

CLAIMS

1. A cartridge mountable, along a predetermined mounting path, to a main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus including (i) a photosensitive member on which a latent image is capable of being formed, (ii) a main assembly driving shaft, and (iii) an abutting portion, 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 which is retracted from the developing position and which is away 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;

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;

an urging portion for applying an urging force to incline said coupling member relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member and to urge said coupling member to the at-spaced attitude or the at-mounting attitude; and

a movable member including (i) a movable portion being different from the urging portion and 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 and (ii) a force receiving portion for receiving a force, from the abutting portion, for moving said movable portion from the first movement position to the second movement position.

2. A cartridge according to Claim 1, further comprising an urging member including said urging portion.

3. A cartridge according to Claim 2, 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.

4. A cartridge according to Claim 3, 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.

5. A cartridge according to Claim 1, 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.

6. A cartridge according to Claim 1, 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.

7. A cartridge according to Claim 2, wherein said urging member and said movable member are provided separately so that said urging portion and said movable portion are movable independently from each other.

8. A cartridge according to Claim 2, wherein said urging member is mounted to said movable member so that said urging portion moves together with said movable portion.

9. A cartridge according to Claim 2, wherein said movable portion is capable of urging said urging member.

10. A cartridge according to Claim 2, 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.

11. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said urging portion and said movable portion constitute a unitary part.

12. A cartridge according to Claim 1, 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.

13. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein as seen along an axial direction of said developer carrying member, 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 are perpendicular to each other.

14. A cartridge according to Claim 13, 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 20 to 150.

15. A cartridge according to Claim 14, 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 30 to 120.

16. A cartridge according to Claim 15, 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 of 75.

17. A cartridge according to Claim 1, 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 rotational axis of said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude is not more than 30.

18. A cartridge according to Claim 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 rotational axis of said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude is 5.

19. A cartridge according to Claim 1, 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 rotational axis of said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-mounting attitude is a value in the range of 45 to 95.

20. A cartridge according to Claim 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 rotational axis of said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-mounting attitude is 70.

21. A cartridge according to Claim 1, 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 20 to 60.

22. A cartridge according to Claim 1, 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 20 to 60.

23. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said urging portion is capable of directly urging said coupling member.

24. A cartridge according to Claim 2, further comprising an urging elastic member.

25. A cartridge according to Claim 24, wherein said urging portion is provided at a part of said urging elastic member.

26. A cartridge according to Claim 24, wherein said urging elastic member includes a spring.

27. A cartridge according to Claim 26, wherein said spring is a torsion spring.

28. A cartridge according to Claim 26, wherein said spring is a coil spring.

29. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said movable portion is capable of taking a movement reference position for placing said coupling member in the reference attitude.

30. A cartridge according to Claim 29, wherein for said movable portion, said movement reference position and said second movement are in the same position.

31. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said movable member includes an elastic member for movement.

32. A cartridge according to Claim 31, wherein said elastic member for movement includes said movable portion.

33. A cartridge according to Claim 31, wherein said elastic member for movement includes a spring.

34. A cartridge according to Claim 33, wherein said spring is a torsion spring.

35. A cartridge according to Claim 33, wherein said spring is a coil spring.

36. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said movable member is rotatable.

37. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said movable member is provided with said force receiving portion at one end thereof and said movable portion at the other end thereof.

38. A cartridge according to Claim 1, further comprising a developing blade positioned next to said developing carrying member, 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 said developing blade.

39. A cartridge according to Claim 1, 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, a connecting portion connecting said free end portion and said connection end portion.

40. A cartridge according to Claim 39, wherein said coupling member includes a positioned portion to be positioned relative to said cartridge when taking said at-spaced attitude or the at-mounting attitude.

41. A cartridge according to Claim 40, wherein the positioned portion is provided at said connecting portion.

42. A cartridge according to Claim 40, wherein said positioned portion is provided at said connection end portion.

43. A cartridge according to Claim 42, wherein said positioned portion is provided projected from said connection end portion.

44. A cartridge according to Claim 40, further comprising an at-spaced positioning portion for positioning said positioned portion to cause said coupling member to take the at-spaced attitude.

45. A cartridge according to Claim 44, further comprising a cartridge frame provided with said at-spaced positioning portion.

46. A cartridge according to Claim 45, wherein said cartridge frame includes a supporting member for supporting said developer carrying member, and said supporting member includes said at-spaced positioning portion.

47. A cartridge according to Claim 40, further comprising an at-mounting positioning portion for positioning said positioned portion to cause said coupling member to take the at-mounting attitude.

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

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

50. A cartridge according to Claim 39, wherein a maximum outer diameter of at least one of said connecting portion in a cross section is smaller than a distance between the rotational axis of said coupling member and radially inside of said rotational force receiving portion in a direction perpendicular to said rotational axis of said coupling member.

51. A cartridge according to Claim 39, wherein said urging portion urges said connecting portion.

52. 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 said movable member and an urging member including said urging portion are provided on said end member.

53. A cartridge mountable, along a predetermined mounting path, to a main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus including a main assembly driving shaft and an abutting portion, 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 developing position;

- 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;

- an urging portion for applying an urging force to incline said coupling member relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member and to urge said coupling member to the at-spaced attitude or the at-mounting attitude; and

- a movable member including (i) a movable portion being different from the urging portion and 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 and (ii) a force receiving portion for receiving a force from the abutting portion for moving said movable portion from the first movement position to the second movement position.

54. A cartridge according to Claim 53, further comprising an urging member including said urging portion.

55. A cartridge according to Claim 54, 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.

56. A cartridge according to Claim 55, 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.

57. A cartridge according to Claim 53, 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.

58. A cartridge according to Claim 53, 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.

59. A cartridge according to Claim 54, wherein said urging member and said movable member are provided separately so that said urging portion and said movable portion are movable independently from each other.

60. A cartridge according to Claim 54, wherein said urging member is mounted to said movable member so that said urging portion moves together with said movable portion.

61. A cartridge according to Claim 54, wherein said movable portion is capable of urging said urging member.

62. A cartridge according to Claim 54, 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.

63. A cartridge according to Claim 53, wherein said urging portion and said movable portion constitute a unitary part.

64. A cartridge according to Claim 53, 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.

65. A cartridge according to Claim 53, wherein as seen along an axial direction of said developer carrying member, 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 are perpendicular to each other.

66. A cartridge according to Claim 65, 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 20 to 150.

67. A cartridge according to Claim 66, 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 30 to 120.

68. A cartridge according to Claim 67, 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 of 75.

69. A cartridge according to Claim 53, 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 rotational axis of said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude is not more than 30.

70. A cartridge according to Claim 69, 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 rotational axis of said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude is 5.

71. A cartridge according to Claim 53, 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 rotational axis of said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member

taking the at-mounting attitude is a value in the range of 45 to 95.

72. A cartridge according to Claim 71, 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 rotational axis of said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-mounting attitude is 70.

73. A cartridge according to Claim 53, 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 20 to 60.

74. A cartridge according to Claim 53, 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 20 to 60.

75. A cartridge according to Claim 53, wherein said urging portion is capable of directly urging said coupling member.

76. A cartridge according to Claim 54, further comprising an urging elastic member.

77. A cartridge according to Claim 76, wherein said urging portion is provided at a part of said urging elastic member.

78. A cartridge according to Claim 76, wherein said urging elastic member includes a spring.

79. A cartridge according to Claim 78, wherein said spring is a torsion spring.

80. A cartridge according to Claim 78, wherein said spring is a coil spring.

81. A cartridge according to Claim 53, wherein said movable portion is capable of taking a movement reference position for placing said coupling member in the reference attitude.

82. A cartridge according to Claim 81, wherein for said movable portion, said movement reference position and said second movement are in the same position.

83. A cartridge according to Claim 53, wherein said movable member includes an elastic member for movement.

84. A cartridge according to Claim 83, wherein said elastic member for movement includes said movable portion.

85. A cartridge according to Claim 83, wherein said elastic member for movement includes a spring.

86. A cartridge according to Claim 85, wherein said spring is a torsion spring.

87. A cartridge according to Claim 85, wherein said spring is a coil spring.

88. A cartridge according to Claim 53, wherein said movable member is rotatable.

89. A cartridge according to Claim 53, further comprising a developing blade positioned next to said developing carrying member.

90. A cartridge according to Claim 53, wherein said movable member is provided with said force receiving portion at one end thereof and said movable portion at the other end thereof.

91. A cartridge according to Claim 89, 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 said developing blade.

92. A cartridge according to Claim 53, 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, a connecting portion connecting said free end portion and said connection end portion.

93. A cartridge according to Claim 92, wherein said coupling member includes a positioned portion to be positioned relative to said cartridge when taking said at-spaced attitude or the at-mounting attitude.

94. A cartridge according to Claim 93, wherein the positioned portion is provided at said connecting portion.

95. A cartridge according to Claim 93, wherein said positioned portion is provided at said connection end portion.

96. A cartridge according to Claim 95, wherein said positioned portion is

provided projected from said connection end portion.

97. A cartridge according to Claim 93, further comprising an at-spaced positioning portion for positioning said positioned portion to cause said coupling member to take the at-spaced attitude.

98. A cartridge according to Claim 97, further comprising a cartridge frame provided with said at-spaced positioning portion.

99. A cartridge according to Claim 98, wherein said cartridge frame includes a supporting member for supporting said developer carrying member, and said supporting member includes said at-spaced positioning portion.

100. A cartridge according to Claim 93, further comprising an at-mounting positioning portion for positioning said positioned portion to cause said coupling member to take the at-mounting attitude.

101. A cartridge according to Claim 100, further comprising a cartridge frame provided with said at-mounting positioning portion.

102. A cartridge according to Claim 101, wherein said cartridge frame includes a supporting member for supporting said developer carrying member, and said supporting member includes the at-mounting positioning portion.

103. A cartridge according to Claim 92, wherein a maximum outer diameter of at least one of said connecting portion in a cross section is smaller than a distance between the rotational axis of said coupling member and radially inside of said rotational force receiving portion in a direction perpendicular to said rotational axis of said coupling member.

104. A cartridge according to Claim 53, wherein with movement of said developer carrying member from the developing position to the retracted position, said coupling member moves from the reference attitude to the at-spaced attitude.

105. A cartridge according to Claim 53, wherein said main assembly further includes another main assembly driving shaft, and said cartridge including another coupling member capable of transferring the driving force from the another main assembly driving shaft to said photosensitive member.

106. A cartridge according to Claim 53, 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 said movable member is provided on said photosensitive member side supporting frame, and an urging member including said urging portion is provided on said development side supporting frame.

107. A cartridge detachably mountable to an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, said cartridge comprising:

- i) a rotatable developer carrying member;
- ii) a coupling member for transmitting a rotational force to said developer carrying member and capable of taking a reference attitude parallel with a rotational axis of said developer carrying member and offset therefrom, a first inclination attitude inclined toward said developer carrying member, and a second inclination attitude inclined in a direction different from that in the first inclination attitude;
- iii) an urging portion for urging said coupling member to incline rotational axis of said coupling member relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member and to urge said coupling member to the at-spaced attitude or the at-mounting attitude; and
- iv) a movable member including (i) a movable portion being different from the urging portion and capable of taking a first movement position for causing said coupling member to take the first inclination attitude and a second movement position for causing said coupling member to take the second inclination attitude and (ii) a force receiving portion for receiving a force for moving said movable portion from the first movement position to the second movement position.

108. A cartridge according to Claim 107, further comprising an urging member provided with said urging portion.

109. A cartridge according to Claim 107, 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.

110. A cartridge according to Claim 109, 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.

111. A cartridge according to Claim 109 or 110, wherein when said coupling member takes the first inclination 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 second inclination attitude, said urging portion and said movable portion both contact said coupling member.

112. A cartridge according to Claim 109 or 110, wherein said urging portion and said movable portion both contact said coupling member, when said coupling member takes the first inclination attitude, and when said coupling member takes the second inclination attitude.

113. A cartridge according to Claim 109 or 110, wherein said urging member and said movable member are provided separately so that said urging portion and

said movable portion move independently from each other.

114. A cartridge according to Claim 109 or 110, wherein said urging member is mounted to said movable member so that said urging portion moves together with said movable portion.

115. A cartridge according to Claim 109 or 110, wherein said movable portion is capable of urging said urging member.

116. A cartridge according to Claim 115, wherein when said coupling member takes the second inclination attitude, said movable portion urges said urging member; and when said coupling member takes the first inclination attitude, said urging portion urges said coupling member, and said movable portion is spaced from said urging member.

117. A cartridge according to Claim 109 or 110, wherein said urging portion and said movable portion constitute a unitary part.

118. A cartridge according to Claim 109 or 110, wherein when said coupling member takes the first inclination 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 second inclination attitude, said urging portion is spaced from said coupling member, and said movable portion urges said coupling member.

119. A cartridge according to Claim 107, wherein as seen along an axial direction of said developer carrying member, the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the first inclination attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the second inclination attitude are substantially crossed with each other.

120. A cartridge according to Claim 119, wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, an angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member when it takes the first inclination attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member when it takes the second inclination attitude is a value in the range of 20 to 150.

121. A cartridge according to Claim 120, wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, an angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member when it takes the first inclination attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member when it takes the second inclination attitude is a value in the range of 30 to 120.

122. A cartridge according to Claim 121, 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 first inclination attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the second inclination attitude is 75.

123. A cartridge according to Claim 107, 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 rotational axis of said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the first inclination attitude is not more than 30.

124. A cartridge according to Claim 123, wherein as seen along the axial direction of said developer carrying member, a line connecting a center of inclination of said coupling member and said rotational axis of said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the first inclination attitude is 5.

125. A cartridge according to Claim 107, 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 rotational axis of said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the second inclination attitude is a value in the range of 45 to 95.

126. A cartridge according to Claim 125, 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 rotational axis of said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the second inclination attitude is 70.

127. A cartridge according to Claim 107, wherein an angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the first inclined attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the reference attitude is a value in the range of 20 to 60.

128. A cartridge according to Claim 107, wherein an angle formed between the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the second inclination attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the reference attitude is a value in the range of 20 to 60.

129. A cartridge according to Claim 107, wherein said urging portion is capable of directly urging said coupling member.

130. A cartridge according to Claim 108, further comprising an urging elastic member.

131. A cartridge according to Claim 130, wherein said urging portion is provided at a part of said urging elastic member.

132. A cartridge according to Claim 130 or 131, wherein said urging elastic member includes a spring.

133. A cartridge according to Claim 132, wherein said spring is a torsion spring.

134. A cartridge according to Claim 132, wherein said spring is a coil spring.

135. A cartridge according to Claim 107, wherein said movable portion is capable of taking a movement reference position for placing said coupling member in the reference attitude.

136. A cartridge according to Claim 135, wherein for said movable portion, said movement reference position and said second movement position are in the same position.

137. A cartridge according to Claim 107, wherein said movable member includes an elastic member for movement.

138. A cartridge according to Claim 137, wherein said elastic member for movement includes said movable portion.

139. A cartridge according to Claim 137 or 138, wherein said elastic member for movement includes a spring.

140. A cartridge according to Claim 139, wherein said spring is a torsion spring.

141. A cartridge according to Claim 139, wherein said spring is a coil spring.

142. A cartridge according to Claim 107, wherein said movable member is rotatable.

143. A cartridge according to Claim 107, wherein said movable member is provided with said force receiving portion at one end thereof and said movable portion at the other end thereof.

144. A cartridge according to Claim 107 or 108, 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 said developing blade.

145. A cartridge according to Claim 107, 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, a connecting portion connecting said free end portion and said connection end portion.

146. A cartridge according to Claim 145, 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.

147. A cartridge according to Claim 146, wherein the positioned portion is provided at said connecting portion.

148. A cartridge according to Claim 146, wherein said positioned portion is provided at said connection end portion.

149. A cartridge according to Claim 148, wherein said positioned portion is provided projected from said connection end portion.

150. A cartridge according to Claim 146, further comprising an at-spaced positioning portion for positioning said positioned portion to cause said coupling member to take the at-spaced attitude.

151. A cartridge according to Claim 150, further comprising a cartridge frame provided with said at-spaced positioning portion.

152. A cartridge according to Claim 151, wherein said cartridge frame includes a supporting member for supporting said developer carrying member, and said supporting member includes said at-spaced positioning portion.

153. A cartridge according to Claim 146, further comprising an at-mounting positioning portion for positioning said positioned portion to cause said coupling member to take the at-mounting attitude.

154. A cartridge according to Claim 153, further comprising a cartridge frame provided with said at-mounting positioning portion.

155. A cartridge according to Claim 154, wherein said cartridge frame includes a supporting member for supporting said developer carrying member, and said supporting member includes the at-mounting positioning portion.

156. A cartridge according to Claim 145, wherein a maximum rotation radius of at least one of said connecting portion is smaller than a distance between the rotational axis of said developer carrying member and said rotational force receiving portion.

157. A cartridge according to Claim 145, wherein said urging portion urges said connecting portion.

158. A cartridge according to Claim 107, further comprising a cartridge frame rotatably supporting said developer carrying member, and an end member provided at an end portion of said cartridge frame, wherein said movable member and a urging member including said urging portion are provided on said end member.

159. A cartridge according to Claim 107, further comprising a rotatable photosensitive member and which a latent image to be developed by said developer carrying member is capable of being formed.

160. A cartridge according to Claim 159, wherein as seen along the rotational axis of said developer carrying member, said developer carrying member is disposed between a pivoting center of said coupling member and a rotational axis of said photosensitive member.

161. A cartridge according to Claim 159 or 160, wherein said developer carrying member is movable between a contacting position where it is contacted with said photosensitive member and a spacing position where it is spaced from said photosensitive member.

162. A cartridge detachably mountable to an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, said cartridge comprising:

- i) a rotatable developer carrying member;
- ii) a coupling member for transmitting a rotational force to said developer carrying member and capable of taking a reference attitude in parallel with a rotational axis of said developer carrying member, a first inclination attitude inclined from the reference attitude in a predetermined direction, a second inclination attitude inclined in a direction different from the predetermined direction of said first inclination attitude;
- iii) an urging portion for urging said coupling member to incline rotational axis of said coupling member relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member and to urge said coupling member to the first inclination attitude or the second inclination attitude; and
- iv) a movable member including (i) a movable portion being different from the urging portion and capable of taking a first movement position for causing said coupling member to take the first inclination attitude and a second movement position for causing said coupling member to take the second inclination attitude and (ii) a force receiving portion for receiving a force for moving said movable portion from the first movement position to the second movement position.

163. A cartridge detachably mountable to an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, said cartridge comprising:

- i) a rotatable developer carrying member;
- ii) a coupling member for transmitting a rotational force to said developer carrying member and capable of taking a reference attitude parallel with a rotational axis of said developer carrying member and offset therefrom, a first inclination attitude inclined toward said developer carrying member, and a second inclination attitude inclined in a direction different from that in the first inclination attitude;
- iii) an urging member for urging said coupling member to incline it to the first inclination attitude or the second inclination attitude; and
- iv) a movable member being different from the urging portion and movable to cause said coupling member to take the first inclination attitude and the second inclination attitude and including a force receiving portion for receiving a force for moving said movable portion.

164. A cartridge according to Claim 163, wherein said urging member includes an elastic member.

165. A cartridge according to Claim 164, wherein said elastic member includes a spring.

166. A cartridge according to Claim 164 or 165, wherein said movable member is capable of taking an urging position of urging said coupling member to the second inclination attitude against an elastic force of said elastic member and a retracted position retracted from the urging position to permit said coupling member to take the first inclination attitude.

167. A cartridge according to Claim 163, wherein said movable member includes an additional elastic member.

168. A cartridge according to Claim 167, wherein said additional elastic member includes a spring.

169. A cartridge according to Claim 163, further comprising a first inclination regulating portion for positioning said coupling member at the first inclination attitude.

170. A cartridge according to Claim 169, further comprising a cartridge frame provided with said first inclination regulating portion.

171. A cartridge according to Claim 169, wherein said cartridge frame includes a supporting member for supporting said developer carrying member, and said supporting member is provided with said first inclination regulating portion.

172. A cartridge according to Claim 169, wherein said coupling member includes a projected positioned portion which is positioned by an at-spaced positioning portion.

173. A cartridge according to Claim 163, further comprising a second inclination regulating portion for positioning said coupling member at the second inclination attitude.

174. A cartridge according to Claim 173, further comprising a cartridge frame provided with said second inclination regulating portion.

175. A cartridge according to Claim 174, wherein said cartridge frame includes a supporting member for supporting said developer carrying member, and said supporting member is provided with said second inclination regulating portion.

176. A cartridge according to Claim 173, wherein said coupling member includes a projected positioned portion which is positioned by said at-mounting positioning portion.

177. A cartridge according to Claim 163, wherein when said coupling member takes the first inclination attitude, an angle formed between a rotational axis of said coupling member and the rotational axis of said developer carrying member is a value in the range of 20 to 60.

178. A cartridge according to Claim 163, wherein when said coupling member takes the second inclination attitude, an angle formed between a rotational axis of said coupling member and the rotational axis of said developer carrying member is a value in the range of 20 to 60.

179. A cartridge according to Claim 163, wherein as seen along the rotational axis of said developer carrying member, an angle formed between a rotational axis of said coupling member in the first inclination attitude and the rotational axis of said coupling member in the second inclination attitude is a value in the range of 30 to 120.

180. A cartridge according to Claim 163, 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, a connecting portion connecting said free end portion and said connection end portion.

181. A cartridge according to Claim 180, 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.

182. An electrophotographic image forming apparatus for forming an image

on a recording material, said apparatus comprising:

i) a main assembly including (i) a photosensitive member on which a latent image is capable of being formed, (ii) a main assembly driving shaft and (iii) a movable guide movable in the main assembly and having a guide portion and a positioning portion; and

ii) a cartridge mountable, along a predetermined mounting path, to the main assembly, wherein said cartridge is guided by the guide portion during a process of mounting said cartridge along the predetermined mounting path, wherein said cartridge positioned by the positioning portion in a predetermined position is reciprocatingly movable in the main assembly together with the movable guide 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 portion-to-be-guided guided by the guide portion of the movable guide;

ii-ii) a portion-to-be-positioned positioned by the positioning portion of the movable guide;

ii-iii) 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-iv) 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.

183. 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;

ii) an abutting portion; and

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

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

iii-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;

iii-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 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, an at-mounting attitude inclined relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member to engage with the main assembly side 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 side driving shaft when said developer carrying member is moved from the retracted position to the developing position;

iii-iv) an urging portion for applying an urging force to incline said coupling member relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member and to urge said coupling member to the at-spaced attitude or the at-mounting attitude;

iii-v) a movable member including (i) a movable portion being different from the urging portion and 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 and (ii) a force receiving portion for receiving a force from the abutting portion for moving said movable portion from the first movement position to the second movement position.

184. A cartridge mountable, along a predetermined mounting path, to a main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus including (i) a photosensitive member on which a latent image is capable of being formed, (ii) a main assembly driving shaft, and (iii) an abutting portion, 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;

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 side driving shaft when said cartridge is moved from the developing position to the retracted position;

an urging portion for applying an urging force to incline said coupling member relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member and to urge said coupling member to the at-spaced attitude or the at-dismounting attitude; and

a movable member including (i) a movable portion being different from the urging portion and 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-dismounting attitude and (ii) a force receiving portion for receiving a force from the abutting portion for moving said movable portion from the first movement position to the second movement position.

185. A cartridge mountable, along a predetermined mounting path, to a main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus including a main assembly driving shaft and an abutting portion, 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;

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 side 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;

an urging portion for applying an urging force to incline said coupling member relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member and to urge said coupling member to the at-spaced attitude or the at-dismounting attitude;

a movable member including (i) a movable portion being different from the urging portion and 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-dismounting attitude and (ii) a force receiving portion for receiving a force from the abutting portion for moving said movable portion from the first movement position to the second movement position.

186. A cartridge mountable, along a predetermined mounting path, to a main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus including (i) a photosensitive member on which a latent image is capable of being formed, (ii) a main assembly driving shaft, and (iii) an abutting portion, 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;

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 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 side driving shaft when said cartridge is moved from the retracted position to the developing position;

an urging portion for applying an urging force to incline said coupling member relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member and to urge said coupling member to the at-spaced attitude or the at-dismounting attitude; and

a movable member including (i) a movable portion being different from the urging portion and 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-dismounting attitude and (ii) a force receiving portion for receiving a force from the abutting portion for moving said movable portion from the first movement position to the second movement position.

187. A cartridge mountable, along a predetermined mounting path, to a main assembly of the electrophotographic image forming apparatus including a main assembly driving shaft and an abutting portion, 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 engage with the main assembly side 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;

an urging portion for applying an urging force to incline said coupling member relative to the rotational axis of said developer carrying member and to urge said coupling member to the at-spaced attitude or the at-dismounting attitude;

a movable member including (i) a movable portion being different from the urging portion and 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-dismounting attitude and (ii) a force receiving portion for receiving a force from the abutting portion for moving said movable portion from the first movement position to the second movement position.

188. A cartridge according to Claim 187, further comprising an urging member including said urging portion.

189. A cartridge according to Claim 188, 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.

190. A cartridge according to Claim 189, 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.

191. A cartridge according to Claim 187, wherein when said coupling member takes the at-spaced attitude, said urging portion contact said coupling member, 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.

192. A cartridge according to Claim 187, 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.

193. A cartridge according to Claim 188, wherein said urging member and said movable member are provided separately so that said urging portion and said movable portion are movable independently from each other.

194. A cartridge according to Claim 188, wherein said urging member is mounted to said movable member so that said urging portion moves together with said movable portion.

195. A cartridge according to Claim 188, wherein said movable portion is

capable of urging said urging member.

196. A cartridge according to Claim 188, 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.

197. A cartridge according to Claim 187, wherein said urging portion and said movable portion constitute a unitary part.

198. A cartridge according to Claim 187, 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.

199. A cartridge according to Claim 187, 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.

200. A cartridge according to Claim 199, 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 20 to 150.

201. A cartridge according to Claim 200, 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 30 to 120.

202. A cartridge according to Claim 201, 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 75.

203. A cartridge according to Claim 187, 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 the rotational axis of said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude is not more than 30.

204. A cartridge according to Claim 203, 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 the rotational axis of said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-spaced attitude is 5.

206. A cartridge according to Claim 187, 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 the rotational axis of said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-dismounting position is a value in the range of 45 to 95.

207. A cartridge according to Claim 206, 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 the rotational axis of said developer carrying member and the rotational axis of said coupling member taking the at-dismounting position is 70.

208. A cartridge according to Claim 187, 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 20 to 60.

209. A cartridge according to Claim 187, 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 20 to 60.

210. A cartridge according to Claim 187, wherein said urging portion is capable of directly urging said coupling member.

211. A cartridge according to Claim 188, further comprising an urging elastic member.

212. A cartridge according to Claim 211, wherein said urging portion is provided at a part of said urging elastic member.

213. A cartridge according to Claim 211, wherein said urging elastic member includes a spring.

214. A cartridge according to Claim 213, wherein said spring is a torsion spring.

215. A cartridge according to Claim 213, wherein said spring is a coil spring.

216. A cartridge according to Claim 187, wherein said movable portion is capable of taking a movement reference position for placing said coupling member in the reference attitude.

217. A cartridge according to Claim 216, wherein for said movable portion, said movement reference position and said second movement are in the same position.

218. A cartridge according to Claim 187, wherein said movable member includes an elastic member for movement.

219. A cartridge according to Claim 218, wherein said elastic member for movement includes said movable portion.

220. A cartridge according to Claim 218, wherein said elastic member for movement includes a spring.

221. A cartridge according to Claim 220, wherein said spring is a torsion spring.

222. A cartridge according to Claim 220, wherein said spring is a coil spring.

223. A cartridge according to Claim 187, wherein said movable member is rotatable.

224. A cartridge according to Claim 187, wherein said movable member is provided with said force receiving portion at one end thereof and said movable portion at the other end thereof.

225. A cartridge according to Claim 187, 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 said developing blade.

226. A cartridge according to Claim 187, 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, a connecting portion connecting said free end portion and said connection end portion.

227. A cartridge according to Claim 226, 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.

228. A cartridge according to Claim 227, wherein the positioned portion is provided at said connecting portion.

229. A cartridge according to Claim 227, wherein said positioned portion is provided at said connection end portion.

230. A cartridge according to Claim 229, wherein said positioned portion is provided projected from said connection end portion.

231. A cartridge according to Claim 227, further comprising an at-spaced positioning portion for positioning said positioned portion to cause said coupling member to take the at-spaced attitude.

232. A cartridge according to Claim 231, further comprising a cartridge frame provided with said at-spaced positioning portion.

233. A cartridge according to Claim 232, wherein said cartridge frame includes a supporting member for supporting said developer carrying member, and said supporting member includes said at-spaced positioning portion.

234. A cartridge according to Claim 227, further comprising an at-dismounting positioning portion for positioning said positioned portion to cause said coupling member to take the at-dismounting attitude.

235. A cartridge according to Claim 234, further comprising a cartridge frame provided with said at-dismounting positioning portion.

236. A cartridge according to Claim 235, wherein said cartridge frame includes a supporting member for supporting said developer carrying member, and said supporting member includes said at-dismounting positioning portion.

237. A cartridge according to Claim 226, wherein a maximum rotation radius of at least one of said connecting portion is smaller than a distance between the rotational axis of said developer carrying member and said rotational force receiving portion.

238. A cartridge according to Claim 226, wherein said urging portion urges said connecting portion.