Claims:

1. A cartridge for an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, wherein a main assembly of said apparatus includes a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft, wherein said cartridge is dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said cartridge comprising:

i) a developing roller, for developing a latent image, rotatable about a roller axis thereof;

ii) a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis by a rotational force received from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling member including a rotational force receiving portion engageable with the rotational force applying portion to receive a rotational force to be transmitted to said developing roller from the main assembly engaging portion, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said developing roller through said rotational force receiving portion,

wherein said coupling member is capable of

pivoting movement such that a rotational force receiving portion side of said coupling axis is positioned upstream from a rotational force transmitting portion side of said coupling axis with respect to the dismounting direction, and said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion by the pivoting movement.

2. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein the dismounting of said cartridge causes the pivoting movement.

3. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said coupling member is capable of disengaging from the main assembly engaging portion with pivoting movement of said coupling member, by said rotational force receiving portion retracting from behind the rotational force applying portion.

4. A cartridge according to Claim 1, further comprising a rotational force receiving member for receiving the rotational force from said rotational force transmitting portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotably coupled with said rotational force receiving member.

5. A cartridge according to Claim 4, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is substantially coaxial with the roller axis .

6. A cartridge according to Claim 5, wherein said rotational force receiving member is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller .

7. A cartridge according to Claim 4, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is offset from and substantially parallel with the roller axis .

8. A cartridge according to Claim 7, further comprising an another rotational force receiving member that is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller, wherein the rotational force is transmitted from said rotational force receiving member to said developing roller through said another rotational force receiving member.

9. A cartridge according to Claim 8, wherein said rotational force receiving member is meshing engagement with said another rotational force receiving member.

10. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said driving shaft is provided with a semi spherical surface at a free end thereof, wherein said coupling member includes a recess , which is urged by the semi spherical surface when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

11. A cartridge according Claim 10, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said developing roller along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to said semi spherical surface.

12. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

13. A cartridge according to Claim 1, further comprising a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting movement of said coupling member as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

14. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said

cartridge is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said cartridge in the dismounting direction thereof .

15. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 1 14, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said roller axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

16. A cartridge according to Claim 15, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said roller axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

17. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said developing roller is movable toward and away from an electrophotographic photosensitive drum on which the latent image is formed, and wherein in a state said cartridge is mounted to the main assembly, said coupling is pivotable with the movement toward and away from the drum.

18. A cartridge according to Claim 17, further including said electrophotographic photosensitive drum and an another coupling member that transmits a

rotational force from an another main assembly engaging portion provided in the main assembly to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

19. A cartridge according to Claim 18, wherein said another coupling member includes a twisted projection.

20. A cartridge according to Claim 18, wherein said another coupling member is inclineable with respect to a drum axis of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

21. A cartridge for an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, wherein a main assembly of said apparatus includes a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft, wherein said cartridge is dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said cartridge comprising:

i) a developing roller, for developing a latent image, rotatable about a roller axis thereof;

ii) a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis by a rotational force received from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling member including a rotational force receiving portion

engageable with the rotational force applying portion to receive a rotational force to be transmitted to said developing roller from the main assembly engaging portion, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said developing roller through said rotational force receiving portion, wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting movement so that said coupling axis inclines relative to the roller axis,

wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion is retractable from behind the rotational force applying portion by the pivoting movement, by which said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion.

22. A cartridge according to Claim 21, wherein the dismounting of said cartridge causes the pivoting movement.

23. A cartridge according to Claim 21, further comprising a rotational force receiving member for receiving the rotational force from said rotational force transmitting portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotably coupled with said rotational force

receiving member.

24. A cartridge according to Claim 23, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is substantially coaxial with the roller axis .

25. A cartridge according to Claim 24, wherein said rotational force receiving member is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller .

26. A cartridge according to Claim 23, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is offset from and substantially parallel with the roller axis .

27. A cartridge according to Claim 26, further comprising an another rotational force receiving member that is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller, wherein the rotational force is transmitted from said rotational force receiving member to said developing roller through said another rotational force receiving member.

28. A cartridge according to Claim 27, wherein said rotational force receiving member is in meshing engagement with said another rotational force receiving member.

29. A cartridge according to Claim 21, wherein said driving shaft is provided with a semi spherical surface at a free end thereof, wherein said coupling member includes a recess , which is urged by the semi spherical surface when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

30. A cartridge according Claim 29, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said developing roller along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to said semi spherical surface.

31. A cartridge according to Claim 21, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

32. A cartridge according to Claim 21, further comprising a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting movement of said coupling member as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

33. A cartridge according to Claim 21, wherein said cartridge is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said cartridge in the dismounting direction thereof.

34. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 21 33, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said roller axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

35. A cartridge according to Claim 34, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said roller axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

36. A cartridge according to Claim 21, wherein said developing roller is movable toward and away from an electrophotographic photosensitive drum on which the latent image is formed, and wherein in a state said cartridge is mounted to the main assembly, said coupling is pivotable with the movement toward and away from the drum.

37. A cartridge according to Claim 36, further including said electrophotographic photosensitive drum

and an another coupling member that transmits a rotational force from an another main assembly engaging portion provided in the main assembly to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

38. A cartridge according to Claim 37, wherein said another coupling member includes a twisted projection.

39. A cartridge according to Claim 37, wherein said another coupling member is inclineable with respect to a drum axis of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

40. A cartridge for an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, wherein a main assembly of said apparatus includes a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft, wherein said cartridge is dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said cartridge comprising:

i) a developing roller, for developing a latent image, rotatable about a roller axis thereof;

ii) a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis by a rotational force received from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling member

including a rotational force receiving portion engageable with the rotational force applying portion to receive a rotational force to be transmitted to said developing roller from the main assembly engaging portion, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said developing roller through said rotational force receiving portion, wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting movement so that said coupling axis inclines relative to the roller axis,

wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion is retractable from behind the rotational force applying portion by such pivoting movement of said coupling member that a rotational force receiving portion side of said coupling axis is positioned upstream from a rotational force transmitting portion side of said coupling axis with respect to the dismounting direction, by which said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion.

41. A cartridge according to Claim 40, wherein the dismounting of said cartridge causes the pivoting movement.

42. A cartridge according to Claim 40, further comprising a rotational force receiving member for receiving the rotational force from said rotational force transmitting portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotably coupled with said rotational force receiving member.

43. A cartridge according to Claim 42, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is substantially coaxial with the roller axis .

44. A cartridge according to Claim 43, wherein said rotational force receiving member is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller .

45. A cartridge according to Claim 43, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is offset from and substantially parallel with the roller axis .

46. A cartridge according to Claim 45, further comprising an another rotational force receiving member that is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller, wherein the rotational force is transmitted from said rotational force receiving member to said developing roller through said another rotational force receiving member.

47. A cartridge according to Claim 46, wherein said rotational force receiving member is meshing engagement with said another rotational force receiving member.

48. A cartridge according to Claim 40, wherein said driving shaft is provided with a semi spherical surface at a free end thereof, wherein said coupling member includes a recess , which is urged by the semi spherical surface when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

49. A cartridge according Claim 48, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said developing roller along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to said semi spherical surface.

50. A cartridge according to Claim 40, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

51. A cartridge according to Claim 40, further

comprising a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting movement of said coupling member as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

52. A cartridge according to Claim 40, wherein said cartridge is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said cartridge in the dismounting direction thereof.

53. A cartridge according to any one of any one of Claims 40 - 52, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said roller axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

54. A cartridge according to Claim 53, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said roller axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

55. A cartridge according to Claim 40, wherein said developing roller is movable toward and away from an electrophotographic photosensitive drum on which the latent image is formed, and wherein in a state said

cartridge is mounted to the main assembly, said coupling is pivotable with the movement toward and away from the drum.

56. A cartridge according to Claim 55, further including said electrophotographic photosensitive drum and an another coupling member that transmits a rotational force from an another main assembly engaging portion provided in the main assembly to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

57. A cartridge according to Claim 56, wherein said another coupling member includes a twisted projection.

58. A cartridge according to Claim 56, wherein said another coupling member is inclineable with respect to a drum axis of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

59. A cartridge for an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, wherein a main assembly of said apparatus includes a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft, wherein said cartridge is dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of

the driving shaft, said cartridge comprising:

i) a developing roller, for developing a latent image, rotatable about a roller axis thereof;

ii) a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis to transmit a rotational force for rotating said developing roller, said coupling member including a plurality of rotational force receiving portions provided on a phantom circle about the coupling axis at diametrically opposite positions, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said developing roller through said rotational force receiving portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotable so that said coupling axis inclines relative to the roller axis;

iii) a rotational force receiving member for receiving the rotational force from the rotational force transmitting portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotably connected with said rotational force receiving member,

wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting movement such that with movement of said cartridge in the dismounting direction, a rotational force receiving portion side of the coupling axis is positioned upstream from a rotational force transmitting portion side of the coupling axis with respect to the dismounting direction,

wherein when said rotational force receiving

portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion is retractable from behind the rotational force applying portion by the pivoting movement of said coupling member, by which said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion.

60. A cartridge according to Claim 59, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is substantially coaxial with the roller axis .

61. A cartridge according to Claim 60, wherein said rotational force receiving member is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller .

62. A cartridge according to Claim 59, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is offset from and substantially parallel with the roller axis .

63. A cartridge according to Claim 62, further comprising an another rotational force receiving member that is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller, wherein the rotational force is transmitted from said rotational force receiving member to said developing roller through said another

rotational force receiving member.

64. A cartridge according to Claim 63, wherein said rotational force receiving member is in meshing engagement with said another rotational force receiving member.

65. A cartridge according to Claim 59, wherein said driving shaft is provided with a semi spherical surface at a free end thereof, wherein said coupling member includes a recess , which is urged by the semi spherical surface when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion. )

66. A cartridge according Claim 65, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said developing roller along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to said semi spherical surface.

67. A cartridge according to Claim 59, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

68. A cartridge according to Claim 59, further comprising a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting movement of said coupling member as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

69. A cartridge according to Claim 59, wherein said cartridge is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said cartridge in the dismounting direction thereof.

70. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 59 - 69, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said roller axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

71. A cartridge according to Claim 70, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said roller axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

72. A cartridge according to Claim 59, wherein said developing roller is movable toward and away from an electrophotographic photosensitive drum on which the latent image is formed, and wherein in a state said

cartridge is mounted to the main assembly, said coupling is pivotable with the movement toward and away from the drum.

73. A cartridge according to Claim 72, further including said electrophotographic photosensitive drum and an another coupling member that transmits a rotational force from an another main assembly engaging portion provided in the main assembly to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

74. A cartridge according to Claim 73, wherein said another coupling member includes a twisted projection.

75. A cartridge according to Claim 73, wherein said another coupling member is inclineable with respect to a drum axis of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

76. An electrophotographic image forming apparatus for forming an image on a recording material, said apparatus comprising:

a main assembly including a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft;

a cartridge dismountable from the main assembly

in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said cartridge including,

i) a developing roller, for developing a latent image, rotatable about a roller axis thereof;

ii) a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis thereof by a rotational force received from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling member including a rotational force receiving portion engageable with the rotational force applying portion to receive a rotational force to be transmitted to said developing roller from the main assembly engaging portion, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said developing roller through said rotational force receiving portion,

wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting movement such that a rotational force receiving portion side of said coupling axis is positioned upstream from a rotational force transmitting portion side of said coupling axis with respect to the dismounting direction, and said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion by the pivoting movement.

77. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 76, wherein the dismounting of said cartridge causes the

pivoting movement.

78. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 76, wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said coupling member is capable of disengaging from the main assembly engaging portion with pivoting movement of said coupling member, by said rotational force receiving portion retracting from behind the rotational force applying portion.

79. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 76, wherein said cartridge further comprises a rotational force receiving member for receiving the rotational force from said rotational force transmitting portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotably coupled with said rotational force receiving member.

80. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 79, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is substantially coaxial with the roller axis .

81. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 80, wherein said rotational force receiving member is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing

roller .

82. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 79, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is offset from and substantially parallel with the roller axis .

83. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 82, wherein said cartridge further comprises an another rotational force receiving member that is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller, wherein the rotational force is transmitted from said rotational force receiving member to said developing roller through said another rotational force receiving member.

84. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 83, wherein said rotational force receiving member is in meshing engagement with said another rotational force receiving member.

85. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 76, wherein said driving shaft is provided with a semi spherical surface at a free end thereof, wherein said coupling member includes a recess , which is urged by the semi spherical surface when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly

engaging portion.

86. An image forming apparatus according Claim 85, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said developing roller along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to said semi spherical surface.

87. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 76, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

88. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 76, wherein said cartridge further comprises a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting movement of said coupling member as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

89. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 76, wherein said cartridge is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said cartridge in the dismounting direction thereof.

90. An image forming apparatus according to any one of Claims 76 - 89, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said roller axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

91. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 90, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said roller axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

92. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 76, wherein said developing roller is movable toward and away from an electrophotographic photosensitive drum on which the latent image is formed, and wherein in a state said cartridge is mounted to the main assembly, said coupling is pivotable with the movement toward and away from the drum.

93. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 92, said cartridge further includes said electrophotographic photosensitive drum and an another coupling member that transmits a rotational force from an another main assembly engaging portion provided in

the main assembly to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

94. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 93, wherein said another coupling member includes a twisted projection.

95. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 93, wherein said another coupling member is inclineable with respect to a drum axis of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

96. An electrophotographic image forming apparatus for forming an image on a recording material, said apparatus comprising:

a main assembly including a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft;

a cartridge dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said cartridge including,

i) a developing roller, for developing a latent image, rotatable about a roller axis thereof, and

ii) a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis by a rotational force received from the

main assembly engaging portion, said coupling member including a rotational force receiving portion engageable with the rotational force applying portion to receive a rotational force to be transmitted to said developing roller from the main assembly engaging portion, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said developing roller through said rotational force receiving portion, wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting movement so that said coupling axis inclines relative to the roller axis,

wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion retractable from behind the rotational force applying portion by the pivoting movement, by which said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion..

97. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 96, wherein the dismounting of said cartridge causes the pivoting movement.

98. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 96, wherein said cartridge further comprises a rotational force receiving member for receiving the rotational

force from said rotational force transmitting portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotably coupled with said rotational force receiving member.

99. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 98, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is substantially coaxial with the roller axis .

100. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 99, wherein said rotational force receiving member is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller.

101. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 98, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is offset from and substantially parallel with the roller axis .

102. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 101, wherein said cartridge further comprises an another rotational force receiving member that is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller, wherein the rotational force is transmitted from said rotational force receiving member to said developing roller through said another rotational force receiving member.

103. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 102, wherein said rotational force receiving member is in meshing engagement with said another rotational force receiving member.

104. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 96, wherein said driving shaft is provided with a semi spherical surface at a free end thereof, wherein said coupling member includes a recess , which is urged by the semi spherical surface when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

105. An image forming apparatus according Claim 104, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said developing roller along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to said semi spherical surface.

106. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 96, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

107. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 96, wherein said cartridge further comprises a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting movement of said coupling member as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

108. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 96, wherein said cartridge is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said cartridge in the dismounting direction thereof.

109. An image forming apparatus according to any one of Claims 96 - 108, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said roller axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

110. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 109, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said roller axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

111. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 96,

wherein said developing roller is movable toward and away from an electrophotographic photosensitive drum on which the latent image is formed, and wherein in a state said cartridge is mounted to the main assembly, said coupling is pivotable with the movement toward and away from the drum.

112. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 111, said cartridge further includes said electrophotographic photosensitive drum and an another coupling member that transmits a rotational force from an another main assembly engaging portion provided in the main assembly to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

113. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 112, wherein said another coupling member includes a twisted projection.

114. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 112, wherein said another coupling member is inclineable with respect to a drum axis of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

115. An electrophotographic image forming apparatus for forming an image on a recording material, said apparatus comprising:

a main assembly including a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft;

a cartridge dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said cartridge including,

i) a developing roller, for developing a latent image, rotatable about a roller axis thereof, and

ii) a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis by a rotational force received from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling member including a rotational force receiving portion engageable with the rotational force applying portion to receive a rotational force to be transmitted to said developing roller from the main assembly engaging portion, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said developing roller through said rotational force receiving portion, wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting movement so that said coupling axis inclines relative to the roller axis,

wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion is retractable

from behind the rotational force applying portion by such pivoting movement of said coupling member that a rotational force receiving portion side of said coupling axis is positioned upstream from a rotational force transmitting portion side of said coupling axis with respect to the dismounting direction, by which said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion.

116. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 115, wherein the dismounting of said cartridge causes the pivoting movement.

117. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 115, wherein said cartridge further comprises a rotational force receiving member for receiving the rotational force from said rotational force transmitting portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotably coupled with said rotational force receiving member.

118. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 117, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is substantially coaxial with the roller axis .

119. An image forming apparatus according to Claim

118, wherein said rotational force receiving member is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller .

120. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 117, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is offset from and substantially parallel with the roller axis .

121. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 120, wherein said cartridge further comprises an another rotational force receiving member that is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller, wherein the rotational force is transmitted from said rotational force receiving member to said developing roller through said another rotational force receiving member.

122. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 121, wherein said rotational force receiving member is in meshing engagement with said another rotational force receiving member.

123. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 115, wherein said driving shaft is provided with a semi spherical surface at a free end thereof, wherein said coupling member includes a recess , which is

urged by the semi spherical surface when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

124. An image forming apparatus according Claim 123, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said developing roller along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to said semi spherical surface.

125. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 115, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

126. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 115, wherein said cartridge further comprises a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting movement of said coupling member as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

127. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 115, wherein said cartridge is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with

movement of said cartridge in the dismounting direction thereof.

128. An image forming apparatus according to any one of Claims 96 - 108, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said roller axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

129. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 128, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said roller axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

130. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 115, wherein said developing roller is movable toward and away from an electrophotographic photosensitive drum on which the latent image is formed, and wherein in a state said cartridge is mounted to the main assembly, said coupling is pivotable with the movement toward and away from the drum.

131. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 130, said cartridge further includes said electrophotographic photosensitive drum and an another

coupling member that transmits a rotational force from an another main assembly engaging portion provided in the main assembly to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

132. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 131, wherein said another coupling member includes a twisted projection.

133. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 131, wherein said another coupling member is inclineable with respect to a drum axis of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

134. An electrophotographic image forming apparatus for forming an image on a recording material, said apparatus comprising:

a main assembly including a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft;

a cartridge dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said cartridge including,

i) a developing roller rotatable about a roller axis thereof;

a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis to transmit a rotational force for rotating said developing roller, said coupling member including a plurality of rotational force receiving portions provided on a phantom circle about the coupling axis at diametrically opposite positions, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said developing roller through said rotational force receiving portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotable so that said coupling axis inclines relative to the roller axis;

iii) a rotational force receiving member for receiving the rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotably connected with said rotational force receiving member,

wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting such that with movement of said drum unit in the dismounting direction, a rotational force receiving portion side of the coupling axis is positioned upstream from a rotational force transmitting portion side of the coupling axis with respect to the dismounting direction,

wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion is retractable

from behind the rotational force applying portion by the pivoting of said coupling member, by which said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion.

135. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 134, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is substantially coaxial with the roller axis .

136. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 135, wherein said rotational force receiving member is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller .

137. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 134, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is offset from and substantially parallel with the roller axis .

138. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 137, wherein said cartridge further comprises an another rotational force receiving member that is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller, wherein the rotational force is transmitted from said rotational force receiving member to said developing roller through said another rotational

force receiving member.

139. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 138, wherein said rotational force receiving member is in meshing engagement with said another rotational force receiving member.

140. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 134, wherein said driving shaft is provided with a semi spherical surface at a free end thereof, wherein said coupling member includes a recess , which is urged by the semi spherical surface when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

141. An image forming apparatus according Claim 140, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said developing roller along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to said semi spherical surface.

142. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 134, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

143. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 134, wherein said cartridge further comprises a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting movement of said coupling member as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

144. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 134, wherein said cartridge is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said cartridge in the dismounting direction thereof.

145. An image forming apparatus according to any one of Claims 134 - 144, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said roller axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

146. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 145, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said roller axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

147. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 134, wherein said developing roller is movable toward and away from an electrophotographic photosensitive drum on which the latent image is formed, and wherein in a state said cartridge is mounted to the main assembly, said coupling is pivotable with the movement toward and away from the drum.

148. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 147, said cartridge further includes said electrophotographic photosensitive drum and an another coupling member that transmits a rotational force from an another main assembly engaging portion provided in the main assembly to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

149. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 148, wherein said another coupling member includes a twisted projection.

150. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 148, wherein said another coupling member is inclineable with respect to a drum axis of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

Claims

1. A cartridge for an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, wherein a main assembly of said apparatus includes a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft, and an electrophotographic photosensitive drum, wherein said cartridge is dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said cartridge comprising:

i) a developing roller, for developing a latent image of the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, rotatable about a roller axis thereof;

ii) a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis by a rotational force received from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling member including a rotational force receiving portion engageable with the rotational force applying portion to receive a rotational force to be transmitted to said developing roller from the main assembly engaging portion, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said developing roller through said rotational force receiving portion,

wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting movement such that a rotational force receiving portion side of said coupling axis is positioned upstream from a rotational force transmitting portion side of said coupling axis with respect to the dismounting direction, and said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion by the pivoting movement.

2. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein the dismounting of said cartridge causes the pivoting movement.

3. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said coupling member is capable of disengaging from the main assembly engaging portion with pivoting movement of said coupling member, by said rotational force receiving portion retracting from behind the rotational force applying portion.

4. A cartridge according to Claim 1, further comprising a rotational force receiving member for receiving the rotational force from said rotational force transmitting portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotably coupled with said rotational force receiving member.

5. A cartridge according to Claim 4, wherein a rotational axis of said

rotational force receiving member is substantially coaxial with the roller axis.

6. A cartridge according to Claim 5, wherein said rotational force receiving member is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller.

7. A cartridge according to Claim 4, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is offset from and substantially parallel with the roller axis.

8. A cartridge according to Claim 7, further comprising an another rotational force receiving member that is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller, wherein the rotational force is transmitted from said rotational force receiving member to said developing roller through said another rotational force receiving member.

9. A cartridge according to Claim 8, wherein said rotational force receiving member is meshing engagement with said another rotational force receiving member.

10. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said coupling member includes a recess, which is urged by a free end of the driving shaft when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

11. A cartridge according Claim 10, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said developing roller along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to the free end of the driving shaft.

12. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

13. A cartridge according to Claim 1, further comprising a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting movement of said coupling member as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

14. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said cartridge is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said cartridge in the dismounting direction thereof.

15. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 1-14, wherein when said

coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said roller axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

16. A cartridge according to Claim 15, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said roller axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

17. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said developing roller is movable toward and away from the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, and wherein in a state said cartridge is mounted to the main assembly, said coupling member is pivotable with the movement of said developing roller toward and away from the drum.

18. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein the electrophotographic photosensitive drum is dismountable from the main assembly.

19. A cartridge for an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, wherein a main assembly of said apparatus includes a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft, and an electrophotographic photosensitive drum, wherein said cartridge is dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said cartridge comprising:

i) a developing roller, for developing a latent image of the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, rotatable about a roller axis thereof;

ii) a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis by a rotational force received from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling member including a rotational force receiving portion engageable with the rotational force applying portion to receive a rotational force to be transmitted to said developing roller from the main assembly engaging portion, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said developing roller through said rotational force receiving portion, wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting movement so that said coupling axis inclines relative to the roller axis,

wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion is retractable from behind the rotational force applying portion by the pivoting movement, by which said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion.

20. A cartridge according to Claim19, wherein the dismounting of said cartridge causes the pivoting movement.

21. A cartridge according to Claim19, further comprising a rotational force receiving member for receiving the rotational force from said rotational force transmitting portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotably coupled with said rotational force receiving member.

22. A cartridge according to Claim 21, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is substantially coaxial with the roller axis.

23. A cartridge according to Claim 22, wherein said rotational force receiving member is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller.

24. A cartridge according to Claim 21, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is offset from and substantially parallel with the roller axis.

25. A cartridge according to Claim 24, further comprising an another rotational force receiving member that is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller, wherein the rotational force is transmitted from said rotational force receiving member to said developing roller through said another rotational force receiving member.

26. A cartridge according to Claim 25, wherein said rotational force receiving member is in meshing engagement with said another rotational force receiving member.

27. A cartridge according to Claim 19, wherein said coupling member includes a recess, which is urged by a free end of the driving shaft when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

28. A cartridge according Claim 27, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said developing roller along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to the free end of the driving shaft.

29. A cartridge according to Claim 19, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

30. A cartridge according to Claim 19, further comprising a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting movement of said coupling member as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of

the apparatus.

31. A cartridge according to Claim 19, wherein said cartridge is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said cartridge in the dismounting direction thereof.

32. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 19-31, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said roller axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

33. A cartridge according to Claim 32, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said roller axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

34. A cartridge according to Claim 19, wherein said developing roller is movable toward and away from the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, and wherein in a state said cartridge is mounted to the main assembly, said coupling member is pivotable with the movement of said developing roller toward and away from the drum.

35. A cartridge according to Claim 19, wherein the electrophotographic photosensitive drum is dismountable from the main assembly.

36. A cartridge for an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, wherein a main assembly of said apparatus includes a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft, and an electrophotographic photosensitive drum, wherein said cartridge is dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft of the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, said cartridge comprising:

i) a developing roller, for developing a latent image, rotatable about a roller axis thereof;

ii) a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis by a rotational force received from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling member including a rotational force receiving portion engageable with the rotational force applying portion to receive a rotational force to be transmitted to said developing roller from the main assembly engaging portion, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said developing roller through said rotational force receiving portion, wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting movement so that said coupling axis inclines relative to the roller axis,

wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion is retractable from behind the rotational force applying portion by such pivoting movement of said coupling member that a rotational force receiving portion side of said coupling axis is positioned upstream from a rotational force transmitting portion side of said coupling axis with respect to the dismounting direction, by which said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion.

37. A cartridge according to Claim 36, wherein the dismounting of said cartridge causes the pivoting movement.

38. A cartridge according to Claim 36, further comprising a rotational force receiving member for receiving the rotational force from said rotational force transmitting portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotably coupled with said rotational force receiving member.

39. A cartridge according to Claim 38, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is substantially coaxial with the roller axis.

40. A cartridge according to Claim 39, wherein said rotational force receiving member is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller.

41. A cartridge according to Claim 39, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is offset from and substantially parallel with the roller axis.

42. A cartridge according to Claim 41, further comprising an another rotational force receiving member that is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller, wherein the rotational force is transmitted from said rotational force receiving member to said developing roller through said another rotational force receiving member.

43. A cartridge according to Claim 42, wherein said rotational force receiving member is meshing engagement with said another rotational force receiving member.

44. A cartridge according to Claim 36, wherein said coupling member includes a recess, which is urged by a free end of the driving shaft when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

45. A cartridge according Claim 44, wherein said recess is provided

with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said developing roller along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to the free end of the driving shaft.

46. A cartridge according to Claim 36, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

47. A cartridge according to Claim 36, further comprising a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting movement of said coupling member as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

48. A cartridge according to Claim 36, wherein said cartridge is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said cartridge in the dismounting direction thereof.

49. A cartridge according to any one of any one of Claims 36 - 48, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said roller axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

50. A cartridge according to Claim 49, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said roller axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

51. A cartridge according to Claim 36, wherein said developing roller is movable toward and away from the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, and wherein in a state said cartridge is mounted to the main assembly, said coupling is pivotable with the movement of said developing roller toward and away from the drum.

52. A cartridge according to Claim 36, whrein the electrophotographic photosensitive drum is dismountable from the main assembly.

53. A cartridge for an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, wherein a main assembly of said apparatus includes a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft, and an electrophotographic photosensitive drum, wherein said cartridge is dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said cartridge comprising:

i) a developing roller, for developing a latent image of the

electrophotographic photosensitive drum, rotatable about a roller axis thereof;

ii) a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis to transmit a rotational force for rotating said developing roller, said coupling member including a plurality of rotational force receiving portions provided on a phantom circle about the coupling axis at diametrically opposite positions, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said developing roller through said rotational force receiving portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotable so that said coupling axis inclines relative to the roller axis;

iii) a rotational force receiving member for receiving the rotational force from the rotational force transmitting portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotably connected with said rotational force receiving member,

wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting movement such that with movement of said cartridge in the dismounting direction, a rotational force receiving portion side of the coupling axis is positioned upstream from a rotational force transmitting portion side of the coupling axis with respect to the dismounting direction,

wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion is retractable from behind the rotational force applying portion by the pivoting movement of said coupling member, by which said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion.

54. A cartridge according to Claim 53, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is substantially coaxial with the roller axis.

55. A cartridge according to Claim 54, wherein said rotational force receiving member is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller.

56. A cartridge according to Claim 53, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is offset from and substantially parallel with the roller axis.

57. A cartridge according to Claim 56, further comprising an another rotational force receiving member that is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller, wherein the rotational force is transmitted from said rotational force receiving member to said developing roller through said another rotational force receiving member.

58. A cartridge according to Claim 57, wherein said rotational force receiving member is in meshing engagement with said another rotational force receiving member.

59. A cartridge according to Claim 53, wherein said coupling member includes a recess, which is urged by a free end of the driving shaft when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

60. A cartridge according Claim 59, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said developing roller along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to the free end of the driving shaft.

61. A cartridge according to Claim 53, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

62. A cartridge according to Claim 53, further comprising a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting movement of said coupling member as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

63. A cartridge according to Claim 53, wherein said cartridge is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said cartridge in the dismounting direction thereof.

64. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 53-63, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said roller axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

65. A cartridge according to Claim 64, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said roller axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

66. A cartridge according to Claim 53, wherein said developing roller is movable toward and away from the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, and wherein in a state said cartridge is mounted to the main assembly, said coupling is pivotable with the movement of said developing roller toward and away from the drum.

67. A cartridge according to Claim 53, wherein the electrophotographic photosensitive drum is dismountable from the main assembly.

68. An electrophotographic image forming apparatus for forming an image on a recording material, said apparatus comprising:

a main assembly including a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft, and an electrophotographic photosensitive drum;

a cartridge dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said cartridge including,

i) a developing roller, for developing a latent image of the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, rotatable about a roller axis thereof;

ii) a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis thereof by a rotational force received from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling member including a rotational force receiving portion engageable with the rotational force applying portion to receive a rotational force to be transmitted to said developing roller from the main assembly engaging portion, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said developing roller through said rotational force receiving portion,

wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting movement such that a rotational force receiving portion side of said coupling axis is positioned upstream from a rotational force transmitting portion side of said coupling axis with respect to the dismounting direction, and said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion by the pivoting movement.

69. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 68, wherein the dismounting of said cartridge causes the pivoting movement.

70. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 68, wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said coupling member is capable of disengaging from the main assembly engaging portion with pivoting movement of said coupling member, by said rotational force receiving portion retracting from behind the rotational force applying portion.

71. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 68, wherein said cartridge further comprises a rotational force receiving member for receiving the rotational force from said rotational force transmitting portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotably coupled with said rotational force receiving member.

72. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 71, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is substantially coaxial with the roller axis.

73. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 72, wherein said rotational force receiving member is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller.

74. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 71, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is offset from and substantially parallel with the roller axis.

75. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 74, wherein said cartridge further comprises an another rotational force receiving member that is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller, wherein the rotational force is transmitted from said rotational force receiving member to said developing roller through said another rotational force receiving member.

76. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 75, wherein said rotational force receiving member is in meshing engagement with said another rotational force receiving member.

77. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 68, wherein said coupling member includes a recess, which is urged by a free end of the driving shaft when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

78. An image forming apparatus according Claim 77, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said developing roller along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to the free end of the driving shaft.

79. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 68, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

80. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 68, wherein said cartridge further comprises a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting movement of said coupling member as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

81. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 68, wherein said cartridge is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said cartridge in the dismounting direction thereof.

82. An image forming apparatus according to any one of Claims 68-81, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said roller axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

83. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 82, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said roller axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

84. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 68, wherein said developing roller is movable toward and away from the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, and wherein in a state said cartridge is mounted to the main assembly, said coupling is pivotable with the movement of said developing roller toward and away from the drum.

85. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 68, wherein said electrophotographic photosensitive drum is dismountable from the main assembly.

86. An electrophotographic image forming apparatus for forming an image on a recording material, said apparatus comprising:

a main assembly including a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft, and an electrophotographic photosensitive drum;

a cartridge dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said cartridge including,

i) a developing roller, for developing a latent image of the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, rotatable about a roller axis thereof, and

ii) a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis by a rotational force received from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling member including a rotational force receiving portion engageable with the rotational force applying portion to receive a rotational force to be transmitted to said developing roller from the main assembly engaging portion, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said developing roller through said rotational force receiving portion, wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting movement so that said coupling axis inclines relative to the roller axis,

wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion retractable from behind the rotational force applying portion by the pivoting movement, by which said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion.

87. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 86, wherein the dismounting of said cartridge causes the pivoting movement.

88. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 86, wherein said

cartridge further comprises a rotational force receiving member for receiving the rotational force from said rotational force transmitting portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotably coupled with said rotational force receiving member.

89. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 88, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is substantially coaxial with the roller axis.

90. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 89, wherein said rotational force receiving member is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller.

91. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 88, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is offset from and substantially parallel with the roller axis.

92. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 91, wherein said cartridge further comprises an another rotational force receiving member that is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller, wherein the rotational force is transmitted from said rotational force receiving member to said developing roller through said another rotational force receiving member.

93. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 92, wherein said rotational force receiving member is in meshing engagement with said another rotational force receiving member.

94. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 86, wherein said coupling member includes a recess, which is urged by a free end of the driving shaft when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

95. An image forming apparatus according Claim 94, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said developing roller along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to the free end of the driving shaft.

96. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 86, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

97. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 86, wherein said cartridge further comprises a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting movement of said coupling member as said cartridge is

dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

98. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 86, wherein said cartridge is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said cartridge in the dismounting direction thereof.

99. An image forming apparatus according to any one of Claims 86-98, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said roller axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

100. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 99, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said roller axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

101. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 86, wherein said developing roller is movable toward and away from the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, and wherein in a state said cartridge is mounted to the main assembly, said coupling is pivotable with the movement of said developing roller toward and away from the drum.

102. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 86, wherein said electrophotographic photosensitive drum is dismountable from the main assembly.

103. An electrophotographic image forming apparatus for forming an image on a recording material, said apparatus comprising:

a main assembly including a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft, and an electrophotographic photosensitive drum;

a cartridge dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said cartridge including,

i) a developing roller, for developing a latent image of the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, rotatable about a roller axis thereof, and

ii) a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis by a rotational force received from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling member including a rotational force receiving portion engageable with the rotational force applying portion to receive a rotational force to be transmitted to said developing roller from the main assembly engaging portion, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said developing roller through said rotational force receiving portion, wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting movement so that said coupling axis inclines relative

to the roller axis,

wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion is retractable from behind the rotational force applying portion by such pivoting movement of said coupling member that a rotational force receiving portion side of said coupling axis is positioned upstream from a rotational force transmitting portion side of said coupling axis with respect to the dismounting direction, by which said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion.

104. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 103, wherein the dismounting of said cartridge causes the pivoting movement.

105. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 103, wherein said cartridge further comprises a rotational force receiving member for receiving the rotational force from said rotational force transmitting portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotably coupled with said rotational force receiving member.

106. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 105, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is substantially coaxial with the roller axis.

107. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 106, wherein said rotational force receiving member is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller.

108. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 105, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is offset from and substantially parallel with the roller axis.

109. An image forming apparatus according to Claim108, wherein said cartridge further comprises an another rotational force receiving member that is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller, wherein the rotational force is transmitted from said rotational force receiving member to said developing roller through said another rotational force receiving member.

110. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 109, wherein said rotational force receiving member is in meshing engagement with said another rotational force receiving member.

111. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 103, wherein said coupling member includes a recess, which is urged by a free end of the driving shaft when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main

assembly engaging portion.

112. An image forming apparatus according Claim 111, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said developing roller along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to the free end of the driving shaft.

113. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 103, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

114. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 103, wherein said cartridge further comprises a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting movement of said coupling member as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

115. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 103, wherein said cartridge is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said cartridge in the dismounting direction thereof.

116. An image forming apparatus according to any one of Claims 103-115, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said roller axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

117. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 116, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said roller axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

118. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 103, wherein said developing roller is movable toward and away from the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, and wherein in a state said cartridge is mounted to the main assembly, said coupling is pivotable with the movement of said developing roller toward and away from the drum.

119. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 103, wherein the electrophotographic photosensitive drum is dismountable from the main assembly.

120. An electrophotographic image forming apparatus for forming an image on a recording material, said apparatus comprising:

a main assembly including a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion

provided on the driving shaft, and an electrophotographic photosensitive drum;

a cartridge dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said cartridge including,

i) a developing roller, for developing a latent image of the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, rotatable about a roller axis thereof;

a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis to transmit a rotational force for rotating said developing roller, said coupling member including a plurality of rotational force receiving portions provided on a phantom circle about the coupling axis at diametrically opposite positions, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said developing roller through said rotational force receiving portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotable so that said coupling axis inclines relative to the roller axis;

iii) a rotational force receiving member for receiving the rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotably connected with said rotational force receiving member,

wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting such that with movement of said drum unit in the dismounting direction, a rotational force receiving portion side of the coupling axis is positioned upstream from a rotational force transmitting portion side of the coupling axis with respect to the dismounting direction,

wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion is retractable from behind the rotational force applying portion by the pivoting of said coupling member, by which said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion.

121. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 120, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is substantially coaxial with the roller axis.

122. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 121, wherein said rotational force receiving member is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller.

123. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 120, wherein a rotational axis of said rotational force receiving member is offset from and substantially parallel with the roller axis.

124. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 123, wherein said cartridge further comprises an another rotational force receiving member that is provided on a longitudinal end of said developing roller, wherein the rotational force is transmitted from said rotational force receiving member to said developing

roller through said another rotational force receiving member.

125. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 124, wherein said rotational force receiving member is in meshing engagement with said another rotational force receiving member.

126. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 120, wherein said coupling member includes a recess, which is urged by a free end of the driving shaft when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

127. An image forming apparatus according Claim 126, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said developing roller along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to the free end of the driving shaft.

128. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 120, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

129. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 120, wherein said cartridge further comprises a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting movement of said coupling member as said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

130. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 120, wherein said cartridge is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said cartridge in the dismounting direction thereof.

131. An image forming apparatus according to any one of Claims 120-130, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said roller axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

132. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 131, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said roller axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

133. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 120, wherein said developing roller is movable toward and away from the electrophotographic photosensitive drum, and wherein in a state said cartridge is mounted to the main assembly, said coupling is pivotable with the movement of said developing roller

toward and away from the drum.

134. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 120, wherein said electrophotographic photosensitive drum is dismountable from the main assembly.