Claims:

1. A process cartridge comprising:

i) a photosensitive drum rotatable about a drum axis thereof;

ii) a rotatable developing roller configured to develop a latent image formed on said photosensitive drum;

iii) a coupling member provided at an axial end portion of said photosensitive drum and rotatable about a coupling axis thereof so as to transmit a driving force to said photosensitive drum, said coupling member being capable of inclining relative to said photosensitive drum so that the coupling axis inclines relative to the drum axis; and

iv) a regulating portion surrounding said coupling member to confine a range of the inclination of said coupling member, wherein said regulating portion is provided with a portion that opens in a direction away from said drum axis and away from said developing roller, and

wherein an angle between the coupling axis and the drum axis is larger when at least a part of said coupling member is in said portion that opens than when said coupling member contacts another portion of said regulating portion.

2. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said coupling member includes a connection end connected with said photosensitive drum, a free end, and a connecting portion connecting said connection end and said free end with each other, and wherein at least a part of said connecting portion is capable of being in said portion that opens in the direction away from said drum axis and away from said developing roller.

3. A process cartridge according to Claim 2, wherein said connecting portion is in the form of a shaft extending along the coupling axis.

4. A process cartridge according to Claim 2, wherein said regulating portion includes a guide portion that guides said coupling member into said portion that opens in the direction away from said drum axis and away from said developing roller when said coupling member receives an external force toward said guide portion at a side opposite said guide portion.

5. A process cartridge according to Claim 4, wherein said

guide portion extends outwardly along a direction of the drum axis of said photosensitive drum.

6. A process cartridge according to Claim 4, wherein said guide portion guides said coupling member into said portion that opens in the direction away from said drum axis and away from said developing roller by contacting said free end of said coupling member.

7. A process cartridge comprising:

(i) a photosensitive drum rotatable about a drum axis thereof;

(ii) a rotatable developing roller configured to develop a latent image formed on said photosensitive drum;

(iii) a coupling member provided at an axial end portion of said photosensitive drum and rotatable about a coupling axis thereof so as to transmit a driving force to said photosensitive drum, said coupling member being capable of inclining relative to said photosensitive drum so that the coupling axis inclines relative to the drum axis, said coupling member having (iii-i) a first end portion connected to said photosensitive drum, (iii-ii) a second end portion, and (iii-iii) a connecting portion between said first end portion and said second end portion, wherein a maximum distance from the coupling axis to an outermost surface of said connecting portion along a line perpendicular to the coupling axis is less than a maximum distance from the coupling axis to an outermost surface of said second end portion along a line perpendicular to the coupling axis; and

(iv) a regulating portion surrounding said coupling member to confine a range of the inclination of said coupling member,

wherein said regulating portion is provided with a portion that opens in a direction away from said drum axis and away from said developing roller, and

wherein an angle between the coupling axis and the drum axis is larger when at least a part of said connecting portion is in said portion that opens in a direction away from said drum axis and away from said developing roller than when said coupling member contacts another portion of said regulating portion.

8. A process cartridge according to Claim 7, wherein said regulating portion includes a guide portion that guides said coupling member into said portion that opens in a direction away from said drum axis and away from said developing roller when said coupling member receives an external force toward said guide portion at a side opposite said guide portion.

9. A process cartridge according to Claim 8, wherein said guide portion extends outwardly along a direction of the drum axis of said photosensitive drum.

10. A process cartridge according to Claim 9, wherein said guide portion guides said coupling member into said portion that opens in a direction away from said drum axis and away from said developing roller by contacting said free end of said coupling member.

11. A process cartridge according to Claim 8, wherein said guide portion guides said coupling member into said portion that opens in a direction away from said drum axis and away from said developing roller by contacting said free end of said coupling member.

12. A process cartridge according to Claim 7, wherein said connecting portion is in the form of a shaft extending along the coupling axis.

13. A process cartridge according to Claim 12, wherein said second end portion comprises a projection, and said second end portion comprises an opening to a recess, with said opening facing away from said connecting portion.

14. A process cartridge according to Claim 7, wherein said second end portion comprises a projection, and said second end portion comprises an opening to a recess, with said opening facing away from said connecting portion.

15. A process cartridge according to Claim 7, wherein said first end portion of said coupling member has a maximum outer dimension in a direction perpendicular to the coupling axis that is greater than the maximum outer dimension of said connecting portion of said coupling member.

16. A process cartridge according to Claim 12, wherein said first end portion of said coupling member has a maximum outer dimension in a direction perpendicular to the coupling axis that is greater than the maximum outer dimension of said connecting portion of said coupling member.

17. A process cartridge according to Claim 13, wherein said first end portion of said coupling member has a maximum outer dimension in a direction perpendicular to the coupling axis that is greater than the maximum outer dimension of said connecting portion of said coupling member.

18. A process cartridge according to Claim 14, wherein said first end portion of said coupling member has a maximum outer dimension in a direction perpendicular to the coupling axis that is greater than the maximum outer dimension of said connecting portion of said coupling member.

19. A process cartridge according to Claim 7, wherein said first end portion of said coupling member has a substantially spherical portion.

20. A process cartridge according to Claim 12, wherein said first end portion of said coupling member has a substantially spherical portion.

21. A process cartridge according to Claim 13, wherein said first end portion of said coupling member has a substantially spherical portion.

22. A process cartridge according to Claim 14, wherein said first end portion of said coupling member has a substantially spherical portion.

23. A process cartridge according to Claim 15, wherein said first end portion of said coupling member has a substantially spherical portion.

24. A process cartridge according to Claim 16, wherein said first end portion of said coupling member has a substantially spherical portion.

25. A process cartridge according to Claim 17, wherein said first end portion of said coupling member has a substantially spherical portion.

26. A process cartridge according to Claim 18, wherein said first end portion of said coupling member has a substantially spherical portion.

What is claimed is:

1. A process cartridge comprising:

i) a photosensitive drum rotatable about a drum axis thereof;

ii) a rotatable developing roller configured to develop a latent image formed on said photosensitive drum;

iii) a coupling member provided at an axial end portion of said photosensitive drum and rotatable about a coupling axis thereof so as to transmit a driving force to said photosensitive drum, said coupling member being capable of inclining relative to said photosensitive drum so that the coupling axis inclines relative to the drum axis; and

iv) a regulating portion surrounding said coupling member to confine a range of the inclination of said coupling member,

wherein said regulating portion is provided with a portion that opens in a direction away from said drum axis and away from said developing roller, and

wherein an angle between the coupling axis and the drum axis is larger when at least a part of said coupling member is in said portion that opens than when said coupling member contacts another portion of said regulating portion.

2. A process cartridge according to claim 1, wherein said coupling member includes a connection end connected with said photosensitive drum, a free end, and a connecting portion connecting said connection end and said free end with each other, and

wherein at least a part of said connecting portion is capable of being in said portion that opens in the direction away from said drum axis and away from said developing roller.

3. A process cartridge according to claim 2, wherein said connecting portion is in the form of a shaft extending along the coupling axis.

4. A process cartridge according to claim 2, wherein said regulating portion includes a guide portion that guides said coupling member into said portion that opens in the direction away from said drum axis and away from said developing roller when said coupling member receives an external force toward said guide portion at a side opposite said guide portion.

5. A process cartridge according to claim 4, wherein said guide portion extends outwardly along a direction of the drum axis of said photosensitive drum.

6. A process cartridge according to claim 4, wherein said guide portion guides said coupling member into said portion that opens in the direction away from said drum axis and away from said developing roller by contacting said free end of said coupling member.