion is provided, with respect to axial direction of the photosensitive drum and which is projected inward of the process cartridge in the axial direction of the photosensitive drum, and a coupling member is provided with the coupling portion and mounted to an end of the photosensitive drum,

wherein, when the positioned portion and the coupling member are projected on the axis of the photosensitive drum, at least parts of projection areas of the positioned portion and the coupling member are overlapped with each other.

43. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, further comprising a slit provided on a side of the process cartridge where the coupling portion is provided, with respect to the axial direction of the photosensitive drum.

44. An electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising:

a main assembly; and

a process cartridge according to Claim 1.

45. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, the shortest distance from the axis of the photosensitive drum to the tooth tip of the exposed portion measured along the direction perpendicular to the axis of said photosensitive drum is no less than 93% and no more than 107% of the radius of the photosensitive drum.