WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A heater connectable with an electric power supply portion having a first terminal and a plurality of second terminals, said heater comprising:

an elongate substrate;

a first set of electrical contacts provided on said substrate and electrically connectable with the first terminal;

a plurality of second sets of electrical contacts provided on said substrate and electrically connectable with the plurality of second terminals;

a plurality of electrodes including a plurality of first electrodes electrically connected with the first set of electrical contacts, and a plurality of second electrodes electrically connected with either one of said second sets of electrical contacts, wherein said first electrodes and said second electrodes are arranged alternately with predetermined gaps in a longitudinal direction of said substrate; and

a heat generating layer provided on said plurality of electrodes and configured to generate heat in an area between adjacent first and second electrodes by electric power supplied between said adjacent first and second electrodes,

wherein a distance in a widthwise direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction between terminal ends of said adjacent first and second electrodes is greater than the width of said heat generating layer in the widthwise direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction.

2. A heater according to claim 1, wherein said first electrodes are projected beyond one end of said heat generating layer in the widthwise direction, and said second electrodes are

projected beyond the other end of said heat generating layer in the widthwise direction.

3. A heater according to claim 2, wherein said first electrodes are projected beyond the one end of said heat generating layer at least by the thickness of said heat generating layer in the widthwise direction, and said second electrodes are projected beyond the other end of said heat generating layer at least by the thickness of said heat generating layer in the widthwise direction.

4. A heater according to claim 1, further comprising:

a first electroconductive line provided on said substrate along the longitudinal direction and configured to electrically connect said first set of electrical contacts and said first electrodes;

a second electroconductive line provided on said substrate along the longitudinal direction and configured to electrically connect one of said second sets of electrical contacts and a part of said second electrodes; and

a third electroconductive line provided on said substrate along the longitudinal direction and configured to electrically connect another one of said second sets of electrical contacts and another part of said second electrodes.

5. A heater connectable with an electric power supply portion having a first terminal and a plurality of second terminals, said heater comprising:

an elongate substrate;

a first set of electrical contacts provided on said substrate and electrically connectable with the first terminal;

a plurality of second sets of electrical contacts provided on said substrate and electrically connectable with the plurality of second terminals;

a plurality of electrodes including a plurality of first electrodes electrically connected with said first set of electrical contacts and a plurality of second electrodes electrically connected with either one of said second sets of electrical contacts, wherein said first electrodes and said second electrodes are arranged alternately with predetermined gaps in a longitudinal direction of said substrate; and

a heat generating layer provided on said plurality of said electrodes and configured to generate heat in an area between adjacent first and second electrodes by electric power supplied between said adjacent first and second electrodes,

wherein terminal ends of said first electrodes are projected beyond one end of said heat generating layer in a width direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction, and terminal ends of said second electrodes are projected beyond the other end of said heat generating layer in the width direction.

6. A heater according to claim 5, wherein said first electrodes are projected beyond the one end of said heat generating layer at least by the thickness of said heat generating layer in the widthwise direction, and said second electrodes are projected beyond the other end of said heat generating layer at least by the thickness of said heat generating layer in the widthwise direction.

7. A heater according to claim 5, further comprising:

a first electroconductive line provided on said substrate along the longitudinal direction and configured to electrically connect said first set of electrical contacts and said first electrodes;

a second electroconductive line provided on said substrate along the longitudinal direction and configured to electrically connect one of said second sets of electrical contacts and a part of said second electrodes; and

a third electroconductive line provided on said substrate along the longitudinal direction and configured to electrically connect another one of said second sets of electrical contacts and another part of said second electrodes.

8. An image heating apparatus comprising:

(i) an electric energy supplying portion provided with a first terminal and a plurality of second terminals;

(ii) a rotatable member configured to heat an image on a sheet; and

(iii) a heater configured to heat said rotatable member, said heater including:

(iii-i) an elongate substrate;

(iii-ii) a first set of electrical contacts provided on said substrate and electrically connectable with said first terminal;

(iii-iii) a plurality of second sets of electrical contacts provided on said substrate and electrically connectable with said plurality of second terminals;

(iii-iv) a plurality of electrodes including a plurality of first electrodes electrically connected with said first set of electrical contacts, and a plurality of second electrodes electrically connected with either one of said second sets of electrical contacts, wherein said first electrodes and said second electrodes are arranged alternately with predetermined gaps in a longitudinal direction of said substrate;

(iii-v) a heat generating layer provided on said plurality of said electrodes and configured to generate heat in an area between adjacent first and second electrodes by electric power supplied between said adjacent first and second electrodes;

(iii-vi) a first electroconductive line extending in a longitudinal direction and electrically connected with said first set of electrical contacts and said first electrodes;

(iii-vii) a second electroconductive line extending in the longitudinal direction and electrically connected with one of said second sets of electrical contacts and a part of said second electrodes; and

(iii-viii) a third electroconductive line extending in the longitudinal direction and electrically connected with another one of said second sets of electrical contacts and another part of said second electrodes,

wherein a distance in a widthwise direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction between terminal ends of said adjacent first and second electrodes is greater than the width of said heat generating layer in the widthwise direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction.

9. An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said first electrodes are projected beyond one end of said heat generating layer in the widthwise direction, and said second electrodes are projected beyond the other end of said heat generating layer in the widthwise direction.

10. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said first electrodes are projected beyond the one end of said heat generating layer at least by the thickness of said heat generating layer in the widthwise direction, and said second electrodes are projected beyond the other end of said heat generating layer at least by the thickness of said heat generating layer in the widthwise direction.

11. An image heating apparatus comprising:

(i) an electric energy supplying portion provided with a first terminal and a plurality of second terminals;

(ii) a rotatable member configured to heat an image on a sheet; and

(iii) a heater configured to heat said rotatable member, said heater including:

(iii-i) an elongate substrate;

(iii-ii) a first set of electrical contacts provided on said substrate and electrically connectable with said first terminal;

(iii-iii) a plurality of second sets of electrical contacts provided on said substrate and electrically connectable with said plurality of second terminals;

(iii-iv) a plurality of electrodes including a plurality of first electrodes electrically connected with said first set of electrical contacts, and a plurality of second electrodes electrically connected with either one of said second sets of electrical contacts, wherein said first electrodes and said second electrodes are arranged alternately with predetermined gaps in a longitudinal direction of said substrate;

(iii-v) a heat generating layer provided on said plurality of said electrodes and configured to generate heat in an area between adjacent first and second electrodes by electric power supplied between said adjacent first and second electrodes;

(iii-vi) a first electroconductive line extending in a longitudinal direction and electrically connected with said first set of electrical contacts and said first electrodes;

(iii-vii) a second electroconductive line extending in the longitudinal direction and electrically connected with one

of said second sets of electrical contacts and a part of said second electrodes; and

(iii-viii) a third electroconductive line extending in the longitudinal direction and electrically connected with another one of said second sets of electrical contacts and another part of said second electrodes,

wherein terminal ends of said first electrodes are projected beyond one end of said heat generating layer in a width direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction, and terminal ends of said second electrodes are projected beyond the other end of said heat generating layer in the width direction.

12. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said first electrodes are projected beyond the one end of said heat generating layer at least by the thickness of said heat generating layer in the widthwise direction, and said second electrodes are projected beyond the other end of said heat generating layer at least by the thickness of said heat generating layer in the widthwise direction.