

CLAIMS

1. A cartridge mountable, along a predetermined mounting path, to a main assembly of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus including a photosensitive member on which a latent image is capable of being formed and including a main assembly driving shaft, wherein said cartridge is movable in the main assembly between a developing position at a terminal end of said mounting path and a retracted position retracted from the developing position in a direction different from the mounting path, said cartridge comprising:

a developer carrying member capable of developing the latent image while being in contact with the photosensitive member when said cartridge is in the developing position; and

a coupling member capable of inclining relative to a rotational axis of said developer carrying member, wherein said coupling member is capable of taking a reference attitude in which a drive transmission is capable from the main assembly driving shaft to said developer carrying member when said cartridge is in the developing position, an at-mounting attitude inclined relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member to engage with the main assembly driving shaft when said cartridge moves along the mounting path, and an at-spaced attitude inclined relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member in a direction different from that in the at-mounting attitude,

wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, an angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-mounting attitude is a value in a range of approximately 20° to approximately 150°.

2. A cartridge according to Claim 1, further comprising an urging portion for applying an urging force to incline said coupling member relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member.

3. A cartridge according to Claim 2, further comprising a movable portion capable of taking a first movement position for causing said coupling member to take the at-spaced attitude and a second movement position for causing said coupling member to take the at-mounting attitude.

4. A cartridge according to Claim 3, further comprising an urging member including said urging portion.

5. A cartridge according to Claim 4, wherein said movable portion is capable of urging at least one of said coupling member and said urging member at least one of the first movement position and the second movement position.

6. A cartridge according to Claim 5, wherein said movable portion is capable of directly urging at least one of said coupling member and said urging member at least one of the first movement position and the second movement position.

7. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 2 - 6, wherein when said coupling member takes the at-spaced attitude, said urging portion contacts said coupling member, and said movable portion is spaced from said coupling member; and when said coupling member takes the at-mounting attitude, said urging portion and said movable portion both contact said coupling member.

8. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 2 - 6, wherein said urging portion and said movable portion both contact said coupling member when said coupling member takes the at-spaced attitude and when it takes the at-mounting attitude.

9. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 4 - 6, wherein said urging member and a movable member including said movable portion are provided separately so that said urging portion and said movable portion are movable independently from each other.

10. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 4 - 6, wherein said urging member is mounted to a movable member including said movable portion so that said urging portion moves together with said movable portion.

11. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 4 - 6, wherein said movable portion is capable of urging said urging member.

12. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 4 - 6, wherein when said coupling member takes the at-mounting attitude, said movable portion urges said urging member; and when said coupling member takes the at-spaced attitude, said urging portion urges said coupling member, and said movable portion is spaced from said urging member.

13. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 2 - 6, wherein said urging portion and said movable portion constitute a unitary part.

14. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 3 - 6, wherein when said coupling member takes the at-spaced attitude, said urging portion urges said coupling member, and said movable portion is spaced from said coupling member; and when said coupling member takes the at-mounting attitude, said urging portion is spaced from said coupling member, and said movable portion urges said coupling member.

15. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 1 - 14, wherein as seen along an axial direction of said developer carrying member, a rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-mounting attitude are substantially perpendicular to each other.

16. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 1 - 15, wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, the angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-mounting attitude is a value in a range of approximately 30° to

approximately 120°.

17. A cartridge according to Claim 16, wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, the angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-mounting attitude is a value in a range of approximately 75°.

18. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 1 - 17, wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, an angle formed between a line connecting a center of inclination of said coupling member and said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude is not more than approximately 30°.

19. A cartridge according to Claim 18, wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, the angle formed between a line connecting a center of inclination of said coupling member and said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude is approximately 5°.

20. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 15 - 19, wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, an angle formed between a line connecting a center of inclination of said coupling member and said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-mounting attitude is a value in the range of approximately 45° to approximately 95°.

21. A cartridge according to Claim 20, wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, the angle formed between a line connecting a center of inclination of said coupling member and said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-mounting attitude is approximately 70°.

22. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 15 - 21, wherein an angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking a reference attitude is a value in the range of approximately 20° to approximately 60°.

23. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 15 - 21, wherein an angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-mounting attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking a reference attitude is a value in the range of approximately 20° to approximately 60°.

24. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 2 - 6, wherein said urging portion is capable of directly urging said coupling member.

25. A cartridge according to Claim 4, further comprising an urging elastic member.

26. A cartridge according to Claim 25, wherein said urging portion is provided at a part of said urging elastic member.

27. A cartridge according to Claim 25 or 26, wherein said urging elastic member includes a spring.

28. A cartridge according to Claim 27, wherein said spring is a torsion spring.

29. A cartridge according to Claim 27, wherein said spring is a coil spring.

30. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 3 - 6, wherein said movable portion is capable of taking a movement reference position for placing said coupling member in the reference attitude.

31. A cartridge according to Claim 30, wherein for said movable portion, said movement reference position and said second movement position are in the same position.

32. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 3 - 6, 30 and 31, further comprising a movable member including said movable portion.

33. A cartridge according to Claim 32, wherein said movable member includes an elastic member for movement.

34. A cartridge according to Claim 33, wherein said elastic member for movement includes said movable portion.

35. A cartridge according to Claim 33 or 34, wherein said elastic member for movement includes a spring.

36. A cartridge according to Claim 35, wherein said spring is a torsion spring.

37. A cartridge according to Claim 35, wherein said spring is a coil spring.

38. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 32 - 37, wherein said movable member is rotatable.

39. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 32 - 38, wherein said movable member includes a force receiving portion for receiving a force for moving said movable portion from the first movement position to the second movement position.

40. A cartridge according to Claim 39, wherein said movable member is provided with said force receiving portion at one end thereof and said movable portion at the other end thereof.

41. A cartridge according to Claim 39 or 40, wherein as seen along the rotational axis of said developer carrying member, said force receiving portion is disposed substantially in an opposite side from said developer carrying member with respect to a developing blade.

42. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 1 - 41, wherein said coupling member includes a free end portion provided with a rotational force receiving portion for receiving a rotational force from the main assembly driving shaft, a connection end portion provided with a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said developer carrying member, and a connecting portion connecting said free end portion and said connection end portion.

43. A cartridge according to Claim 42 wherein said coupling member includes a positioned portion to be positioned relative to said cartridge when taking said at-spaced attitude and/or the at-mounting attitude.

44. A cartridge according to Claim 43, wherein the positioned portion is provided at said connecting portion.

45. A cartridge according to Claim 43, wherein said positioned portion is provided at said connection end portion.

46. A cartridge according to Claim 45, wherein said positioned portion is provided projected from said connection end portion.

47. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 43 - 46, further comprising an at-spaced positioning portion for positioning said positioned portion to cause said coupling member to take the at-spaced attitude.

48. A cartridge according to Claim 47, further comprising a cartridge frame provided with said at-spaced positioning portion.

49. A cartridge according to Claim 48, wherein said cartridge frame provided with said at-spaced positioning portion includes a supporting member for supporting said developer carrying member, and said supporting member includes said at-spaced positioning portion.

50. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 43 - 49, further comprising an at-mounting positioning portion for positioning said positioned portion to cause said coupling member to take the at-mounting attitude.

51. A cartridge according to Claim 50, further comprising a cartridge frame provided with said at-mounting positioning portion.

52. A cartridge according to Claim 51, wherein said cartridge frame provided with

said at-mounting positioning portion includes a second supporting member for supporting said developer carrying member, and said second supporting member includes the at-mounting positioning portion.

53. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 42 - 52, wherein a maximum rotation radius of at least a part of said connecting portion is smaller than a distance between the rotational axis of said developer carrying member and said rotational force receiving portion.

54. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 42 - 53, wherein said urging portion urges said connecting portion.

55. A cartridge according to Claim 1, further comprising a cartridge frame rotatably supporting said developer carrying member, an end member mounted to an end of said cartridge frame, wherein a movable member including said movable portion and an urging member including said urging portion are provided on said end member.

56. A cartridge mountable, along a predetermined mounting path, to a main assembly of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus including a main assembly driving shaft, said cartridge comprising:

a photosensitive member on which a latent image is capable of being formed;
a developer carrying member capable of developing the latent image and the movable between a developing position contacting said photosensitive member to develop the latent image and a retracted position retracted from the contacting position; and

a coupling member capable of inclining relative to a rotational axis of said developer carrying member, wherein said coupling member is capable of taking a reference attitude in which the drive transmission is capable from the main assembly driving shaft to said developer carrying member when said developer carrying member is in the developing position in a state that said cartridge is mounted at a terminal end of the mounting path, an at-mounting attitude inclined relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member to engage with the main assembly driving shaft when said cartridge moves along the mounting path, an at-spaced attitude inclined relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member in a direction different from that in the at-mounting attitude to engage with the main assembly driving shaft when said developer carrying member moves from the retracted position to the developing position in the state that said cartridge is mounted at the end portion of the mounting path,

wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, the angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-mounting attitude is a value in a range of approximately 20° to approximately 150°.

57. A cartridge according to Claim 56, further comprising an urging portion for applying an urging force to incline said coupling member relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member.

58. A cartridge according to Claim 57, further comprising a movable portion capable of taking a first movement position for causing said coupling member to take the at-spaced attitude and a second movement position for causing said coupling member to take the at-mounting attitude.

59. A cartridge according to Claim 58, further comprising an urging member including said urging portion.

60. A cartridge according to Claim 59, wherein said movable portion is capable of urging at least one of said coupling member and said urging member at least one of the first movement position and the second movement position.

61. A cartridge according to Claim 60, wherein said movable portion is capable of directly urging at least one of said coupling member and said urging member at least one of the first movement position and the second movement position.

62. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 57 - 61, wherein when said coupling member takes the at-spaced attitude, said urging portion contacts said coupling member, and said movable portion is spaced from said coupling member; and when said coupling member takes the at-mounting attitude, said urging portion and said movable portion both contact said coupling member.

63. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 57 - 61, wherein said urging portion and said movable portion both contact said coupling member when said coupling member takes the at-spaced attitude and taking the at-mounting attitude.

64. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 59 - 61, wherein said urging member and a movable member including said movable portion are provided separately so that said urging portion and said movable portion are movable independently from each other.

65. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 59 - 61, wherein said urging member is mounted to a movable member including said movable portion so that said urging portion moves together with said movable portion.

66. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 59 - 61, wherein said movable portion is capable of urging said urging member.

67. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 59 - 61, wherein when said coupling member takes the at-mounting attitude, said movable portion urges said urging member; and when said coupling member takes the at-spaced attitude, said urging portion urges said coupling member, and said movable portion is spaced from said urging member.

68. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 57 - 61, wherein said urging portion and said movable portion constitute a unitary part.

69. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 57 - 61, wherein when said coupling member takes the at-spaced attitude, said urging portion urges said coupling member, and said movable portion is spaced from said coupling member; and when said coupling member takes the at-mounting attitude, said urging portion is spaced from said coupling member, and said movable portion urges said coupling member.

70. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 56 - 69, wherein as seen along an axial direction of said developer carrying member, a rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-mounting attitude are substantially perpendicular to each other.

71. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 56-70, wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, the angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-mounting attitude is a value in a range of approximately 30° to approximately 120°.

72. A cartridge according to Claim 71, wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, the angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-mounting attitude is a value in a range of approximately 75°.

73. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 70 - 72, wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, an angle formed between a line connecting a center of inclination of said coupling member and said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude is not more than approximately 30°.

74. A cartridge according to Claim 73, wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, the angle formed between a line connecting a center of inclination of said coupling member and said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude is approximately 5°.

75. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 70 - 74, wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, an angle formed between a line connecting a center of inclination of said coupling member and said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-mounting attitude is a value in the range of approximately 45° to approximately 95°.

76. A cartridge according to Claim 75, wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, the angle formed between a line connecting a center of inclination of said coupling member and said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-mounting attitude is approximately 70°.

77. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 70 - 76, wherein an angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the reference attitude is a value in the range of approximately 20° to approximately 60°.

78. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 70 - 76, wherein an angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-mounting attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the reference attitude is a value in the range of approximately 20° to approximately 60°.

79. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 57 - 61, wherein said urging portion is capable of directly urging said coupling member.

80. A cartridge according to Claim 59, further comprising an urging elastic member.

81. A cartridge according to Claim 80, wherein said urging portion is provided at a part of said urging elastic member.

82. A cartridge according to Claim 80 or 81, wherein said urging elastic member includes a spring.

83. A cartridge according to Claim 82, wherein said spring is a torsion spring.

84. A cartridge according to Claim 82, wherein said spring is a coil spring.

85. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 58 - 61, wherein said movable portion is capable of taking a movement reference position for placing said coupling member in the reference attitude.

86. A cartridge according to Claim 85, wherein for said movable portion, said movement reference position and said second movement position are in the same position.

87. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 58 - 61, 85 and 86, further comprising a movable member including said movable portion.

88. A cartridge according to Claim 87, wherein said movable member includes an elastic member for movement.

89. A cartridge according to Claim 88, wherein said elastic member for movement includes said movable portion.

90. A cartridge according to Claim 88 or 89, wherein said elastic member for movement includes a spring.

91. A cartridge according to Claim 90, wherein said spring is a torsion spring.
92. A cartridge according to Claim 90, wherein said spring is a coil spring.
93. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 87 - 92, wherein said movable member is rotatable.
94. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 87 - 93, wherein said movable member includes a force receiving portion for receiving a force for moving said movable portion from the first movement position to the second movement position.
95. A cartridge according to Claim 94, wherein said movable member is provided with said force receiving portion at one end thereof and said movable portion at the other end thereof.
96. A cartridge according to Claim 94 or 95, wherein as seen along the rotational axis of said developer carrying member, said force receiving portion is disposed substantially in an opposite side from said developer carrying member with respect to a developing blade.
97. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 56 - 96, wherein said coupling member includes a free end portion provided with a rotational force receiving portion for receiving a rotational force from the main assembly driving shaft, a connection end portion provided with a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said developer carrying member, and a connecting portion connecting said free end portion and said connection end portion.
98. A cartridge according to Claim 97, wherein said coupling member includes a positioned portion to be positioned relative to said cartridge when taking said at-spaced attitude and/or the at-mounting attitude.
99. A cartridge according to Claim 98, wherein the positioned portion is provided at said connecting portion.
100. A cartridge according to Claim 98, wherein said positioned portion is provided at said connection end portion.
101. A cartridge according to Claim 100, wherein said positioned portion is provided projected from said connection end portion.
102. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 98 - 101, further comprising an at-spaced positioning portion for positioning said positioned portion to cause said coupling member to take the at-spaced attitude.

103. A cartridge according to Claim 102, further comprising a cartridge frame provided with said at-spaced positioning portion.

104. A cartridge according to Claim 103, wherein said cartridge frame provided with said at-spaced positioning portion includes a supporting member for supporting said developer carrying member, and said supporting member includes said at-spaced positioning portion.

105. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 98 - 104, further comprising an at-mounting positioning portion for positioning said positioned portion to cause said coupling member to take the at-mounting attitude.

106. A cartridge according to Claim 105, further comprising a cartridge frame provided with said at-mounting positioning portion.

107. A cartridge according to Claim 106, wherein said cartridge frame provided with said at-mounting positioning portion includes a second supporting member for supporting said developer carrying member, and said second supporting member includes the at-mounting positioning portion.

108. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 97 - 107, wherein a maximum rotation radius of at least a part of said connecting portion is smaller than a distance between the rotational axis of said developer carrying member and said rotational force receiving portion.

109. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 56 - 108, wherein with movement of said developer carrying member from the developing position to the retracted position, said coupling member moves from the at-mounting attitude to the at-spaced attitude.

110. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 56 - 109, wherein said main assembly further includes a second main assembly driving shaft, and said cartridge including a second coupling member capable of transferring the driving force from the second main assembly driving shaft to said photosensitive member.

111. A cartridge according to Claim 56, further comprising a photosensitive member side supporting frame rotatably supporting said photosensitive member, a development side supporting frame rotatably supporting said developer carrying member, wherein a movable member including said movable portion is provided on said photosensitive member side supporting frame, and an urging member including an urging portion is provided on said development side supporting frame.

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

- i) a main assembly including a photosensitive member on which a latent image

is capable of being formed, and including a main assembly driving shaft; and

ii) a cartridge mountable, along a predetermined mounting path, to the main assembly, wherein said cartridge is movable in the main assembly between a developing position at a terminal end of said mounting path and a retracted position retracted from the developing position in a direction different from the mounting path, said cartridge including,

ii-i) a developer carrying member capable of developing the latent image while being in contact with the photosensitive member when said cartridge is in the developing position; and

ii-ii) a coupling member capable of inclining relative to a rotational axis of said developer carrying member, wherein said coupling member is capable of taking a reference attitude in which a drive transmission is capable from the main assembly driving shaft to said developer carrying member when said cartridge is in the developing position, an at-mounting attitude inclined relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member to engage with the main assembly driving shaft when said cartridge is moved along the mounting path, and an at-spaced attitude inclined relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member in a direction different from that in the at-mounting attitude when said cartridge is moved from the retracted position to the developing position,

wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, an angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-mounting attitude is a value in a range of approximately 20° to approximately 150°.

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

i) a main assembly including a main assembly driving shaft; and

ii) a cartridge mountable to the main assembly along a predetermined mounting path;

ii-i) a photosensitive member on which a latent image is capable of being formed;

ii-ii) a developer carrying member capable of developing the latent image and movable between a developing position in which said developer carrying member contacts said photosensitive member to develop the latent image and a retracted position retracted from the contacting position, in a state that said cartridge is mounted to said main assembly; and

ii-iii) a coupling member capable of inclining relative to a rotational axis of said developer carrying member, wherein said coupling member is capable of taking a reference attitude in which a drive transmission is capable from the main assembly driving shaft to said developer carrying member when said developer carrying member is in the developing position, an at-mounting attitude inclined relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member to engage with the main assembly driving shaft when said cartridge is moved along the mounting path, and an at-spaced attitude inclined relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member in a direction different from that in the at-mounting attitude to engage with the main assembly driving shaft when said developer carrying member is moved from the retracted position to the developing position

wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member,

the angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-mounting attitude is a value in a range of approximately 20° to approximately 150°.

114. A cartridge mountable, along a predetermined mounting path, to a main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus including a photosensitive member on which a latent image is capable of being formed and including a main assembly driving shaft, wherein said cartridge is movable in the main assembly between a developing position at a terminal end of said mounting path and a retracted position retracted from the developing position in a direction different from the mounting path, said cartridge comprising:

a developer carrying member capable of developing the latent image while being in contact with the photosensitive member when said cartridge is in the developing position; and

a coupling member capable of inclining relative to a rotational axis of said developer carrying member, wherein said coupling member is capable of taking a reference attitude in which a drive transmission is capable from the main assembly driving shaft to said developer carrying member when said cartridge is in the developing position, an at-dismounting attitude inclined relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member to disengage from the main assembly side driving shaft when said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly by being moved along the mounting path from the developing position in the direction opposite from that in the mounting, and at-spaced attitude inclined relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member in a direction different from that in the at-dismounting attitude to disengage from the main assembly driving shaft when said cartridge is moved from the developing position to the retracted position,

wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, an angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-dismounting attitude is a value in a range of approximately 20° to approximately 150°.

115. A cartridge mountable, along a predetermined mounting path, to a main assembly of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus including a main assembly driving shaft, said cartridge comprising:

a photosensitive member on which a latent image is capable of being formed;
a developer carrying member capable of developing the latent image and movable between a developing position contacting said photosensitive member to develop the latent image and a retracted position retracted from the contacting position; and

a coupling member capable of inclining relative to a rotational axis of said developer carrying member, wherein said coupling member is capable of taking a reference attitude in which a drive transmission is capable from the main assembly driving shaft to said developer carrying member when said cartridge is in the developing position in a state that said cartridge is mounted to a terminal end of the mounting path, an at-dismounting attitude inclined relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member to disengage from the main assembly side driving shaft when said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly by being moved along the mounting path from the terminal end in the direction

opposite from that in the mounting, and an at-spaced attitude inclined relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member in a direction different from that in the at-dismounting attitude to disengage from the main assembly driving shaft when said developer carrying member is moved from the developing position to the retracted position in the state that said cartridge is mounted to the terminal end,

wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, an angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-dismounting attitude is a value in a range of approximately 20° to approximately 150°.

116. A cartridge mountable, along a predetermined mounting path, to a main assembly of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus including a photosensitive member on which a latent image is capable of being formed and including a main assembly driving shaft, wherein said cartridge is movable in the main assembly between a developing position at a terminal end of said mounting path and a retracted position retracted from the developing position in a direction different from the mounting path, said cartridge comprising:

a developer carrying member capable of developing the latent image while being in contact with the photosensitive member when said cartridge is in the developing position; and

a coupling member capable of inclining relative to a rotational axis of said developer carrying member, wherein said coupling member is capable of taking a reference attitude in which a drive transmission is capable from the main assembly driving shaft to said developer carrying member when said cartridge is in the developing position, an at-dismounting attitude inclined relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member to disengage from the main assembly driving shaft when said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly by being moved along the mounting path from the developing position in the direction opposite from that in the mounting path, and an at-spaced attitude inclined relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member in a direction different from that in the at-dismounting attitude to engage with the main assembly driving shaft when said cartridge is moved from the retracted position to the developing position,

wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, an angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-dismounting attitude is a value in a range of approximately 20° to approximately 150°.

117. A cartridge mountable, along a predetermined mounting path, to a main assembly of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus including a main assembly driving shaft, said cartridge comprising:

a photosensitive member on which a latent image is capable of being formed;

a developer carrying member capable of developing the latent image and movable between a developing position contacting said photosensitive member to develop the latent image and a retracted position retracted from the contacting position; and

a coupling member capable of inclining relative to a rotational axis of said developer carrying member, wherein said coupling member is capable of taking a reference

attitude in which a drive transmission is capable from the main assembly driving shaft to said developer carrying member when said cartridge is in the developing position in a state that said cartridge is mounted to a terminal end of the mounting path, an at-dismounting attitude inclined relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member to disengage from the main assembly side driving shaft when said cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly by being moved along the mounting path from the terminal end in the direction opposite from that in the mounting path, and an at-spaced attitude inclined relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member in a direction different from that in the at-dismounting attitude to engage with the main assembly driving shaft when said developer carrying member is moved from the retracted position to the developing position in the state that said cartridge is mounted to the terminal end,

wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, an angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-dismounting attitude is a value in a range of approximately 20° to approximately 150°.

118. A cartridge according to any one of claims 114 - 117, further comprising an urging portion for urging said coupling member to incline it relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member.

119. A cartridge according to Claim 118, further comprising a movable portion capable of taking a first movement position for causing said coupling member to take the at-spaced attitude and a second movement position for causing said coupling member to take the at-mounting attitude.

120. A cartridge according to Claim 119, further comprising an urging member including said urging portion.

121. A cartridge according to Claim 120, wherein said movable portion is capable of urging at least one of said coupling member and said urging member at least one of the first movement position and the second movement position.

122. A cartridge according to Claim 121, wherein said movable portion is capable of directly urging at least one of said coupling member and said urging member at least one of the first movement position and the second movement position.

123. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 119 - 122, wherein when said coupling member takes the at-spaced attitude, said urging portion contacts said coupling, and said movable portion is spaced from said coupling member; and when said coupling member takes the at-dismounting attitude, both of said urging portion and said movable portion contact said coupling member.

124. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 119 - 122, wherein both of said urging portion and said movable portion contact said coupling member when said coupling

member takes the at-spaced attitude and when said coupling member takes the at-dismounting attitude.

125. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 120 - 122, wherein said urging member and a movable member including said movable portion are provided separately so that said urging portion and said movable portion are movable independently from each other.

126. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 120 - 122, wherein said urging member is mounted to a movable member including said movable portion so that said urging portion moves together with said movable portion.

127. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 120 - 122, wherein said movable portion is capable of urging said urging member.

128. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 120 - 122, wherein when said coupling member takes the at-dismounting attitude, said movable portion urges said urging member; and when said coupling member takes the at-spaced attitude, said urging portion urges said coupling member, and said movable portion is spaced from said urging member.

129. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 119 - 122, wherein said urging portion and said movable portion constitute a unitary part.

130. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 119 - 122, wherein when said coupling member takes the at-spaced attitude, said urging portion urges said coupling member, and said movable portion is spaced from said coupling member; and when said coupling member takes the at-dismounting attitude, said urging portion is spaced from said coupling member, and said movable portion urges said coupling member.

131. A cartridge according to any one of claims 114 - 130, wherein as seen along an axial direction of said developer carrying member, the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude substantially crosses with the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-dismounting attitude.

132. A cartridge according to Claim 131, wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, an angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-dismounting position is a value in the range of approximately 20° to approximately 150°.

133. A cartridge according to Claim 132, wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, the angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-dismounting position is a value in the range of approximately 30° to approximately 120°.

134. A cartridge according to Claim 133, wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, the angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-dismounting position is approximately 75° .

135. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 131 - 134, wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, an angle formed between a line connecting a center of inclination of said coupling member and said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude is not more than approximately 30° .

136. A cartridge according to Claim 135, wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, the angle formed between a line connecting a center of inclination of said coupling member and said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude is approximately 5° .

137. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 131 - 136, wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, an angle formed between a line connecting a center of inclination of said coupling member and said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-dismounting position is a value in the range of approximately 45° to approximately 95° .

138. A cartridge according to Claim 137, wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, the angle formed between a line connecting a center of inclination of said coupling member and said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-dismounting position is approximately 70° .

139. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 131 - 138, wherein an angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the reference attitude is a value in the range of approximately 20° to approximately 60° .

140. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 131 - 138, wherein an angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-dismounting position and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the reference attitude is a value in the range of approximately 20° to approximately 60° .

141. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 118 - 122, wherein said urging portion is capable of directly urging said coupling member.

142. A cartridge according to Claim 120, further comprising an urging elastic member.

143. A cartridge according to Claim 142, wherein said urging portion is provided at a part of said urging elastic member.

144. A cartridge according to Claim 142 or 143, wherein said urging elastic member includes a spring.

145. A cartridge according to Claim 144, wherein said spring is a torsion spring.

146. A cartridge according to Claim 144, wherein said spring is a coil spring.

147. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 119 - 122, wherein said movable portion is capable of taking a movement reference position for placing said coupling member in the reference attitude.

148. A cartridge according to Claim 147, wherein for said movable portion, said movement reference position and said second movement position are in the same position.

149. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 119-122, 147 and 148, further comprising a movable member including said movable portion.

150. A cartridge according to Claim 149, wherein said movable member includes an elastic member for movement.

151. A cartridge according to Claim 150, wherein said elastic member for movement includes said movable portion.

152. A cartridge according to Claim 150 or 151, wherein said elastic member for movement includes a spring.

153. A cartridge according to Claim 152, wherein said spring is a torsion spring.

154. A cartridge according to Claim 152, wherein said spring is a coil spring.

155. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 149 - 154, wherein said movable member is rotatable.

156. A cartridge according to any one of claims 149 - 155, wherein said movable member includes a force receiving portion for receiving a force for moving said movable portion from the first movement position to the second movement position.

157. A cartridge according to Claim 156, wherein said movable member is provided with said force receiving portion at one end thereof and said movable portion at the other end thereof.

158. A cartridge according to Claim 156 or 157, wherein as seen along the rotational axis of said developer carrying member, said force receiving portion is disposed substantially in an opposite side from said developer carrying member with respect to a developing blade.

159. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 114 - 158, wherein said coupling member includes a free end portion provided with a rotational force receiving portion for receiving a rotational force from the main assembly driving shaft, a connection end portion provided with a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said developer carrying member and a connecting portion connecting said free end portion and said connection end portion.

160. A cartridge according to Claim 159, wherein said coupling member includes a positioned portion for being positioned relative to said cartridge when it takes the at-spaced attitude and/or the at-dismounting attitude.

161. A cartridge according to Claim 160, wherein the positioned portion is provided at said connecting portion.

162. A cartridge according to Claim 160, wherein said positioned portion is provided at said connection end portion.

163. A cartridge according to Claim 162, wherein said positioned portion is provided projected from said connection end portion.

164. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 160 - 163, further comprising an at-spaced positioning portion for positioning said positioned portion to cause said coupling member to take the at-spaced attitude.

165. A cartridge according to Claim 164, further comprising a cartridge frame provided with said at-spaced positioning portion.

166. A cartridge according to Claim 165, wherein said cartridge frame provided with said at-spaced positioning portion includes a supporting member for supporting said developer carrying member, and said supporting member includes said at-spaced positioning portion.

167. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 160 - 166, further comprising an at-dismounting positioning portion for positioning said positioned portion to cause said coupling member to take the at-dismounting attitude.

168. A cartridge according to Claim 167, further comprising a cartridge frame provided with said at-dismounting positioning portion.

169. A cartridge according to Claim 168, wherein said cartridge frame provided with

said at-dismounting positioning portion includes a second supporting member for supporting said developer carrying member, and said second supporting member includes said at-dismounting positioning portion.

170. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 159 - 169, wherein a maximum rotation radius of at least a part of said connecting portion is smaller than a distance between the rotational axis of said developer carrying member and said rotational force receiving portion.

171. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 159 - 170, wherein said urging portion urges said connecting portion.