CLAIMS

1. A developer accommodating unit which accommodates a developer for image formation and is detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus main assembly, comprising:

a flexible container which accommodates the developer and which is capable of discharging the developer from an opening;

a frame for accommodating said flexible container; and

an urging member, provided inside said frame and outside said flexible container and configured to be movable relative to said frame, for deforming said flexible container.

2. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 1, wherein said urging member is provided in said frame so that said flexible container is capable of being urged against said frame.

3. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein said urging member urges said flexible container to change a position of the opening.

4. A developer accommodating unit according to any of Claims 1 - 3, wherein the opening is provided

in a plurality of positions of said flexible container.

5. A developer accommodating unit according to any of Claims 1 - 4, wherein said urging member urges a side in the neighborhood of the opening.

6. A developer accommodating unit according to any of Claims 1 - 5, wherein said flexible container has a shape including a plurality of sides between which a bent portion is interposed, and

wherein said urging member urges a side where there is the opening.

7. A developer accommodating unit according to any of Claims 1 - 6, wherein said flexible container is provided so that the opening opens downward with respect to a direction of gravitation during the image formation.

8. A developer accommodating unit according to any of Claims 1 - 7, wherein said urging member is provided rotatably relative to said frame and is a rotatable member including portions different in distance, in a cross section perpendicular to a rotation center of said urging member, from the rotation center of said urging member to an outer end of said urging member.

9. A developer accommodating unit according to any of Claims 1 - 8, wherein said urging member is stirring member for stirring the developer, inside said frame, discharged from said flexible container.

10. A developer accommodating unit according to any of Claims 1 - 9, wherein said urging member is provided so as to urge said flexible container repeatedly.

11. A developer accommodating unit according to any of Claims 1 - 10, wherein said urging member is a sheet-like member.

12. A developer accommodating unit according to any of Claims 1 - 11, wherein between said flexible container and said frame, a gap is provided.

13. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 12, wherein the gap is provided between a side continuous, via a bent portion, with a side where the opening of said flexible container is formed, and said frame.

14. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 12 or 13, wherein the gap is configured to

become larger as the gap approaches a side where the opening is formed, and is configured to becomes smaller with the gap toward between the side and an opposing side.

15. A developer accommodating unit according to any of Claims 1 - 14, comprising a developer carrying member for carrying the developer for developing a latent image.

16. A process cartridge detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus main assembly, which is a process cartridge in which a developer accommodating unit according to any of Claims 1 - 14 and an electrophotographic photosensitive member are integral with each other.

17. An electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising a process cartridge according to Claim 15.

CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A developer accommodating unit for accommodating a developer, comprising:

a flexible container which accommodates the developer and which is capable of discharging the developer from an opening;

a frame for accommodating said flexible container; and

an urging member, provided inside said frame and outside said flexible container and configured to be movable relative to said frame, for urging said flexible container,

wherein said urging member changes a position of the opening relative to said frame by urging said flexible container.

2. (Deleted)

3. (Deleted)

4. (Deleted)

5. (Amended) A developer accommodating unit for accommodating a developer, comprising:

a flexible container which accommodates the developer and which is capable of discharging the

developer from an opening;

a frame for accommodating said flexible container; and

an urging member, provided inside said frame and outside said flexible container and configured to be movable relative to said frame, for urging said flexible container,

wherein said urging member urges a side in the neighborhood of the opening.

6. (Deleted)

7. (Deleted)

8. (Amended) A developer accommodating unit for accommodating a developer, comprising:

a flexible container which accommodates the developer and which is capable of discharging the developer from an opening;

a frame for accommodating said flexible container; and

an urging member, provided inside said frame and outside said flexible container and configured to be movable relative to said frame, for urging said flexible container,

wherein said urging member is provided rotatably relative to said frame.

9. (Amended) A developer accommodating unit for accommodating a developer, comprising:

a flexible container which accommodates the developer and which is capable of discharging the developer from an opening;

a frame for accommodating said flexible container; and

an urging member, provided inside said frame and outside said flexible container and configured to be movable relative to said frame, for urging said flexible container,

wherein said urging member is stirring member for stirring the developer, inside said frame, discharged from said flexible container.

10. (Amended) A developer accommodating unit for accommodating a developer, comprising:

a flexible container which accommodates the developer and which is capable of discharging the developer from an opening;

a frame for accommodating said flexible container; and

an urging member, provided inside said frame and outside said flexible container and configured to be movable relative to said frame, for urging said flexible container,

wherein said urging member is provided so as to urge said flexible container repeatedly while being moved away from and toward said flexible container..

11. (Amended) A developer accommodating unit according to any of Claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 10, wherein said urging member is a sheet-like member.

12. (Amended) A developer accommodating unit according to any one of Claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, wherein between said flexible container and said frame, a gap is provided.

13. (Amended) A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 12, wherein the gap is provided between a side continuous, via a bent portion of the flexible container, with a side where the opening of said flexible container is formed, and said frame.

14. (Amended) A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 12 or 13, wherein the gap is configured to becomes smaller toward between a side, configured to become larger as the gap approaches the side where the opening is formed, and an opposing side.

15. (Amended) A developer accommodating unit according to any of Claims 1, 5, 8, 9 - 14, comprising

a developer carrying member for carrying the developer for developing a latent image.

16. (Amended) A process cartridge detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus main assembly, which is a process cartridge in which a developer accommodating unit according to any of Claims 1, 5, 8, 9 - 15 and an electrophotographic photosensitive member are integral with each other.

17. (Amended) An electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising a process cartridge according to Claim 16.

18. (Added) A developer accommodating unit according to any of Claims 1, 5, 8, 9 - 15, wherein the opening is provided in a plurality of positions of said flexible container.

19. (Added) A developer accommodating unit according to any of Claims 1, 5, 8, 9 - 15, 18, wherein said flexible container has a shape including a plurality of sides sandwiching a bent portion,

wherein said urging member urges a side where the opening is present.

20. (Added) A developer accommodating unit

according to any of Claims 1, 5, 8, 9 - 15, 18, 19, wherein said flexible container is provided so that the opening opens downward with respect to a direction of gravitation during image formation.

21. (Added) A developer accommodating unit according to any of Claims 1, 5, 8, 9 - 15, 18 - 20, wherein said urging member is provided rotatably relative to said frame, and is a rotatable member including, in a cross section perpendicular to a rotation center of said urging member, portions different in distance from the rotation center of said urging member to an outer end of said urging member.

CLAIMS

1. A developer accommodating unit for accommodating developer, said developer accommodating unit comprising:

a flexible container which accommodates the developer and which is capable of discharging the developer from an opening;

a frame for accommodating said flexible container; and

an urging member, provided inside said frame and outside said flexible container and configured to be movable relative to said frame, for deforming said flexible container,

wherein said urging member changes a position of the opening relative to said frame by urging said flexible container.

2. A developer accommodating unit for accommodating a developer, said developer accommodating unit comprising:

a flexible container which accommodates the developer and which is capable of discharging the developer from an opening;

a frame for accommodating said flexible container; and

an urging member, provided inside said frame and outside said flexible container and configured to be movable relative to said frame, for urging said flexible container,

wherein said urging member urges a side in the neighborhood of the opening.

3. A developer accommodating unit for accommodating a developer, said developer accommodating unit comprising:

a flexible container which accommodates the developer and which is capable of discharging the developer from an opening;

a frame for accommodating said flexible container; and

an urging member, provided inside said frame and outside said flexible container and configured to be movable relative to said frame, for urging said flexible container,

wherein said urging member is provided rotatably relative to said frame.

4. A developer accommodating unit for accommodating a developer, said developer accommodating unit comprising:

a flexible container which accommodates the developer and which is capable of discharging the developer from an opening;

a frame for accommodating said flexible container; and
an urging member, provided inside said frame and outside said flexible container and configured to be movable relative to said frame, for urging said flexible container,
wherein said urging member is a stirring member for stirring the developer, inside said frame, discharged from said flexible container.

5. A developer accommodating unit for accommodating a developer, said developer accommodating unit comprising:
a flexible container which accommodates the developer and which is capable of discharging the developer from an opening;
a frame for accommodating said flexible container; and
an urging member, provided inside said frame and outside said flexible container and configured to be movable relative to said frame, for urging said flexible container,
wherein said urging member is provided so as to urge said flexible container repeatedly while being moved away from and towards said flexible container.

6. A developer accommodating unit for accommodating a developer, said developer accommodating unit comprising:
a flexible container which accommodates the developer and which is capable of discharging the developer from an opening;
a frame for accommodating said flexible container; and
an urging member, provided inside said frame and outside said flexible container and configured to be movable relative to said frame, for urging said flexible container,
wherein said urging member also functions as an unsealing member for unsealing the opening.

7. A developer accommodating unit for accommodating a developer, said developer accommodating unit comprising:
a flexible container which accommodates the developer and which is capable of discharging the developer from an opening;
a frame for accommodating said flexible container; and
a stirring member for stirring the developer, inside said frame, discharged from said flexible container,

wherein said stirring member also functions as an unsealing member for unsealing the opening.

8. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 1, wherein said urging member is a sheet like member.

9. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 1, wherein between said flexible container and said frame a gap is provided.

10. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 9, wherein the gap is provided between a side continuous, via a bent portion of said flexible container, with a side where the opening of said flexible container is formed, and said frame.

11. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 9, wherein the gap is configured to become larger as the gap approaches the side where the opening is formed.

12. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 1, further comprising a developer carrying member for carrying the developer for developing a latent image.

13. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 1, wherein the opening is provided in a plurality of positions of said flexible container.

14. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 1, wherein said flexible container has a shape including a plurality of sides sandwiching a bent portion, and
wherein said urging member urges a side where the opening is present.

15. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 1, wherein said flexible container is provided so that the opening opens downward with respect to a direction of gravitation during image formation.

16. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 1, wherein said urging member is provided rotatably relative to said frame, and is a rotatable member including, in a cross section perpendicular to a rotation center of

said urging member, portions different in distance from the rotation center of said urging member to an outer end of said urging member.

17. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 1, wherein said flexible container is a bag.

18. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 1, wherein said flexible container is constituted by a sheet.

19. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 18, wherein a thickness of the sheet is 0.03 mm to 0.15 mm ..

20. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 1, wherein said flexible container includes a portion having air-permeability.

21. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 1, wherein said flexible container incudes any of polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polyethylene (PE) and polypropylene (PP).

22. A process cartridge detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus main assembly, which is a process cartridge in which a developer accommodating unit according to Claim 1 and the electrophotographic photosensitive member are integral with each other.

23. An electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising anyone of:
a developer accommodating unit according to Claim 1; and
a process cartridge according to claim 22.