CLAIMS

1. A process cartridge detachably mountable to a main assembly (100A), of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus (100), including a driving member (53) comprising:

(i) a photosensitive drum (1) ;

(ii) a developing roller (25) configured and positioned to (a) develop an electrostatic latent image formed on said photosensitive drum and (b) be rotatable about an axis thereof;

(iii) a coupling member (20) provided adjacent to one axial end of said developing roller, said coupling member including:

(iii-i) an engaging portion (23) configured and positioned to (a) engage with the driving member to receive a driving force for rotating said developing roller (b) be movable in a direction crossing the axis of said developing roller relative to said developing roller; and

(iv) an urging portion (18) configured and positioned to urge said engaging portion in a direction crossing the axis of said developing roller to enable engagement of said engaging portion with the driving member when said process cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the apparatus with said developing roller being in contact with said photosensitive drum.

2. A cartridge according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a holding portion (19) configured and positioned to (a) rotatably hold said engaging portion and (b) be movable in a direction crossing the axis of said developing roller together with said engaging portion; and

a stopping portion (11c) configured and positioned to stop said holding portion which is urged by said urging portion to enable engagement of said engaging portion with the driving member when said process cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the apparatus with said developing roller being in contact with said photosensitive drum.

3. A cartridge according to Claim 2, wherein said stopping portion is disposed at a position such that an axis of said engaging portion is deviated from the axis of said developing roller in a direction crossing the axis of said developing roller.

4. A cartridge according to Claim 3, further comprising a drum bearing portion (11) configured and positioned to rotatably support said photosensitive drum, wherein said stopping portion is provided on said drum bearing portion.

5. A cartridge according to Claim 3 or 4, wherein when said developing roller develops the electrostatic latent image on said photosensitive drum, the axis of said engaging portion and the axis of said developing roller are substantially aligned with each other.

6. A cartridge according to Claim 2, further comprising a guiding portion (48) configured and positioned to guide a movement of said holding portion in a direction crossing the axis of said developing roller.

7. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said urging portion urges said engaging portion so that an axis of said engaging portion is deviated from the axis of said developing roller in a direction crossing the axis of said developing roller to enable engagement of said engaging portion with the driving member when said process cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the apparatus with said developing roller being in contact with said photosensitive drum.

8. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said urging portion is an elastic member.

9. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said coupling member is an Oldham coupling.

10. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said photosensitive drum and said developing roller receive respective driving forces independently from each other.

11. A cartridge according to Claim 9, further comprising a drum coupling member (16) provided adjacent to one axial end of said photosensitive drum to receive a driving force for rotating said photosensitive drum.

12. A cartridge according to Claim 1,

wherein said developing roller is unified together with a developer container configured and positioned to contain the developer, into a developing unit;

wherein said photosensitive drum is unified together with a charging member configured and positioned to electrically charge said photosensitive drum and a cleaning member configured and positioned to

clean said photosensitive drum, into a drum unit; and

wherein said developing unit and said drum unit are connected each other.

13. An electrophotographic image forming apparatus (100) comprising:

(i) a main assembly (100A) of said apparatus including:

(i-i) a driving member (53) configured and positioned to apply a driving force;

(ii) a process cartridge (7) detachably mountable to said main assembly of said apparatus, said process cartridge including:

(ii-i) a photosensitive drum (1) ;

(ii-ii) a developing roller (25) configured and positioned to (a) develop an electrostatic latent image formed on said photosensitive drum and (b) be rotatable about an axis thereof;

(ii-iii) a coupling member (20) provided adjacent to one axial end of said developing roller, said coupling member including:

(ii-iii-i) an engaging portion (23) configured and positioned to (a) engage with said driving member to receive the driving force for rotating said developing roller and (b) be movable in a direction crossing the axis of said developing roller relative to said developing roller; and

(ii-iv) an urging portion (18) configured and positioned to urge said engaging portion in a direction crossing the axis of said developing roller to enable engagement of said engaging portion with said driving member when said process cartridge is inserted into said main assembly of said apparatus with said developing roller being in contact with said photosensitive drum.

14. An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said process cartridge includes:

a holding portion (19) configured and positioned to (a) rotatably hold said engaging portion and (b) be movable in a direction crossing the axis of said developing roller together with said engaging portion; and

a stopping portion (11c) configured and positioned to stop said holding portion which is urged by said urging portion to enable engagement of said engaging portion with the driving member when said process cartridge is inserted into said main assembly of said apparatus with said developing roller being in contact with said photosensitive drum.

15. An apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein said stopping

portion is disposed at a position such that an axis of said engaging portion is deviated from the axis of said developing roller in a direction crossing the axis of said developing roller.

16. An apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said process cartridge includes a drum bearing portion (11) configured and positioned to rotatably support said photosensitive drum, and wherein said stopping portion is provided on said drum bearing portion.

17. An apparatus according to Claim 15 or 16, wherein when said developing roller develops the electrostatic latent image on said photosensitive drum, the axis of said engaging portion and the axis of said developing roller are substantially aligned with each other.

18. An apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein said process cartridge includes a guiding portion (48) configured and positioned to guide a movement of said holding portion in a direction crossing the axis of said developing roller.

19. An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said urging portion urges said engaging portion so that an axis of said engaging portion is deviated from the axis of said developing roller in a direction crossing the axis of said developing roller to enable engagement of said engaging portion with the driving member when said process cartridge is inserted into said main assembly of said apparatus with said developing roller being in contact with said photosensitive drum.

20. An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said urging portion is an elastic member.

21. An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said coupling member is an Oldham coupling.

22. An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said photosensitive drum and said developing roller receive respective driving forces independently from each other.

23. An apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein said process cartridge includes a drum coupling member (16) provided adjacent to one axial end of said photosensitive drum to receive a driving force for rotating

said photosensitive drum.

24. An apparatus according to Claim 13,

wherein said developing roller is unified together with a developer container configured and positioned to contain the developer, into a developing unit;

wherein said photosensitive drum is unified together with a charging member configured and positioned to electrically charge said photosensitive drum and a cleaning member configured and positioned to clean said photosensitive drum, into a drum unit; and

wherein said developing unit and said drum unit are connected each other.

What is claimed is:

1. A process cartridge detachably mountable to a main assembly of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus including a driving member comprising:

(i) a photosensitive drum;

(ii) a developing roller configured and positioned (a) to develop an electrostatic latent image formed on said photosensitive drum and (b) to be rotatable about an axis thereof;

(iii) a coupling member provided adjacent to one axial end of said developing roller, said coupling member including an engaging portion configured and positioned (a) to engage with the driving member to receive a driving force for rotating said developing roller and (b) to be movable in a direction crossing the axis of said developing roller relative to said developing roller; and

(iv) an urging portion configured and positioned to urge said engaging portion in a direction crossing the axis of said developing roller to enable engagement of said engaging portion with the driving member when said process cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the apparatus with said developing roller being in contact with said photosensitive drum.

2. A cartridge according to claim 1, further comprising:

a holding portion configured and positioned (a) to rotatably hold said engaging portion and (b) to be movable in a direction crossing the axis of said developing roller together with said engaging portion; and

a stopping portion configured and positioned to stop said holding portion which is urged by said urging portion to enable engagement of said engaging portion with the driving member when said process cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the apparatus with said developing roller being in contact with said photosensitive drum.

3. A cartridge according to claim 2, wherein said stopping portion is disposed at a position such that an axis of said engaging portion is deviated from the axis of said developing roller in a direction crossing the axis of said developing roller.

4. A cartridge according to claim 3, further comprising a drum bearing portion configured and positioned to rotatably support said photosensitive drum,

wherein said stopping portion is provided on said drum bearing portion.

5. A cartridge according to claim 3 or 4, wherein, when said developing roller develops the electrostatic latent image on said photosensitive drum, the axis of said engaging portion and the axis of said developing roller are substantially aligned with each other.

6. A cartridge according to claim 2, further comprising a guiding portion configured and positioned to guide a movement of said holding portion in a direction crossing the axis of said developing roller.

7. A cartridge according to claim 1, wherein said urging portion urges said engaging portion so that an axis of said engaging portion is deviated from the axis of said developing roller in a direction crossing the axis of said developing roller so as to enable engagement of said engaging portion with the driving member when said process cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the apparatus with said developing roller being in contact with said photosensitive drum.

8. A cartridge according to claim 1, wherein said urging portion is an elastic member.

9. A cartridge according to claim 1, wherein said coupling member is an Oldham coupling.

10. A cartridge according to claim 1, wherein said photosensitive drum and said developing roller receive respective driving forces independently from each other.

11. A cartridge according to claim 10, further comprising a drum coupling member provided adjacent to one axial end of said photosensitive drum to receive a driving force for rotating said photosensitive drum.

12. A cartridge according to claim 1, wherein said developing roller is unified together with a developer container configured and positioned to contain the developer so as to form a developing unit,

wherein said photosensitive drum is unified together with a charging member configured and positioned to electrically charge said photosensitive drum and a cleaning member configured and positioned to clean said photosensitive drum so as to form a drum unit, and

wherein said developing unit and said drum unit are connected to each other.

13. An electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising:

a main assembly of said apparatus including a driving member configured and positioned to apply a driving force; and

a process cartridge detachably mountable to said main assembly of said apparatus, said process cartridge including:

(i) a photosensitive drum;

(ii) a developing roller configured and positioned (a) to develop an electrostatic latent image formed on said photosensitive drum and (b) to be rotatable about an axis thereof;

(iii) a coupling member provided adjacent to one axial end of said developing roller, said coupling member including an engaging portion configured and positioned (a) to engage with said driving member to receive the driving force for rotating said developing roller and (b) to be movable in a direction crossing the axis of said developing roller relative to said developing roller; and

(iv) an urging portion configured and positioned to urge said engaging portion in a direction crossing the axis of said developing roller to enable engagement of said engaging portion with said driving member when said process cartridge is inserted into said main assembly of

said apparatus with said developing roller being in contact with said photosensitive drum.

14. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said process cartridge includes:

a holding portion configured and positioned (a) to rotatably hold said engaging portion and (b) to be movable in a direction crossing the axis of said developing roller together with said engaging portion; and

a stopping portion configured and positioned to stop said holding portion which is urged by said urging portion to enable engagement of said engaging portion with the driving member when said process cartridge is inserted into the main assembly of the apparatus with said developing roller being in contact with said photosensitive drum.

15. An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said stopping portion is disposed at a position such that an axis of said engaging portion is deviated from the axis of said developing roller in a direction crossing the axis of said developing roller.

16. An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said process cartridge includes a drum bearing portion configured and positioned to rotatably support said photosensitive drum, and

wherein said stopping portion is provided on said drum bearing portion.

17. An apparatus according to claim 15 or 16, wherein, when said developing roller develops the electrostatic latent image on said photosensitive drum, the axis of said engaging portion and the axis of said developing roller are substantially aligned with each other.

18. An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said process cartridge includes a guiding portion configured and positioned to guide a movement of said holding portion in a direction crossing the axis of said developing roller.

19. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said urging portion urges said engaging portion so that an axis of said engaging portion is deviated from the axis of said developing roller in a direction crossing the axis of said developing roller so as to enable engagement of said engaging portion with the driving member when said process cartridge is inserted into said main assembly of said apparatus with said developing roller being in contact with said photosensitive drum.

20. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said urging portion is an elastic member.

21. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said coupling member is an Oldham coupling.

22. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said photosensitive drum and said developing roller receive respective driving forces independently from each other.

23. An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said process cartridge includes a drum coupling member provided adjacent to one axial end of said photosensitive drum to receive a driving force for rotating said photosensitive drum.

24. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said developing roller is unified together with a developer container configured and positioned to contain the developer so as to form a developing unit,

wherein said photosensitive drum is unified together with a charging member configured and positioned to electrically charge said photosensitive drum and a cleaning member configured and positioned to clean said photosensitive drum so as to form a drum unit, and

wherein said developing unit and said drum unit are connected to each other.