CLAIMS

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

a flexible container provided with an opening for permitting discharge of the accommodated developer;

a sealing member for sealing the opening and for exposing the opening by being wound up; and

an unsealing member, mounted on said sealing member, for unsealing said sealing member by winding up said sealing member.

2. (Amended) A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 1, wherein an end of said sealing member is bonded to a periphery of the opening at a bonding portion, and

wherein when the bonding portion is started to be peeled, a narrow angle of said sealing member between a side where said sealing member is bonded to the bonding portion and a side along a movement direction is 90 degrees or less.

3. (Amended) A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein said flexible container is provided with a portion-to-be-fixed to be fixed to a fixing portion of a frame.

4. (Amended) A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein said flexible container includes a portion-to-be-fixed, and

wherein the portion-to-be-fixed is to be fixed to a frame via a connecting member to be fixed to a fixing portion of the frame.

5. (Amended) A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 4, wherein the fixing portion is provided along a direction substantially perpendicular to a movement direction of said sealing member.

6. (Amended) A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 4, wherein said sealing member is peeled from a side near the fixing portion.

7. A developer accommodating unit for accommodating a developer for image formation, wherein said developer accommodating unit comprises:

a developer accommodating container including a flexible container provided with an opening for permitting discharge of the accommodated developer and including a sealing member for sealing the opening by being bonded to said flexible container at a bonding portions and for exposing the opening by being moved;

a frame for accommodating said developer

accommodating container and said sealing member; and which includes a fixing portion for fixing said flexible container,

an unsealing member, provided rotatably on said frame, for unsealing the opening by peeling said sealing member from said developer accommodating container by winding said sealing member around a rotation shaft, wherein said unsealing member includes, in the case where said unsealing member is seen along a surface of said sealing member, a folded-back portion between the bonding portion and a portion where said unsealing member is mounted,

wherein said frame is provided with a fixing portion for suppressing movement of said flexible container when said unsealing member is moved, and

wherein when a flat plane which passes through said unsealing member, the opening and the fixing portion and which is perpendicular to the rotation shaft of said unsealing member is seen,

of the bonding portions which opposes to each other via the opening, in the case where the bonding portions are seen along the surface of said sealing member, the bonding portion in a side near the folded-back portion is a first bonding portion,

wherein of the first bonding portion, a point at an end portion in a side near the opening is a first point,

wherein a distance measured from the fixing portion to the first point along said flexible container with respect to a direction which does not include the opening is M1,

wherein a distance measured from the fixing portion to the first point along said flexible container with respect to a direction including the opening is M2, and

wherein M1 < M2 is satisfied.

8. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 7, wherein the bonding portion opposing the first bonding portion via the opening is a second bonding portion,

wherein of the first bonding portion, a point at an end portion in a side remote from the opening is a second point,

wherein of the second bonding portion, a point at an end portion in a side remote from the opening is a third point,

wherein when bonding at the first bonding portion is unsealed by said unsealing member, a portion where said unsealing member applies a force to said sealing member is a force application point portion,

wherein a distance between the second point and the third point is L1,

wherein a distance between the second point and the force application point portion is L2, and

wherein L1 < L2 is satisfied.

9. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 7 or 8, wherein said flexible container is fixed to said frame so that a position of said developer accommodating container is changed between a time before and unsealing member moves said sealing member to perform an unsealing operation and a time when the unsealing operation is started to unseal the bonding at the first bonding portion.

10. A developer accommodating container for accommodating a developer, wherein said developer accommodating container comprises:

a flexible container provided with an opening for permitting discharge of the developer; and

a sealing member capable of sealing the opening by being bonded to said flexible container at bonding portions and capable of exposing the opening by being moved,

wherein said sealing member is provided, in an end side, with a portion-to-be-engaged to be engaged with an unsealing member for unsealing, said sealing member by moving said sealing member,

wherein said flexible container is provided

with a portion-to-be-fixed to be fixed to a frame for accommodating said developer accommodating container to suppress movement of said flexible container at a time of an unsealing operation of said unsealing member, and

wherein when a flat plane which passes through the portion-to-be-engaged, the opening and the portion-to-be-fixed and which is perpendicular to a flat surface of said sealing member is seen,

of the bonding portions which opposes to each other via the opening, in the case where the bonding portions are seen along the surface of said sealing member, the bonding portion in a side near the portion-to-be-engaged is a first bonding portion,

wherein of the first bonding portion, a point at an end portion in a side near the opening is a first point,

wherein a distance measured from the fixing portion to the first point along the developer accommodating container with respect to a direction which does not include the opening is M1,

wherein a sum of a distance measured from the fixing portion to the first point along the developer accommodating container with respect to a direction including the opening, and the opening is M2, and

wherein $M1 < M2$ is satisfied.

11. A developer accommodating unit according to any one of Claims 1 - 9, further comprising a developer carrying member for carrying the developer for developing a latent image.

12. 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 to 9 and 11 and an electrophotographic photosensitive member are integral with each other, or is a process cartridge in which a developer accommodating unit according to Claim 10 and the electrophotographic photosensitive member are integral with each other.

13. An electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising a process cartridge according to Claim 12.

14. (Added) A developer accommodating unit according to any of Claims 1 - 13, wherein said flexible container is a bag.

15. (Added) A developer accommodating unit according to any of Claims 1 - 14, further comprising a frame for accommodating said unsealing member.

16. (Added) A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 15, wherein said frame includes a fixing portion for fixing said flexible container.

17. (Added) A developer accommodating unit according to any of Claims 14 - 16, wherein said flexible container is constituted by a sheet.

18. (Added) A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 17, wherein the sheet is 0.03 mm - 0.15 mm in thickness.

19. (Added) A developer accommodating unit according to any one of Claims 1 - 18, wherein said flexible container included a portion having air permeability and a portion having no air permeability.

20. (Added) A developer accommodating unit according to any one of Claims 1 - 19, wherein said flexible container comprises any of polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polyethylene (PE) and polypropylene (PP).

21. (Added) A developer accommodating unit for accommodating a developer, comprising:

a flexible container provided with an opening for permitting discharge of the accommodated

developer;

a sealing member for sealing the opening so as to cover the opening and for exposing the opening by being moved;

an unsealing member, mounted on said sealing member, for moving said sealing member; and

a frame for accommodating said unsealing member,

wherein said frame includes a fixing portion for fixing said flexible container.

22. (Added) A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 21, wherein an end of said sealing member is bonded to a periphery of the opening at a bonding portion, and

wherein when the bonding portion is started to be peeled, a narrow angle of said sealing member between a side where said sealing member is bonded to the bonding portion and a side along a movement direction is 90 degrees or less.

23. (Added) A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 21 or 22, wherein said flexible container is provided with a portion-to-be-fixed to be fixed to the fixing portion of said frame.

24. (Added) A developer accommodating unit

according to Claim 21 or 22, wherein said flexible container includes a portion-to-be-fixed, and

wherein the portion-to-be-fixed is to be fixed to said frame via a connecting member to be fixed to the fixing portion of said frame.

25. (Added) A developer accommodating unit according to Claims 21 - 24, wherein the fixing portion is provided along a direction substantially perpendicular to a movement direction of said sealing member.

26. (Added) A developer accommodating unit according to any one of Claims 21 - 25, wherein said sealing member is wound up by said unsealing member so as to be peeled from a side near the fixing portion.

27. (Added) A developer accommodating unit according to any one of Claims 1 - 19, wherein when a flat plane which passes through said unsealing member, the opening and a fixing portion and which is perpendicular to the rotation shaft of said unsealing member is seen,

of bonding portions which opposes to each other via the opening, in the case where the bonding portions are seen along the surface of said sealing member, the bonding portion in a side near a

folded-back portion is a first bonding portion, wherein of the first bonding portion, a point at an end portion in a side near the opening is a first point,

wherein a distance measured from the fixing portion to the first point along said flexible container with respect to a direction which does not include the opening is M1,

wherein a distance measured from the fixing portion to the first point along said flexible container with respect to a direction including the opening is M2, and

wherein $M1 < M2$ is satisfied.

CLAIMS

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

a flexible container provided with an opening for permitting discharge of the accommodated developer;

a sealing member for sealing the opening and for exposing the opening by being wound up;

an unsealing member, mounted on said sealing member, for unsealing said sealing member by winding up said sealing member; and

a frame for accommodating said unsealing member,

wherein said frame includes a fixing portion for fixing said flexible container

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

a flexible container provided with an opening for permitting discharge of the accommodated developer;

a sealing member for sealing the opening so as to cover the opening and for exposing the opening by being moved;

an unsealing member, mounted on said sealing member, for moving said sealing member; and

a frame for accommodating said unsealing member,

wherein said frame includes a fixing portion for fixing said flexible container.

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

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

5. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 4, wherein the sheet is 0.03 mm - 0.15 mm in thickness.

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

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

8. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 1, wherein an end of said sealing member is bonded to a periphery of the opening at a bonding portion, and

wherein when the bonding portion is started to be peeled, a narrow angle of said sealing member between a side where said sealing member is bonded to the bonding portion and a side along a movement direction is 90 degrees or less.

9. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 1, wherein said flexible container is provided with a portion-to-be-fixed to be fixed to a fixing portion of a frame.

10. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 1, wherein said flexible container includes a portion-to-be-fixed, and

wherein the portion-to-be-fixed is to be fixed to a frame via a connecting member to be fixed to a fixing portion of the frame.

11. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 1, wherein the fixing portion is provided along a direction substantially perpendicular to a movement direction of said sealing member.

12. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 1, wherein said sealing member is peeled from a side near the fixing portion.

13. A developer accommodating unit according to any one of Claim 1, wherein when a flat plane which passes through said unsealing member, the opening and a fixing portion and which is perpendicular to the rotation shaft of said unsealing member is seen,

of bonding portions which opposes to each other via the opening, in the case where the bonding portions are seen along the surface of said sealing member, the bonding portion in a side near a folded-back portion is a first bonding portion, wherein of the first bonding portion, a point at an end portion in a side near the opening is a first point,

wherein a distance measured from the fixing portion to the first point along said flexible container with respect to a direction which does not include the opening is M1,

wherein a distance measured from the fixing portion to the first point along said flexible container with respect to a direction including the opening is M2, and

wherein $M1 < M2$ is satisfied.

14. A developer accommodating unit for accommodating a developer for image formation, wherein said developer accommodating unit comprises:

a developer accommodating container including a flexible container provided with an opening for permitting discharge of the accommodated developer and including a sealing member for sealing the opening by being bonded to said flexible container at a bonding portions and for exposing the opening by being moved;

a frame for accommodating said developer accommodating container and said sealing member; and which includes a fixing portion for fixing said flexible container,

an unsealing member, provided rotatably on said frame, for unsealing the opening by peeling said sealing member from said developer accommodating container by winding said sealing member around a rotation shaft, wherein said unsealing member includes, in the case where said unsealing member is seen along a surface of said sealing member, a folded-back portion between the bonding portion and a portion where said unsealing member is mounted,

wherein said frame is provided with a fixing portion for suppressing movement of said flexible container when said unsealing member is moved, and

wherein when a flat plane which passes through said unsealing member, the opening and the fixing portion and which is perpendicular to the rotation shaft of said unsealing member is seen,

of the bonding portions which opposes to each other via the opening, in the case where the bonding portions are seen along the surface of said sealing member, the bonding portion in a side near the folded-back portion is a first bonding portion, wherein of the first bonding portion, a point at an end portion in a side near the opening is a first point,

wherein a distance measured from the fixing portion to the first point along said flexible container with respect to a direction which does not include the opening is M1,

wherein a distance measured from the fixing portion to the first point along said flexible container with respect to a direction including the opening is M2, and

wherein $M1 < M2$ is satisfied.

15. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 14, wherein the bonding portion opposing the first bonding portion via the opening is a second bonding portion,

wherein of the first bonding portion, a point at an end portion in a side remote from the opening is a second point,

wherein of the second bonding portion, a point at an end portion in a side remote from the opening is a third point,

wherein when bonding at the first bonding portion is unsealed by said unsealing member, a portion where said unsealing member applies a force to said sealing member is a force application point portion,

wherein a distance between the second point and the third point is L1,

wherein a distance between the second point and the force application point portion is L2, and

wherein $L1 < L2$ is satisfied.

16. A developer accommodating unit according to Claim 14, wherein said flexible container is fixed to said frame so that a position of said developer accommodating container is changed between a time before and unsealing member moves said sealing member to perform an unsealing operation and a time when the unsealing operation is started to unseal the bonding at the first bonding portion.

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

18. A developer accommodating container for accommodating a developer, wherein said developer accommodating container comprises:

a flexible container provided with an opening for permitting discharge of the developer; and

a sealing member capable of sealing the opening by being bonded to said flexible container at bonding portions and capable of exposing the opening by being moved,

wherein said sealing member is provided, in an end side, with a portion-to-be-engaged to be engaged with an unsealing member for unsealing, said sealing member by moving said sealing member,

wherein said flexible container is provided with a portion-to-be-fixed to be fixed to a frame for accommodating said developer accommodating container to suppress movement of said flexible container at a time of an unsealing operation of said unsealing member, and

wherein when a flat plane which passes through the portion-to-be-engaged, the opening and the portion-to-be-fixed and which is perpendicular to a flat surface of said sealing member is seen,

of the bonding portions which opposes to each other via the opening, in the case where the bonding portions are seen along the surface of said sealing member, the bonding portion in a side near the portion-to-be-engaged is a first bonding portion, wherein of the first bonding portion, a point at an end portion in a side near the opening is a first point,

wherein a distance measured from a fixing portion to the first point along the developer accommodating container with respect to a direction which does not include the opening is M1,

wherein a sum of a distance measured from the fixing portion to the first point along the developer accommodating container with respect to a direction including the opening, and the opening is M2, and

wherein $M1 < M2$ is satisfied.

19. 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 and an electrophotographic photosensitive member are integral with each other, or is a process cartridge in which a developer accommodating container according to Claim 18 and the electrophotographic photosensitive member are integral with each other.

20. An image forming apparatus comprising any one of:
a developer accommodating unit according to Claim 1; and
a process cartridge according to claim 19.