Claims:

1. A process cartridge comprising:

a photosensitive member configured to carry an electrostatic image;

a developing roller configured to develop the electrostatic image;

a housing supporting said photosensitive member and said developing roller such that at least one of said photosensitive member and said developing roller is movable between a contacting position where said photosensitive member and said developing roller are in contact and a spaced-apart position where said photosensitive member and said developing roller are spaced from each other; and

a movable member having a force receiving end, said movable member being configured to move between a first position and a second position, wherein said force receiving end is closer to said housing when said movable member is in the first position than when said movable member is in the second position,

wherein said movable member is coupled to said housing such that when a force is applied to said force receiving end of said movable member when said movable member is in the second position, at least one of said developing roller and said photosensitive member is moved such that said photosensitive member and said developing roller are in the spaced-apart position.

2. A process cartridge according to claim 1, wherein said developing roller is movable between the contacting position and the spaced-apart position.

3. A process cartridge according to claim 1, wherein said movable member pivots from the first position to the second position.

4. A process cartridge according to claim 1, wherein said movable member moves linearly from the first position to the second position.

5. A process cartridge according to claim 1, further comprising a bias member configured to bias said movable member to the first position,

wherein said movable member moves from the first position to the second position when a force is applied to said movable member that is greater than the bias applied to said movable member by said bias member.

6. A process cartridge according to claim 5, wherein said bias member is a spring.

7. A process cartridge according to claim 1, further comprising at least one bias member configured to bias at least one of said photosensitive member and said developing roller into contact with each other,

wherein, when the force applied to said force receiving end of said movable member is greater than the bias, said developing roller and said photosensitive member are spaced-apart from each other.

8. A process cartridge according to claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a drum frame and a developing frame, and

wherein said photosensitive member is supported by said drum frame and said developing roller is supported by said developing frame.

9. A process cartridge according to claim 8, wherein said movable member is supported by said developing frame.

10. A process cartridge comprising:

a photosensitive member configured to carry an electrostatic image;

a developing roller configured to develop the electrostatic image;

a housing supporting said photosensitive member and said developing roller such that at least one of said photosensitive member and said developing roller is movable between a contacting position where said photosensitive member and said developing roller are in contact and a spaced-apart position where said photosensitive member and said developing roller are spaced from each other; and

a movable member having a force receiving end, said movable member being configured to move between a first position and a second position, wherein said force receiving end is within said housing when said movable member is in the first position, and wherein said force receiving end is outside of said housing in the second position,

wherein said movable member is coupled to said housing such that when a force is applied to said force receiving end of said movable member when said movable member is in the second position, at least one of said developing roller and said photosensitive member is moved such that said photosensitive member and said developing roller are in the spaced-apart position.

11. A process cartridge according to claim 10, wherein said movable member pivots from the first position to the second position.

12. A process cartridge according to claim 10, wherein said movable member moves linearly from the first position to the second position.

13. A process cartridge according to claim 10, further comprising a bias member configured to bias said movable member to the first position,

wherein said movable member moves from the first position to the second position when a force is applied to said movable member that is greater than the bias applied to said movable member by said bias member.

14. A process cartridge according to claim 13, wherein said bias member is a spring.

15. A process cartridge according to claim 10, further comprising a bias member configured to bias one of said photosensitive member and said developing roller into contact with each other,

wherein, when the force applied to said force receiving end of said movable member is greater than the bias, said developing roller and said photosensitive member are spaced-apart from each other.

16. A process cartridge according to claim 10, wherein said housing comprises a drum frame and a developing frame,

wherein said photosensitive member is supported by said drum frame and said developing roller is supported by said developing frame.

17. A process cartridge according to claim 16, wherein said movable member is supported by said developing frame.

18. A process cartridge comprising:

a photosensitive member configured to carry an electrostatic image;

a developing roller configured to develop the electrostatic image;

a housing supporting said photosensitive member and said developing roller such that at least one of said photosensitive member and said developing roller is movable between a contacting position where said photosensitive member and said developing roller are in contact and a spaced-apart position where said photosensitive member and said developing roller are spaced from each other;

a first movable member; and

a second movable member having a force receiving end,

wherein said first movable member is coupled to said second movable member such that movement of said first movable member causes said force receiving end of said

second movable member to move from a first position within said housing to a second position outside of said housing, and

wherein said second movable member is coupled to said housing such that when a force is applied to said force receiving end of said second movable member when said second movable member is in the second position, at least one of said developing roller and said photosensitive member is moved such that said photosensitive member and said developing roller are in the spaced-apart position.

19. A process cartridge according to claim 18, wherein said developing roller is movable between the contacting position and the spaced-apart position.

20. A process cartridge according to claim 18, wherein said housing includes a drum frame and a developing frame,

wherein said photosensitive member is supported by said drum frame, said developing roller is supported by said developing frame, said first movable member is supported by said developing frame, and said second movable member is supported by said developing frame.

21. A process cartridge according to claim 18, wherein said first movable member includes an elastic member.

22. A process cartridge according to claim 21, wherein said elastic member is a spring.

23. A process cartridge according to claim 18, further comprising a bias member configured to bias said second movable member to the first position,

wherein said second movable member moves from the first position to the second position when a force applied to said second moveable member by movement of said first movable member is greater than the bias.

24. A process cartridge according to claim 23, wherein said bias member is a spring.

25. A process cartridge according to claim 18, further comprising at least one bias member configured to bias at least one of said photosensitive member and said developing roller into contact with each other,

wherein when the force applied to said force receiving end of said second movable member is greater than the bias said developing roller and said photosensitive member are spaced from each other.

26. A process cartridge comprising:

a photosensitive member configured to carry an electrostatic image;

a developing roller configured to develop the electrostatic image, said developing roller movable between a position contacting said photosensitive member and a position spaced from said developing roller;

a first member movable along a first axis; and

a second member having a force receiving portion, said force receiving portion being pivotable about a second axis,

wherein the first axis is substantially parallel to the second axis,

wherein said first member is coupled to said second member such that movement of the first member along the first axis causes said second member to pivot about the second axis from a first position to a second position, and

wherein, when a force is applied to said force receiving portion when said second member is in the second position, said developing roller is spaced from said photosensitive member.

27. A process cartridge according to claim 26, wherein said first member and said second member are coupled by a cam.

28. A process cartridge according to claim 26, wherein said first member includes an elastic member.

29. A process cartridge according to claim 28, wherein said elastic member comprises a spring.

30. A process cartridge according to claim 29, wherein said spring is attached to two spaced portions of said first member.

31. A process cartridge according to claim 26, further comprising a bias member configured to bias said second member to the first position, wherein said second movable member pivots from the first position to the second position when a force applied to said second movable member by movement of said first movable member is greater than the bias.

32. A process cartridge comprising:

a photosensitive member configured to carry an electrostatic image;

a developing roller configured to develop the electrostatic image, said developing roller movable between a position contacting said photosensitive member and a position spaced from said photosensitive member;

a housing supporting said photosensitive member and said developing roller;

a movable member having a force receiving portion, said movable member pivotally supported by said housing and movable between a first position and a second position, wherein said force receiving portion is farther from said housing when said movable member is in the second position than when said movable member is in the first position, and

wherein, when a force is applied to said force receiving portion when said movable member is in the second position, said developing roller is spaced from said photosensitive member.

33. A process cartridge according to claim 32, wherein said movable member is an integral structure.

34. A process cartridge according to claim 33, further comprising a bias member configured to bias said movable member to the first position.

35. A process cartridge according to claim 34, wherein said bias member is a spring.

36. A process cartridge according to claim 35, wherein one end of said spring is connected to said housing and the other end of said spring is connected to said movable member.

37. A process cartridge according to claim 36, wherein said movable member pivots about a shaft supported by said housing.

38. A process cartridge according to claim 32, wherein said force receiving portion is formed at one end of said movable member, and a second end of said movable member contacts said housing in the second position.

39. A process cartridge according to claim 38, wherein said housing comprises a developing frame supporting said developing roller.

40. A process cartridge according to claim 32, wherein said housing includes a drum frame and a developing frame,

wherein said photosensitive member is supported by said drum frame, said developing roller is supported by said developing frame, and said movable member is supported by said developing frame.

41. A process cartridge comprising:

a photosensitive member configured to carry an electrostatic image;

a developing roller configured to develop the electrostatic image,

a housing supporting said photosensitive member and said developing roller such that at least one of said photosensitive member and said developing roller is movable between a contacting position where said photosensitive member and said developing roller are in contact and a

spaced-apart position where said photosensitive member and said developing roller are spaced from each other;

a first member;

a second member having a force receiving end; and

a connection member connecting said first member and said second member, wherein said second member is movable between a first position and a second position, wherein said force receiving end of said second member is farther from said housing when said second member is in the second position than when said second member is in the first position, and wherein a force received by said first member is transmitted to said second member through said connection member such that said second member is moved from the first position to the second position.

42. A process cartridge according to claim 41, wherein said connection member is a spring.

43. A process cartridge according to claim 42, wherein said first member, said second member, and said connection member are supported in a guide.

44. A process cartridge according to claim 42, further comprising a bias member configured to bias said second member to the first position, wherein said force receiving portion moves from the first position to the second position when the force transmitted from said first member and said connection member to said second member is greater than the bias applied to said second movable member by said bias member.

45. A process cartridge according to claim 44, wherein said bias member is a spring.

46. A process cartridge according to claim 42, wherein said housing includes a drum frame and a developing frame,

wherein said photosensitive member is supported by said drum frame, and said developing roller is supported by said developing frame.

47. A process cartridge comprising:

a photosensitive member configured to carry an electrostatic image;

a developing roller configured to develop the electrostatic image, said developing roller movable between a position contacting said photosensitive member and a position spaced from said photosensitive member;

a housing supporting said photosensitive member and said developing roller;

48. A process cartridge according to claim 47, wherein said first pivotable member includes an elastic portion.

49. A process cartridge according to claim 48, wherein said elastic portion comprises a portion of said first pivotable member that is thinner than the rest of said first pivotable member.

50. A process cartridge according to claim 47, wherein said housing includes a developing frame and a drum frame, wherein said developing roller is supported by said developing frame and said photosensitive drum is supported by said drum frame.

51. A process cartridge comprising:

a photosensitive member configured to carry an electrostatic image;

a developing roller configured to develop the electrostatic image;

a housing supporting said photosensitive member and said developing roller, said housing including a first portion and a second portion, wherein said first portion is movable relative to said second portion; and

a movable member having a force receiving end, said movable member being configured to move between a first position and a second position, wherein said force receiving end is closer to said housing when said movable member is in the first position than when said second movable member is in the second position,

wherein said movable member is coupled to said housing such that when a force is applied to said force receiving end when said movable member is in the second position, said first portion of said housing is movable from a position where said developing roller and photosensitive member contact each other to a position where said developing roller and said photosensitive member are spaced from each other.

52. A process cartridge according to claim 51, wherein the first portion is a developing frame that supports said developing roller and said second portion is a drum frame that supports said photosensitive member.

53. A process cartridge according to claim 51, wherein said movable member pivots from the first position to the second position.

54. A process cartridge according to claim 51, wherein said movable member moves linearly from the first position to the second position.

55. A process cartridge according to claim 51, further comprising a bias member configured to bias said movable member to the first position,

wherein said movable member moves from the first position to the second position when a force is applied to said movable member that is greater than the bias applied to said movable member by said bias member.

56. A process cartridge according to claim 55, wherein said bias member is a spring.

57. A process cartridge according to claim 51, further comprising at least one bias member configured to bias at least one of said first portion of said housing and said second portion of said housing,

wherein, when the force applied to said force receiving end of said movable member is greater than the bias, said first portion of said housing moves from the position where said developing roller and said photosensitive member contact each other to the position where said developing roller and said photosensitive member are spaced from each other.

58. A process cartridge comprising:

a photosensitive member configured and positioned to carry an electrostatic image;

a developing roller contactable to said photosensitive member to develop the electrostatic image;

a support configured to support at least one of said photosensitive member and said developing roller so as to move at least one of said photosensitive member and said developing roller toward the other and to move the at least one of said photosensitive member and said developing roller away from the other, wherein movement of said support in a predetermined direction causes movement of at least one of said photosensitive member and said developing roller away from the other;

a projection having a force-receiving portion, said projection being attached to said support so as to be movable between a projected position in which the force-receiving portion is above an outer surface of said support and a retracted position in which the force-receiving portion is retracted from the projected position, wherein said projection is mounted to said support so that movement of said force-receiving portion at the projected position in a predetermined direction moves so that the at least

one of said photosensitive member and said developing roller moves away from the other; and

an urging member, displaceably attached to said support and contactable to said projection, said urging member being configured to urge said projection to the projected position when displaced toward said projection.

59. A process cartridge according to claim **58**, wherein said urging member comprises an elastic member capable of being elastically deformed.

60. A process cartridge according to claim **59**, wherein said elastic member comprises a spring.

61. A process cartridge according to claim **60**, wherein one end of said spring is attached to a first portion of said urging member, and a second end of said spring is attached to a second portion of said urging member.

Claims:

1. A process cartridge comprising:
a photosensitive drum;
a developing roller contactable to the photosensitive drum to develop an electrostatic latent image formed on the photosensitive drum;
a frame supporting the photosensitive drum and the developing roller;
a movable member having a spacing force receiving portion capable of receiving a spacing force to space the developing roller from the photosensitive drum, the movable member being movable relative to the frame so that the spacing force receiving portion is movable between a first position and a second position retracted from the first position toward an inside of the frame; and
an urging member configured to urge the movable member so that the spacing force receiving portion takes the first position.

2. A process cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the urging member is configured to move the movable member so that the spacing force receiving portion is movable from the second position to the first position.

3. A process cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the spacing force receiving portion is linearly movable from the second position to the first position.

4. A process cartridge according to claim 3, wherein the movable member is movably supported by the frame.

5. A process cartridge according to claim 4, wherein the movable member has a connecting portion which is connected with the urging member, and
wherein the spacing force receiving portion is located at one end portion of the movable member and the connecting portion is located at another end portion of the

movable member.

6. A process cartridge according to claim 5, wherein the urging member is an elastic member.

7. A process cartridge according to claim 6, wherein the elastic member is a spring.

8. A process cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the movable member is supported by the frame so as to be movable relative to the frame to move the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

9. A process cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the movable member is supported by the frame and is movable relative to the frame by an urging force of the urging member so that the spacing force receiving portion is linearly movable from the second position to the first position.

10. A process cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the urging member is a spring, and

wherein the spring is configured to move the movable member by expansion thereof so that the spacing force receiving portion is movable from the second position to the first position.

11. A process cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the spacing force receiving portion is linearly movable from the second position to the first position.

12. A process cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the movable member has a connecting portion that is connected with the urging member, and

wherein the spacing force receiving portion is located at one end portion of the movable member and the connecting portion is located at another end portion of the movable member.

13. An image forming apparatus comprising: a process cartridge according to claim 1; and

a main assembly in which the process cartridge is detachably mountable, the main assembly having a spacing

force applying member configured to apply the spacing force to the spacing force receiving portion.

14. A process cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the frame includes a drum frame supporting the photosensitive drum and a developing frame supporting the developing roller, and

wherein the inside is an inside of the developing frame.

15. A process cartridge according to claim 14, wherein the movable member is movable relative to the developing frame by an urging force of the urging member so that the spacing force receiving portion moves from the second position to the first position.

16. A process cartridge comprising:

a photosensitive drum;

a developing roller contactable to the photosensitive drum to develop an electrostatic latent image formed on the photosensitive drum;

a frame supporting the photosensitive drum and the developing roller;

a spacing force receiving portion movable between a first position and a second position retracted from the first position toward an inside of the frame and capable of receiving a spacing force to space the developing roller from the photosensitive drum when taking the first position; and

a spring capable of moving the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

17. A process cartridge according to claim 16, wherein the spacing force receiving portion is movable from the second position to the first position by expansion of the spring.

18. A process cartridge according to claim 17, further comprising a movable member having the spacing force receiving portion and a connecting portion that is connected with the spring, and

wherein the spacing force receiving portion is located at one end portion of the movable member and the connecting portion is located at another end portion of the movable member.

19. A process cartridge according to claim 18, wherein the movable member is supported by the frame and is movable relative to the frame by the expansion of the spring so that the spacing force receiving portion is linearly movable from the second position to the first position.

20. A process cartridge according to claim 13, further comprising a movable member having the spacing force receiving portion and connected with the spring,

wherein the movable member is movable relative to the frame by expansion of the spring so that the spacing force receiving portion is movable from the second position to the first position.

21. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a process cartridge according to claim 16; and

a main assembly in which the process cartridge is detachably mountable, the main assembly having a spacing force applying member configured to apply the spacing force to the spacing force receiving portion.

22. A process cartridge according to claim 16, wherein the frame includes a drum frame supporting the photosensitive drum and a developing frame supporting the developing roller, and

wherein the inside is an inside of the developing frame.

23. A process cartridge according to claim 22, further comprising a movable member having the spacing force receiving portion and connected with the spring,

wherein the movable member is movable relative to the developing frame by an expansion of the spring so that the spacing force receiving portion moves from the second position to the first position.

24. A process cartridge comprising:

a photosensitive drum;

a developing roller contactable to the photosensitive drum to develop an electrostatic latent image formed on the photosensitive drum;

a frame supporting the photosensitive drum and the developing roller;

a spacing force receiving portion movable between a first position and a second position retracted from the first position toward an inside of the frame and capable of receiving a spacing force to space the developing roller from the photosensitive drum when taking the first position; and

an elastic member elastically deformable to place the spacing force receiving portion at the second position, and elastically restorable to move the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

25. A process cartridge according to claim 24, further comprising a movable member having the spacing force receiving portion and supported by the frame,

wherein the movable member is movable relative to the frame by the elastic restoration of the elastic member so as to move the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

26. A process cartridge according to claim 25, wherein the movable member has a connecting portion which is connected with the elastic member, and

wherein the spacing force receiving portion is located at one end portion of the movable member and the connecting portion is located at another end portion of the movable member.

27. A process cartridge according to claim 26, wherein the spacing force receiving portion is linearly movable from the second position to the first position.

28. A process cartridge according to claim 27, wherein the elastic member is a spring.

29. A process cartridge according to claim 28, wherein the elastic restoration of the elastic member is expansion of the spring.

30. A process cartridge according to claim 24, further comprising a movable member having the spacing force receiving portion and movable relative to the frame by an elastic restoration of the elastic member so as to move the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

31. A process cartridge according to claim 30, wherein the movable member has a connecting portion that is connected with the elastic member, and

wherein the spacing force receiving portion is located at one end portion of the movable member and the connecting portion is located at another end portion of the movable member.

32. A process cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the elastic member is a spring, and

wherein the spring is elastically contractable to place the spacing force receiving portion at the second position, and elastically expandable to move the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

33. A process cartridge according to claim 24, further comprising a movable member having the spacing force receiving portion and a connecting portion which is connected with the elastic member,

wherein the movable member is movable by an elastic restoration of the elastic member to move the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

34. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a process cartridge according to claim 24; and

a main assembly in which the process cartridge is detachably mountable, the main assembly having a spacing force applying member configured to apply the spacing force to the spacing force receiving portion.

35. A process cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the frame includes a drum frame supporting the photosensitive drum and a developing frame supporting the developing roller, and

wherein the inside is an inside of the developing frame.

36. A process cartridge according to claim 35, further comprising a movable member having the spacing force receiving portion and connected with the elastic member,

wherein the movable member is movable relative to the developing frame by an elastic restoration of the elastic member so that the spacing force receiving portion moves from the second position to the first position.

37. A process cartridge comprising:

a photosensitive drum;

a developing roller contactable to the photosensitive drum to develop an electrostatic latent image formed on the photosensitive drum;

a frame supporting the photosensitive drum and the developing roller;

a movable member having a spacing force receiving portion capable of receiving a spacing force to space the developing roller from the photosensitive drum, the spacing force receiving portion being movable relative to the frame between a first position and a second position retracted from the first position toward an inside of the frame; and

a spring elastically contractable to place the spacing force receiving portion at the second position, and elastically expandable to move the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

38. A process cartridge according to claim 37, wherein the movable member is connected with the spring.

39. A process cartridge according to claim 38, wherein the spacing force receiving portion is linearly movable from the second position to the first position.

40. A process cartridge according to claim 39, wherein the movable member has a connecting portion which is connected with the spring, and

wherein the spacing force receiving portion is located at one end portion of the movable member and the connecting portion is located at another end portion of the movable member.

41. An image forming apparatus comprising:
a process cartridge according to claim 37; and
a main assembly in which the process cartridge is detachably mountable, the main assembly having a spacing force applying member configured to apply the spacing force to the spacing force receiving portion.

42. A process cartridge according to claim 37, wherein the frame includes a drum frame supporting the photosensitive drum and a developing frame supporting the developing roller, and

wherein the inside is an inside of the developing frame.

43. A process cartridge according to claim 42, wherein the movable member is movable relative to the developing frame

by an expansion of the spring so that the spacing force receiving portion moves from the second position to the first position.

44. A process cartridge comprising:
a photosensitive drum;
a developing roller configured to develop an electrostatic latent image formed on the photosensitive drum;
a drum frame supporting the photosensitive drum;
a developing frame supporting the developing roller, the developing frame being rotatable about a rotational axis relative to the drum frame to move between a contacting position in which the developing roller is in contact with the photosensitive drum and a spacing position in which the developing roller is spaced from the photosensitive drum;

a movable member having a spacing force receiving portion, the spacing force receiving portion being movable between a first position and a second position closer to the rotational axis than the first position and being capable of receiving a spacing force to move the developing frame from the contacting position to the spacing position when taking the first position; and

an urging member configured to urge the movable member so that the spacing force receiving portion takes the first position.

45. A process cartridge according to claim **44**, wherein the urging member is configured to urge the movable member so that the spacing force receiving portion is movable from the second position to the first position.

46. A process cartridge according to claim **45**, wherein the spacing force receiving portion is linearly movable from the second position to the first position.

47. A process cartridge according to claim **46**, wherein the movable member is movably supported by the developing frame.

48. A process cartridge according to claim **47**, wherein the movable member has a connecting portion which is connected with the urging member, and

wherein the spacing force receiving portion is located at one end portion of the movable member and the connecting portion is located at another end portion of the movable member.

49. A process cartridge according to claim **48**, wherein the urging member is an elastic member.

50. A process cartridge according to claim **19**, wherein the elastic member is a spring.

51. A process cartridge according to claim **44**, wherein the movable member is supported by the developing frame so as to be movable relative to the developing frame to move the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

52. A process cartridge according to claim 44, wherein the movable member is supported by the developing frame and is movable relative to the developing frame by an urging force of the urging member so that the spacing force receiving portion is linearly movable from the second position to the first position.

53. A process cartridge according to claim 44, wherein the urging member is a spring, and

wherein the spring is configured to move the movable member by expansion thereof so that the spacing force receiving portion is movable from the second position to the first position.

54. A process cartridge according to claim 44, wherein the spacing force receiving portion is linearly movable from the second position to the first position.

55. A process cartridge according to claim 44, wherein the movable member has a connecting portion which is connected with the urging member, and

wherein the spacing force receiving portion is located at one end portion of the movable member and the connecting portion is located at another end portion of the movable member.

56. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a process cartridge according to claim 44; and

a main assembly in which the process cartridge is detachably mountable, the main assembly having a spacing force applying member configured to apply the spacing force to the spacing force receiving portion.

57. A process cartridge comprising:

a photosensitive drum;

a developing roller configured to develop an electrostatic latent image formed on the photosensitive drum;

a drum frame supporting the photosensitive drum;

a developing frame supporting the developing roller, the developing frame being rotatable about a rotational axis relative to the drum frame to move between a contacting position in which the developing roller is in contact with the photosensitive drum and a spacing position in which the developing roller is spaced from the photosensitive drum;

a spacing force receiving portion movable between a first position and a second position closer to the rotational axis than the first position and capable of receiving a spacing force to move the developing frame from the contacting position to the spacing position when taking the first position; and

a spring capable of moving the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

58. A process cartridge according to claim 57, wherein the spacing force receiving portion is movable from the second position to the first position by expansion of the spring.

59. A process cartridge according to claim 58, further comprising a movable member having the spacing force receiving portion and a connecting portion which is connected with the spring, and

wherein the spacing force receiving portion is located at one end portion of the movable member and the connecting portion is located at another end portion of the movable member.

60. A process cartridge according to claim 59, wherein the movable member is supported by the developing frame and is movable relative to the developing frame by the expansion of the spring so that the spacing force receiving portion is linearly movable from the second position to the first position.

61. A process cartridge according to claim 57, further comprising a movable member having the spacing force receiving portion and connected with the spring,

wherein the movable member is movable relative to the developing frame by expansion of the spring so that the spacing force receiving portion is movable from the second position to the first position.

62. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a process cartridge according to claim 57; and

a main assembly in which the process cartridge is detachably mountable, the main assembly having a spacing force applying member configured to apply the spacing force to the spacing force receiving portion.

63. A process cartridge comprising:

a photosensitive drum;

a developing roller configured to develop an electrostatic latent image formed on the photosensitive drum;

a drum frame supporting the photosensitive drum;

a developing frame supporting the developing roller, the developing frame being rotatable about a rotational axis relative to the drum frame to move between a contacting position in which the developing roller is in contact with the photosensitive drum and a spacing position in which the developing roller is spaced from the photosensitive drum;

a spacing force receiving portion movable between a first position and a second position closer to the rotational axis than the first position and capable of receiving a spacing force to move the developing frame from the contacting position to the spacing position when taking the first position; and

an elastic member elastically deformable to place the spacing force receiving portion at the second position, and elastically restorable to move the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

64. A process cartridge according to claim 63, further comprising a movable member having the spacing force receiving portion and supported by the developing frame,

wherein the movable member is movable relative to the developing frame by the elastic restoration of the elastic member so as to move the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

65. A process cartridge according to claim 64, wherein the movable member has a connecting portion which is connected with the elastic member, and

wherein the spacing force receiving portion is located at one end portion of the movable member and the connecting portion is located at another end portion of the movable member.

66. A process cartridge according to claim 65, wherein the spacing force receiving portion is linearly movable from the second position to the first position.

67. A process cartridge according to claim 66, wherein the elastic member is a spring.

68. A process cartridge according to claim 67, wherein the elastic restoration of the elastic member is expansion of the spring.

69. A process cartridge according to claim 63, further comprising a movable member having the spacing force receiving portion,

wherein the movable member is movable relative to the developing frame by an elastic restoration of the elastic member so as to move the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

70. A process cartridge according to claim 69, wherein the movable member has a connecting portion that is connected with the elastic member, and

wherein the spacing force receiving portion is located at one end portion of the movable member and the connecting portion is located at another end portion of the movable member.

71. A process cartridge according to claim 63, wherein the elastic member is a spring, and

wherein the spring is elastically contractable to place the spacing force receiving portion at the second position, and elastically expandable to move the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

72. A process cartridge according to claim 63, further comprising a movable member having the spacing force receiving portion and a connecting portion which is connected with the elastic member,

wherein the movable member is movable by an elastic restoration of the elastic member to move the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

73. An image forming apparatus comprising:
a process cartridge according to claim 63; and
a main assembly in which the process cartridge is detachably mountable, the main assembly having a spacing force applying member configured to apply the spacing force to the spacing force receiving portion.
74. A process cartridge comprising:
a photosensitive drum;
a developing roller configured to develop an electrostatic latent image formed on the photosensitive drum;
a drum frame supporting the photosensitive drum;
a developing frame supporting the developing roller, the developing frame being rotatable about a rotational axis relative to the drum frame to move between a contacting position in which the developing roller is in contact with the photosensitive drum and a spacing position in which the developing roller is spaced from the photosensitive drum;
a movable member movably supported by the developing frame and having a spacing force receiving portion, the spacing force receiving portion being movable between a first position and a second position closer to the rotational axis than the first position and being capable of receiving a spacing force at the first position to move the developing frame from the contacting position to the spacing position; and
a spring elastically contractable to place the spacing force receiving portion at the second position, and elastically expandable to move the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

75. A process cartridge according to claim 74, wherein the movable member is connected with the spring.

76. A process cartridge according to claim 75, wherein the spacing force receiving portion is linearly movable from the second position to the first position.

77. A process cartridge according to claim 76, wherein the movable member has a connecting portion which is connected with the spring, and

wherein the spacing force receiving portion is located at one end portion of the movable member and the connecting portion is located at another end portion of the movable member.

78. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a process cartridge according to claim 74; and

a main assembly in which the process cartridge is detachably mountable, the main assembly having a spacing force applying member configured to apply the spacing force to the spacing force receiving portion.

79. A process cartridge comprising:

a photosensitive drum;

a developing roller configured to develop an electrostatic latent image formed on the photosensitive drum;

a drum frame supporting the photosensitive drum;

a developing frame supporting the developing roller, the developing frame being rotatable about a rotational axis relative to the drum frame to move between a contacting position in which the developing roller is in contact with the photosensitive drum and a spacing position in which the developing roller is spaced from the photosensitive drum;

a movable member movable relative to the developing frame and having a spacing force receiving portion, the spacing force receiving portion being movable between

a first position and a second position closer to the rotational axis than the first position and being capable of receiving a spacing force for moving the developing frame from the contacting position to the spacing position when taking the first position; and

a spring connected with the movable member and expandable to move the movable member so that the spacing force receiving portion is movable from the second position to the first position.

80. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a process cartridge according to claim 79; and

a main assembly in which the process cartridge is detachably mountable, the main assembly having a spacing force applying member configured to apply the spacing force to the spacing force receiving portion.

81. A process cartridge comprising:

a photosensitive drum;

a developing roller configured to develop an electrostatic latent image formed on the photosensitive drum;

a drum frame supporting the photosensitive drum;

a developing frame supporting the developing roller, the developing frame being rotatable about a rotational axis relative to the drum frame to move between a contacting position in which the developing roller is in contact with the photosensitive drum and a spacing position in which the developing roller is spaced from the photosensitive drum;

a movable member movable relative to the developing frame and having a spacing force receiving portion, the spacing force receiving portion being movable between a first position and a second position closer to the rotational axis than the first position and being capable of receiving a spacing force for moving the developing frame from the contacting position to the spacing position when taking the first position; and

a spring connected with the movable member, elastically deformable to place the spacing force receiving portion at the second position, and elastically restorable to move the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

82. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a process cartridge according to claim 81; and

a main assembly in which the process cartridge is detachably mountable, the main assembly having spacing force applying member for applying the spacing force to the spacing force receiving portion.

83. A process cartridge comprising:

a photosensitive drum;

a developing roller contactable to the photosensitive drum to develop an electrostatic latent image formed on the photosensitive drum;

a frame supporting the photosensitive drum and the developing roller; and

a spacing force receiving portion movable between a first position and a second position retracted from the first position toward an inside of the frame and capable of receiving a spacing force to space the developing roller from the photosensitive drum when taking the first position.

84. A process cartridge according to claim 83, further comprising a movable member having the spacing force receiving portion and movable relative to the frame.

85. A process cartridge according to claim 83, wherein the spacing force receiving portion is located at an end of the movable member.

86. A process cartridge according to claim 85, wherein the movable member is linearly movable to linearly move the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

87. A process cartridge according to claim 86, further comprising an elastic member elastically deformable to place the spacing force receiving portion at the second position, and elastically restorable to move the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

88. A process cartridge according to claim 87, wherein the movable member has a connecting portion connected with the elastic member.

89. A process cartridge according to claim 88, wherein the connecting portion is located at another end of the movable member.

90. A process cartridge according to claim 89, wherein the elastic member is a spring.

91. A process cartridge according to claim 90, wherein the spring is elastically contractable to place the spacing force receiving portion at the second position, and elastically expandable to move the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

92. A process cartridge according to claim 87, wherein the elastic member is a spring.

93. A process cartridge according to claim 92, wherein the spring is elastically contractable to place the spacing force receiving portion at the second position, and elastically expandable to move the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

94. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a process cartridge according to claim 83; and

a main assembly in which the process cartridge is detachably mountable, the main assembly having a spacing force applying member configured to apply the spacing force to the spacing force receiving portion.

95. A process cartridge according to claim 86, wherein the frame includes a drum frame supporting the photosensitive drum and a developing frame supporting the developing roller, and

wherein the inside is an inside of the developing frame.

96. A process cartridge according to claim 95, wherein the movable member is movable relative to the developing frame so that the spacing force receiving portion moves from the second position to the first position.

97. A process cartridge comprising:

a photosensitive drum;

a developing roller configured to develop an electrostatic latent image formed on the photosensitive drum;

a drum frame supporting the photosensitive drum;

a developing frame supporting the developing roller, the developing frame being rotatable about a rotational axis relative to the drum frame to move between a contacting position in which the developing roller is in contact with the photosensitive drum and a spacing position in which the developing roller is spaced from the photosensitive drum; and

a spacing force receiving portion movable between a first position and a second position closer to the rotational axis than the first position and capable of receiving a spacing force to move the developing frame from the contacting position to the spacing position when taking the first position.

98. A process cartridge according to claim 97, further comprising a movable member having the spacing force receiving portion and movable relative to the developing frame.

99. A process cartridge according to claim 98, wherein the spacing force receiving portion is located at an end of the movable member.

100. A process cartridge according to claim 99, wherein the movable member is linearly movable to linearly move the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

101. A process cartridge according to claim 100, further comprising an elastic member elastically deformable to place the spacing force receiving portion at the second position, and elastically restorable to move the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

102. A process cartridge according to claim 101, wherein the movable member has a connecting portion connected with the elastic member.

103. A process cartridge according to claim 102, wherein the connecting portion is located at another end of the movable member.

104. A process cartridge according to claim 103, wherein the elastic member is a spring.

105. A process cartridge according to claim 104, wherein the spring is elastically contractable to place the spacing force receiving portion at the second position, and elastically expandable to move the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

106. A process cartridge according to claim 104, wherein the elastic member is a spring.

107. A process cartridge according to claim 106, wherein the spring is elastically contractable to place the spacing force receiving portion at the second position, and elastically expandable to move the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

108. An image forming apparatus comprising:
a process cartridge according to claim 97; and
a main assembly in which the process cartridge is detachably mountable, the main assembly having a spacing force applying member configured to apply the spacing force to the spacing force receiving portion.

109. An image forming apparatus comprising:

i) a process cartridge including:

i-i) a photosensitive drum configured to carry an electrostatic latent image,

i-ii) a developing roller contactable to the photosensitive drum to develop the electrostatic latent image,

i-iii) a frame configured to support the photosensitive drum and the developing roller,

i-iv) a movable member having a spacing force receiving portion configured to receive a spacing force for spacing the developing roller from the photosensitive drum, the movable member being movable relative to the frame between a first position in which the force receiving portion is projected from the frame and a second position in which the spacing force receiving portion is retracted from the first position toward an inside of the frame, and

i-v) an elastic portion configured to move the movable member so that the spacing force receiving portion moves from the second position to the first position;

ii) a main assembly in which the process cartridge is mountable, the main assembly including:

ii-i) a door openable to permit inserting of the process cartridge into the main assembly;

ii-ii) a motor operable after the door is closed, and

ii-iii) a spacing force applying member movable from a third position to a fourth position and back to the third position by the motor,

wherein in a state the movable member is in contact with the spacing force applying member taking the third position, the spacing force applying member prevents the movable member from moving to the first position and the elastic portion is elastically deformed,

and then the movable member moves to the first position by restoring of the elastic portion by the spacing force applying member releasing the movable member with moving from the third position to the fourth position,

and then the spacing force receiving portion receives the spacing force from the spacing force applying member by movement of the spacing force applying member from the fourth position to the third position.

110. An apparatus according to the claim 109, wherein the movable member is movably supported by the frame.

111. An apparatus according to the claim 109, wherein the movable member is slidably supported by the frame.

112. An apparatus according to the claim 111, wherein the movable member is slidable in a vertical direction in a state the process cartridge is mounted in the main assembly.

113. An apparatus according to the claim 112, wherein the spacing force applying member moves between the third position and the fourth position in a horizontal direction.

114. An apparatus according to the claim 112, wherein the movable member is connected to the elastic portion.

115. An apparatus according to the claim 114, wherein the spacing force receiving portion is provided on one end of the movable member, and the elastic portion is connected to the other end of the movable member.

116. An apparatus according to the claim 109, wherein the movable member is connected to the elastic portion.

117. An apparatus according to the claim 116, wherein the spacing force receiving portion is provided on one end of the movable member, and the elastic portion is connected to the other end of the movable member.

118. An apparatus according to the claim 117, wherein the elastic portion is a spring.

119. An apparatus according to the claim 118, wherein when the elastic portion is elastically deformed the spring is contracted.

120. An apparatus according to the claim 119, wherein when the elastic portion is elastically restored the spring is expanded.

121. An apparatus according to the claim 116, wherein the elastic portion is a spring.

122. An apparatus according to the claim 121, wherein when the elastic portion is elastically deformed the spring is contracted.

123. An apparatus according to the claim 122, wherein when the elastic portion is elastically restored the spring is expanded.

124. An apparatus according to the claim 109, wherein the elastic portion is a spring.

125. An apparatus according to the claim 124, wherein when the elastic portion is elastically deformed the spring is contracted.

126. An apparatus according to the claim 125 wherein when the elastic portion is elastically restored the spring is expanded.

127. An apparatus according to the claim 109, wherein after the door is closed and before the developing roller develops the electrostatic latent image, the spacing force applying member moves from the third position to the fourth position and back to the third position by the motor.

128. An apparatus according to the claim 109, wherein the main assembly includes a tray configure to carry the process cartridge into the main assembly.

129. An apparatus according to the claim **128**, wherein the tray is slidable in a horizontal direction.

130. An apparatus according to the claim **129**, wherein the door is closed after the tray carries the process cartridge into the main assembly.

131. An apparatus cartridge according to claim **109**, wherein the frame includes a drum frame supporting the photosensitive drum and a developing frame supporting the developing roller, and

wherein when the spacing force receiving portion is in the first position the spacing force receiving portion is projected from the developing frame, and when the spacing force receiving portion is in the second position the spacing force receiving portion is retracted from the first position toward an inside of the developing frame, and

wherein the movable member is movable relative to the developing frame by the restoring of the elastic portion so that the spacing force receiving portion moves from the second position to the first position.

132. An image forming apparatus comprising:

i) a process cartridge including:

i-i) a photosensitive drum configured to carry an electrostatic latent image,

i-ii) a drum frame configured to support the photosensitive drum,

i-iii) a developing roller contactable to the photosensitive drum to develop the electrostatic latent image,

i-iv) a developing frame configured to support the developing roller, the developing frame being connected with the drum frame and being rotatable about a rotational axis relative to the drum frame to move between a contacting position in which the developing roller is

in contact with the photosensitive drum and a spacing position in which the developing roller is spaced from the photosensitive drum, and

i-v) a movable member having a spacing force receiving portion configured to receive a spacing force for spacing the developing roller from the photosensitive drum, the movable member being movable relative to the developing frame between a first position and a second position in which the spacing force receiving portion is closer to the rotational axis than the first position,

i-vi) an elastic portion configured to move the movable member so that the spacing force receiving portion moves from the second position to the first position;

ii) a main assembly in which the process cartridge is mountable, the main assembly including:

ii-i) a door openable to permit inserting of the process cartridge into the main assembly;

ii-ii) a motor operable after the door is closed, and

ii-iii) a spacing force applying member movable from a third position to a fourth position and back to the third position by the motor,

wherein in a state the movable member is in contact with the spacing force applying member taking the third position, the spacing force applying member prevents the movable member from moving to the first position and the elastic portion is elastically deformed,

and then the movable member moves so that the spacing force receiving portion moves to the first position by restoring of the elastic portion by the spacing force applying member releasing the movable member with

moving from the third position to the fourth position,

and then the spacing force receiving portion receives the spacing force from the spacing force applying mem-

ber by movement of the spacing force applying member from the fourth position to the third position.

133. An apparatus according to the claim 132, wherein the movable member is movably supported by the developing frame.

134. An apparatus according to the claim 132, wherein the movable member is slidable supported by the developing frame.

135. An apparatus according to the claim 134, wherein the movable member is slidable in a vertical direction in a state the process cartridge is mounted in the main assembly.

136. An apparatus according to the claim 135, wherein the spacing force applying member moves between the third position and the fourth position in a horizontal direction.

137. An apparatus according to the claim 135, wherein the movable member is connected to the elastic portion.

138. An apparatus according to the claim 137, wherein the spacing force receiving portion is provided on one end of the movable member, and the elastic portion is connected to the other end of the movable member.

139. An apparatus according to the claim 132, wherein the movable member is connected to the elastic portion.

140. An apparatus according to the claim 139, wherein the spacing force receiving portion is provided on one end of the movable member, and the elastic portion is connected to the other end of the movable member.

141. An apparatus according to the claim 140, wherein the elastic portion is a spring.

142. An apparatus according to the claim 141, wherein when the elastic portion is elastically deformed the spring is contracted.

143. An apparatus according to the claim 142, wherein when the elastic portion is elastically restored the spring is expanded.

144. An apparatus according to the claim 139, wherein the elastic portion is a spring.

145. An apparatus according to the claim 144, wherein when the elastic portion is elastically deformed the spring is contracted.

146. An apparatus according to the claim 145, wherein when the elastic portion is elastically restored the spring is expanded.

147. An apparatus according to the claim 132, wherein the elastic portion is a spring.

148. An apparatus according to the claim 147, wherein when the elastic portion is elastically deformed the spring is contracted.

149. An apparatus according to the claim 148, wherein when the elastic portion is elastically restored the spring is expanded.

150. An apparatus according to the claim 132, wherein after the door is closed and before the developing roller develops the electrostatic latent image, the spacing force applying member moves from the third position to the fourth position and back to the third position by the motor.

151. An apparatus according to the claim 132, wherein the main assembly includes a tray configured to carry the process cartridge into the main assembly.

152. An apparatus according to the claim 151, wherein the tray is slidable in a horizontal direction.

153. An apparatus according to the claim 152, wherein the door is closed after the tray carries the process cartridge into the main assembly.

154. An image forming apparatus comprising:

i) a process cartridge including:

i-i) a photosensitive drum configured to carry an electrostatic latent image,

i-ii) a developing roller contactable to the photosensitive drum to develop the electrostatic latent image,

i-iii) a frame configured to support the photosensitive drum and the developing roller,

i-iv) a movable member having a spacing force receiving portion configured to receive a spacing force for spacing the developing roller from the photosensitive drum, the movable member being movable relative to the frame between a first position in which the force receiving portion is projected from the frame and a second position in which the spacing force receiving portion is retracted from the first position toward an inside of the frame, and

i-v) an elastic portion configured to move the movable member so that the spacing force receiving portion moves from the second position to the first position;

ii) a main assembly in which the process cartridge is mountable, the main assembly including a spacing force applying member configured to apply the spacing force to the spacing force receiving portion, the spacing force applying member being movable from a third position to a fourth position and back to the third position,

wherein in a state the movable member is in contact with the spacing force applying member taking the third position, the spacing force applying member prevents the movable member from moving to the first position and the elastic portion is elastically deformed,

and then the movable member moves to the first position by restoring of the elastic portion by the spacing force applying member releasing the movable member with

movement from the third position to the fourth position, and then the spacing force receiving portion receives the spacing force from the spacing force applying member by movement of the spacing force applying member from the fourth position to the third position.

155. An apparatus according to the claim 154, wherein the movable member is connected to the elastic portion.

156. An apparatus according to the claim 155, wherein the spacing force receiving portion is located at one end of the movable member, and the elastic portion is connected to the other end of the movable member.

157. An apparatus according to the claim 155, wherein the elastic portion is a spring.

158. An apparatus according to the claim 157, wherein when the elastic portion is elastically deformed the spring is contracted.

159. An apparatus according to the claim 158, wherein the restoring of the elastic portion is an expansion of the spring.

160. An apparatus according to claim 154, wherein when the spacing force applying member is in the fourth position the spacing force applying member is not in contact with the movable member.

161. An apparatus cartridge according to claim 154,

wherein the frame includes a drum frame supporting the photosensitive drum and a developing frame supporting the developing roller,

wherein the spacing force receiving portion is in the first position, the spacing force receiving portion is projected from the developing frame, and the spacing force receiving portion is in the second position, the spacing force receiving portion is retracted from the first position toward an inside of the developing frame, and,

wherein the movable member is movable relative to the developing frame by the restoring of the elastic portion so that the spacing force receiving portion moves from the second position to the first position.

162. An image forming apparatus comprising:

i) a process cartridge including:

i-i) a photosensitive drum configured to carry an electrostatic latent image,

i-ii) a drum frame configured to support the photosensitive drum,

i-iii) a developing roller contactable to the photosensitive drum to develop the electrostatic latent image,

i-iv) a developing frame configured to support the developing roller, the developing frame being connected with the drum frame and being rotatable about a rotational axis relative to the drum frame to move between a contacting position in which the developing roller is in contact with the photosensitive drum and a spacing position in which the developing roller is spaced from the photosensitive drum, and

i-v) a movable member having a spacing force receiving portion configured to receive a spacing force for spacing the developing roller from the photosensitive drum, the movable member being movable relative to the developing frame between a first position and a second position in which the spacing force receiving portion is closer to the rotational axis than the first position,

i-vi) an elastic portion configured to move the movable member so that the spacing force receiving portion moves from the second position to the first position;

ii) a main assembly in which the process cartridge is mountable, the main assembly including a spacing force applying member configured to apply the spacing force to the spacing force receiving portion, the spacing force applying member being movable from a third position to a fourth position and back to the third position,

wherein in a state the movable member is in contact with the spacing force applying member taking the third posi-

tion, the spacing force applying member prevents the movable member from moving to the first position and the elastic portion is elastically deformed,

and then the movable member moves so that the spacing force receiving portion moves to the first position by restoring of the elastic portion by the spacing force applying member releasing the movable member with moving from the third position to the fourth position,

and then the spacing force receiving portion receives the spacing force from the spacing force applying member by movement of the spacing force applying member from the fourth position to the third position.

163. An apparatus according to the claim 162, wherein the movable member is movable relative to the developing frame by the restoring of the elastic portion so that the spacing force receiving portion from the second position to the first position.

164. An apparatus according to the claim 163, wherein the movable member is connected to the elastic portion.

165. An apparatus according to the claim 164, wherein the spacing force receiving portion is located at one end of the movable member, and the elastic portion is connected to the other end of the movable member.

166. An apparatus according to the claim 164, wherein the elastic portion is a spring.

167. An apparatus according to the claim 166, wherein when the elastic portion is elastically deformed the spring is contracted.

168. An apparatus according to the claim 167, wherein the restoring of the elastic portion is an expansion of the spring.

169. An apparatus according to claim 162, wherein when the spacing force applying member is in the fourth position, the spacing force applying member is not in contact with the movable member.