Claims

1. A process cartridge for an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, said apparatus including a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft, wherein said process cartridge is dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said process cartridge comprising:

i) an electrophotographic photosensitive drum rotatable about a drum axis (L1) thereof;

ii) process means actable on said electrophotographic photosensitive drum; and

iii) a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis (L2) by a rotational force received from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling member including a rotational force receiving portion engageable with the rotational force applying portion to receive a rotational force to be transmitted to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum from the main assembly engaging portion, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum through said rotational force receiving portion,

wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting such that a rotational force receiving portion side of said coupling axis is positioned upstream from a rotational force transmitting portion side of said coupling axis with respect to the dismounting direction, and said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion by the pivoting.

2. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said coupling member is brought out of contact relative to the main assembly engaging portion by further movement, in the dismounting direction, of said process cartridge after the pivoting.

3. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, further comprising a rotating force receiving member for receiving the rotating force from said rotational force transmitting portion, said rotating force receiving member is fixed to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum, wherein said coupling member is pivotably coupled with said rotating force receiving member.

4. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said coupling

member is capable of disengaging from the main assembly engaging portion with pivoting of said coupling member, by said rotational force receiving portion retracting from behind the rotational force applying portion.

5. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, further comprising an urging member for urging said coupling member in a direction from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum toward the main assembly engaging portion in a state that coupling member is capable of receiving the rotational force from said main assembly engaging portion.

6. A process cartridge according to Claim 5, wherein said coupling member moves in a direction opposite an urging direction of said urging member, when said coupling member pivots.

7. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said driving shaft is provided with a semi spherical surface at a free end thereof, wherein said coupling member includes a recess, which is urged by the semi spherical surface when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

8. A process cartridge according Claim 7, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to said semi-spherical surface.

9. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said process cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

10. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, further comprising a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting of said coupling member as said process cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

11. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said cartridge is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said process cartridge in the dismounting direction thereof.

12. A process cartridge according to any one of Claims 1-11, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the

main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said drum axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

13. A process cartridge according to Claim 12, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said drum axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

14. A process cartridge for an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, said apparatus including a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft, wherein said process cartridge is dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said process cartridge comprising:

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

ii) process means actable on said electrophotographic photosensitive drum; and

iii) a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis by a rotational force received from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling member including a rotational force receiving portion engageable with the rotational force applying portion

to receive a rotational force to be transmitted to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum from the main assembly engaging portion, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum through said rotational force receiving portion, wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting so that said coupling axis inclines relative to the drum axis,

wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion is retractable from behind the rotational force applying portion by the pivoting, by which said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion.

15. A process cartridge according to Claim 14, wherein by said coupling member pivoting with movement of said process cartridge in the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion is capable of retracting from behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction.

16. A process cartridge according to Claim 14, further comprising a rotating force receiving member for receiving the rotating force from said rotational force transmitting portion, said rotating force

receiving member is fixed to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum, wherein said coupling member is pivotably coupled with said rotating force receiving member.

17. A process cartridge according to Claim 14, further comprising an urging member for urging said coupling member in a direction from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum toward the main assembly engaging portion in a state that coupling member is capable of receiving the rotational force from said main assembly engaging portion.

18. A process cartridge according to Claim 17, wherein said coupling member moves in a direction opposite an urging direction of said urging member, when said coupling member pivots.

19. A process cartridge according to any one of Claims 14, wherein the driving shaft is provided with a semi spherical surface at a free end thereof, wherein said coupling member includes a recess, which is urged by the semi spherical surface when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

20. A process cartridge according Claim 19, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding

portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to said semi-spherical surface.

21. A process cartridge according to any one of Claims 14, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said process cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

22. A process cartridge according to Claim 14, further comprising a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting of said coupling member as said process cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

23. A process cartridge according to Claim 14, wherein said cartridge is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said process cartridge in the dismounting direction thereof.

24. A process cartridge according to Claim 14, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said drum

axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

25. A process cartridge according to Claim 24, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said drum axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

26. A process cartridge for an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, said apparatus including a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft, wherein said process cartridge is dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said process cartridge comprising:

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

ii) process means actable on said electrophotographic photosensitive drum; and

iii) a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis by a rotational force received from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling member including a rotational force receiving portion engageable with the rotational force applying portion to receive a rotational force to be transmitted to

said electrophotographic photosensitive drum from the main assembly engaging portion, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum through said rotational force receiving portion, wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting so that said coupling axis inclines relative to the drum axis,

wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion is retractable from behind the rotational force applying portion by such pivoting of said coupling member that a rotational force receiving portion side of said coupling axis is positioned upstream from a rotational force transmitting portion side of said coupling axis with respect to the dismounting direction, by which said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion.

27. A process cartridge according to Claim 26, wherein by said coupling member pivoting with movement of said process cartridge in the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion is capable of retracting from behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction.

28. A process cartridge according to Claim 26, further comprising a rotating force receiving member for receiving the rotating force from said rotational force transmitting portion, said rotating force receiving member is fixed to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum, wherein said coupling member is pivotably coupled with said rotating force receiving member.

29. A process cartridge according to Claim 26, further comprising an urging member for urging said coupling member in a direction from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum toward the main assembly engaging portion in a state that coupling member is capable of receiving the rotational force from said main assembly engaging portion.

30. A process cartridge according to Claim 29, wherein said coupling member moves in a direction opposite an urging direction of said urging member, when said coupling member pivots.

31. A process cartridge according to Claim 26, wherein the driving shaft is provided with a semi spherical surface at a free end thereof, wherein said coupling member includes a recess, which is urged by the semi spherical surface when said coupling member

receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

32. A process cartridge according Claim 31, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to said semi-spherical surface.

33. A process cartridge according to Claim 26, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said process cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

34. A process cartridge according to Claim 26, further comprising a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting of said coupling member as said process cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

35. A process cartridge according to Claim 26, wherein said cartridge is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said process cartridge in the dismounting direction thereof.

36. A process cartridge according to Claims 26 - 35, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said drum axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

37. A process cartridge according to Claim 36, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said drum axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

38. A process cartridge for an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, said apparatus including a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft, wherein said process cartridge is dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said process cartridge comprising:

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

ii) process means actable on said electrophotographic photosensitive drum; and

iii) a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis to transmit a rotational force for

rotating said electrophotographic photosensitive drum, said coupling member including a plurality of rotational force receiving portions provided on a phantom circle about the coupling axis at diametrically opposite positions, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum through said rotational force receiving portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotable so that said coupling axis inclines relative to the drum axis;

iv) a rotating force receiving member for receiving the rotating force from the rotational force transmitting portion, said rotating force receiving member is fixed to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum, wherein said coupling member is pivotably connected with said rotational force receiving member,

wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting such that with movement of said process cartridge in the dismounting direction, a rotational force receiving portion side of the coupling axis is positioned upstream from a rotational force transmitting portion side of the coupling axis with respect to the dismounting direction,

wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction,

said rotational force receiving portion is retractable from behind the rotational force applying portion by the pivoting of said coupling member, by which said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion.

39. A process cartridge according to Claim 38, further comprising an urging member for urging said coupling member in a direction from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum toward the main assembly engaging portion in a state that coupling member is capable of receiving the rotational force from said main assembly engaging portion.

40. A process cartridge according to Claim 39, wherein said coupling member moves in a direction opposite an urging direction of said urging member, when said coupling member pivots.

41. A process cartridge according to Claim 38, wherein the driving shaft is provided with a semi spherical surface at a free end thereof, wherein said coupling member includes a recess, which is urged by the semi spherical surface when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

42. A process cartridge according Claim 41, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to said semi-spherical surface.

43. A process cartridge according to Claim 38, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said process cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

44. A process cartridge according to Claim 38, further comprising a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting of said coupling member as said process cartridge is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

45. A process cartridge according to Claim 38, wherein said cartridge is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said process cartridge in the dismounting direction thereof.

46. A process cartridge according to any one of Claims 38 - 45, wherein when said coupling member is

capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said drum axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

47. A process cartridge according to Claim 46, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said drum axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

48. A drum unit for an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, said apparatus including a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft, wherein said drum unit is dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said drum unit comprising:

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

ii) a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis by a rotational force received from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling member including a rotational force receiving portion engageable with the rotational force applying portion to receive a rotational force to be transmitted to

said electrophotographic photosensitive drum from the main assembly engaging portion, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum through said rotational force receiving portion,

wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting such that a rotational force receiving portion side of said coupling axis is positioned upstream from a rotational force transmitting portion side of said coupling axis with respect to the dismounting direction, and said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion by the pivoting.

49. A drum unit according to Claim 48, wherein said coupling member is brought out of contact relative to the main assembly engaging portion by further movement in the dismounting direction, of said drum unit after the pivoting.

50. A drum unit according to Claim 48, further comprising a rotating force receiving member for receiving the rotating force from said rotational force transmitting portion, said rotating force receiving member is fixed to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum, wherein said coupling member is pivotably coupled with said rotating force receiving member.

51. A drum unit according to Claim 48, wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said coupling member is capable of disengaging from the main assembly engaging portion with pivoting of said coupling member, by said rotational force receiving portion retracting from behind the rotational force applying portion.

52. A drum unit according to Claim 48, further comprising an urging member for urging said coupling member in a direction from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum toward the main assembly engaging portion in a state that coupling member is capable of receiving the rotational force from said main assembly engaging portion.

53. A drum unit according to Claim 52, wherein said coupling member moves in a direction opposite an urging direction of said urging member, when said coupling member pivots.

54. A drum unit according to Claim 48, wherein said driving shaft is provided with a semi spherical surface at a free end thereof, wherein said coupling member includes a recess, which is urged by the semi spherical surface when said coupling member receives

said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

55. A drum unit according Claim 54, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to said semi-spherical surface.

56. A drum unit according to Claim 48, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said drum unit is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

57. A drum unit according to Claim 48, further comprising a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting of said coupling member as said drum unit is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

58. A drum unit according to Claim 48, wherein said drum unit is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said drum unit in the dismounting direction thereof.

59. A drum unit according to any one of Claims 48 - 58, wherein when said coupling member is capable of

receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said drum axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

60. A drum unit according to Claim 59, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said drum axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

61. A drum unit for an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, said apparatus including a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft, wherein said drum unit is dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said drum unit comprising:

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

ii) a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis by a rotational force received from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling member including a rotational force receiving portion engageable with the rotational force applying portion to receive a rotational force to be transmitted to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum from the

main assembly engaging portion, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum through said rotational force receiving portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotable so that said coupling axis inclines relative to the drum axis,

wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion is retractable from behind the rotational force applying portion by the pivoting, by which said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion.

62. A drum unit according to Claim 61, wherein by said coupling member pivoting with movement of said drum unit in the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion is capable of retracting from behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction.

63. A drum unit according to Claim 61, further comprising a rotating force receiving member for receiving the rotating force from said rotational force transmitting portion, said rotating force receiving member is fixed to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum, wherein said coupling member is

pivotably coupled with said rotating force receiving member.

64. A drum unit according to Claim 61, further comprising an urging member for urging said coupling member in a direction from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum toward the main assembly engaging portion in a state that coupling member is capable of receiving the rotational force from said main assembly engaging portion.

65. A drum unit according to Claim 64, wherein said coupling member moves in a direction opposite an urging direction of said urging member, when said coupling member pivots.

66. A drum unit according to Claim 61, wherein said driving shaft is provided with a semi spherical surface at a free end thereof, wherein said coupling member includes a recess, which is urged by the semi spherical surface when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

67. A drum unit according Claim 66, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum

along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to said semi-spherical surface.

68. A drum unit according to Claim 61, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said drum unit is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

69. A drum unit according to Claim 61, further comprising a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting of said coupling member as said drum unit is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

70. A drum unit according to Claim 61, wherein said drum unit is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said drum unit in the dismounting direction thereof.

71. A drum unit according to Claims 61, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said drum axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

72. A drum unit according to any one of Claims 71, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said drum axis is 20 -

60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

73. A drum unit for an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, said apparatus including a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft, wherein said drum unit is dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said drum unit comprising:

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

iii) a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis by a rotational force received from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling member including a rotational force receiving portion engageable with the rotational force applying portion to receive a rotational force to be transmitted to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum from the main assembly engaging portion, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum through said rotational force receiving portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotable so that said coupling axis inclines relative to the drum axis,

wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion is retractable from behind the rotational force applying portion by such pivoting of said coupling member that a rotational force receiving portion side of said coupling axis is positioned upstream from a rotational force transmitting portion side of said coupling axis with respect to the dismounting direction, by which said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion.

74. A drum unit according to Claim 73, wherein by said coupling member pivoting with movement of said drum unit in the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion is capable of retracting from behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction.

75. A drum unit according to Claim 73, further comprising a rotating force receiving member for receiving the rotating force from said rotational force transmitting portion, said rotating force receiving member is fixed to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum, wherein said coupling member is pivotably coupled with said rotating force receiving member.

76. A drum unit according to any one of Claim 73 further comprising an urging member for urging said coupling member in a direction from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum toward the main assembly engaging portion in a state that coupling member is capable of receiving the rotational force from said main assembly engaging portion.

77. A drum unit according to Claim 76, wherein said coupling member moves in a direction opposite an urging direction of said urging member, when said coupling member pivots.

78. A drum unit according to Claim 73, wherein said driving shaft is provided with a semi spherical surface at a free end thereof, wherein said coupling member includes a recess, which is urged by the semi spherical surface when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

79. A drum unit according Claim 78, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to said semi-spherical surface.

80. A drum unit according to Claim 73, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said drum unit is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

81. A drum unit according to Claim 73, further comprising a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting of said coupling member as said drum unit is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

82. A drum unit according to Claim 73, wherein said drum unit is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said drum unit in the dismounting direction thereof.

83. A drum unit according to any one of Claims 73 - 82, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said drum axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

84. A drum unit according to Claims 83, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said drum axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

85. A drum unit for an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, said apparatus including a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft, wherein said drum unit is dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said drum unit comprising:

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

a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis to transmit a rotational force for rotating said electrophotographic photosensitive drum, said coupling member including a plurality of rotational force receiving portions provided on a phantom circle about the coupling axis at diametrically opposite positions, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum through said rotational force receiving portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotable so that said coupling axis inclines relative to the drum axis;

iv) a rotating force receiving member for receiving the rotating force from the main assembly engaging portion, said rotating force receiving member is fixed to said electrophotographic photosensitive

drum, wherein said coupling member is pivotably connected with said rotational force receiving member;

wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting such that with movement of said drum unit in the dismounting direction, a rotational force receiving portion side of the coupling axis is positioned upstream from a rotational force transmitting portion side of the coupling axis with respect to the dismounting direction,

wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion is retractable from behind the rotational force applying portion by the pivoting of said coupling member, by which said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion.

86. A drum unit according to Claim 85, further comprising an urging member for urging said coupling member in a direction from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum toward the main assembly engaging portion in a state that coupling member is capable of receiving the rotational force from said main assembly engaging portion.

87. A drum unit according to Claim 86, wherein said coupling member moves in a direction opposite an

urging direction of said urging member, when said coupling member pivots.

88. A drum unit according to Claim 85, wherein said driving shaft is provided with a semi spherical surface at a free end thereof, wherein said coupling member includes a recess, which is urged by the semi spherical surface when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

89. A drum unit according Claim 88, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to said semi-spherical surface.

90. A drum unit according to Claim 85, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said drum unit is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

91. A drum unit according to Claim 85, further comprising a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting of said coupling member as said drum unit is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

92. A drum unit according to Claim 85, wherein said drum unit is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said drum unit in the dismounting direction thereof.

93. A drum unit according to any one of Claims 85 - 92, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said drum axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

94. A drum unit according to Claim 93, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said drum axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

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

a main assembly including a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft;

a drum unit dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular

to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said drum unit including,

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

ii) a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis thereof by a rotational force received from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling member including a rotational force receiving portion engageable with the rotational force applying portion to receive a rotational force to be transmitted to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum from the main assembly engaging portion, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum through said rotational force receiving portion,

wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting such that a rotational force receiving portion side of said coupling axis is positioned upstream from a rotational force transmitting portion side of said coupling axis with respect to the dismounting direction, and said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion by the pivoting.

96. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 95, wherein said coupling member is brought out of contact relative to the main assembly engaging portion

by further movement, in the dismounting direction, of said drum unit after the pivoting.

97. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 95, said drum unit further comprising a rotating force receiving member for receiving the rotating force from said rotational force transmitting portion, said rotating force receiving member is fixed to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum, wherein said coupling member is pivotably coupled with said rotating force receiving member.

98. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 95, wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said coupling member is capable of disengaging from the main assembly engaging portion with pivoting of said coupling member, by said rotational force receiving portion retracting from behind the rotational force applying portion.

99. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 95, said drum unit further comprising an urging member for urging said coupling member in a direction from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum toward the main assembly engaging portion in a state that coupling member is capable of receiving the

rotational force from said main assembly engaging portion.

100. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 99, wherein said coupling member moves in a direction opposite an urging direction of said urging member, when said coupling member pivots.

101. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 95, wherein said driving shaft is provided with a semi spherical surface at a free end thereof, wherein said coupling member includes a recess, which is urged by the semi spherical surface when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

102. An image forming apparatus according Claim 101, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to said semi-spherical surface.

103. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 95, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging

portion as said drum unit is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

104. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 95, said drum unit further comprising a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting of said coupling member as said drum unit is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

105. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 95, wherein said drum unit is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said drum unit in the dismounting direction thereof.

106. An image forming apparatus according to any one of Claims 95 - 105, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said drum axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

107. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 106, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said drum axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

108. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 95, wherein said drum unit includes process means actable on said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

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

a main assembly including a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft;

a drum unit dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said drum unit including,

i) an electrophotographic photosensitive drum rotatable about a drum axis thereof, and

ii) a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis by a rotational force received from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling member including a rotational force receiving portion engageable with the rotational force applying portion to receive a rotational force to be transmitted to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum from the main assembly engaging portion, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational

force to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum through said rotational force receiving portion, wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting so that said coupling axis inclines relative to the drum axis,

wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion retractable from behind the rotational force applying portion by the pivoting, by which said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion.

110. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 109, wherein by said coupling member pivoting with movement of said drum unit in the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion is capable of retracting from behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction.

111. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 109, said drum unit further comprising a rotating force receiving member for receiving the rotating force from said rotational force transmitting portion, said rotating force receiving member is fixed to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum, wherein said

coupling member is pivotably coupled with said rotating force receiving member.

112. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 109, said drum unit further comprising an urging member for urging said coupling member in a direction from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum toward the main assembly engaging portion in a state that coupling member is capable of receiving the rotational force from said main assembly engaging portion.

113. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 112, wherein said coupling member moves in a direction opposite an urging direction of said urging member, when said coupling member pivots.

114. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 109, wherein said driving shaft is provided with a semi spherical surface at a free end thereof, wherein said coupling member includes a recess, which is urged by the semi spherical surface when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

115. An image forming apparatus according Claim 114, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as

the distance from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to said semi-spherical surface.

116. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 109, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said drum unit is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

117. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 109, said drum unit further comprising a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting of said coupling member as said drum unit is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

118. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 109, wherein said drum unit is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said drum unit in the dismounting direction thereof.

119. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 109, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly

engaging portion, said coupling axis and said drum axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

120. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 119, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said drum axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

121. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 109, wherein said drum unit includes process means actable on said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

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

a main assembly including a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft;

a drum unit dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said drum unit including,

i) an electrophotographic photosensitive drum rotatable about a drum axis thereof, and

ii) a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis by a rotational force received from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling member including a rotational force receiving portion engageable with the rotational force applying portion to receive a rotational force to be transmitted to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum from the main assembly engaging portion, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum through said rotational force receiving portion, wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting so that said coupling axis inclines relative to the drum axis,

wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion is retractable from behind the rotational force applying portion by such pivoting of said coupling member that a rotational force receiving portion side of said coupling axis is positioned upstream from a rotational force transmitting portion side of said coupling axis with respect to the dismounting direction, by which said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion.

123. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 122, wherein by said coupling member pivoting with movement of said drum unit in the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion is capable of retracting from behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction.

124. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 122, said drum unit further comprising a rotating force receiving member for receiving the rotating force from said rotational force transmitting portion, said rotating force receiving member is fixed to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum, wherein said coupling member is pivotably coupled with said rotating force receiving member.

125. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 122, said drum unit further comprising an urging member for urging said coupling member in a direction from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum toward the main assembly engaging portion in a state that coupling member is capable of receiving the rotational force from said main assembly engaging portion.

126. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 125, wherein said coupling member moves in a direction

opposite an urging direction of said urging member, when said coupling member pivots.

127. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 122, wherein said driving shaft is provided with a semi spherical surface at a free end thereof, wherein said coupling member includes a recess, which is urged by the semi spherical surface when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

128. An image forming apparatus according Claim 127, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to said semi-spherical surface.

129. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 122, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said drum unit is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

130. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 122, said drum unit further comprising a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to

assist pivoting of said coupling member as said drum unit is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

131. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 122, wherein said drum unit is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said drum unit in the dismounting direction thereof.

132. An image forming apparatus according to Claims 122 - 131, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said drum axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

133. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 132, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said drum axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

134. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 122, wherein said drum unit includes process means actable on said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

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

a main assembly including a main assembly engaging portion, to be driven by a motor, having a driving shaft and a rotational force applying portion provided on the driving shaft;

a drum unit dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the driving shaft, said drum unit including,

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

a coupling member rotatable about a coupling axis to transmit a rotational force for rotating said electrophotographic photosensitive drum, said coupling member including a plurality of rotational force receiving portions provided on a phantom circle about the coupling axis at diametrically opposite positions, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum through said rotational force receiving portion, wherein said coupling member is pivotable so that said coupling axis inclines relative to the drum axis;

iii) a rotating force receiving member for receiving the rotating force from the main assembly engaging portion, said rotating force receiving member

is fixed to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum, wherein said coupling member is pivotably connected with said rotational force receiving member,

wherein said coupling member is capable of pivoting such that with movement of said drum unit in the dismounting direction, a rotational force receiving portion side of the coupling axis is positioned upstream from a rotational force transmitting portion side of the coupling axis with respect to the dismounting direction,

wherein when said rotational force receiving portion is behind the rotational force applying portion with respect to the dismounting direction, said rotational force receiving portion is retractable from behind the rotational force applying portion by the pivoting of said coupling member, by which said coupling member is disengageable from the main assembly engaging portion.

136. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 135, said drum unit further comprising an urging member for urging said coupling member in a direction from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum toward the main assembly engaging portion in a state that coupling member is capable of receiving the rotational force from said main assembly engaging portion.

137. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 136, wherein said coupling member moves in a direction opposite an urging direction of said urging member, when said coupling member pivots.

138. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 135, wherein said driving shaft is provided with a semi spherical surface at a free end thereof, wherein said coupling member includes a recess, which is urged by the semi spherical surface when said coupling member receives said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion.

139. An image forming apparatus according Claim 138, wherein said recess is provided with an expanding portion which expands away from said coupling axis as the distance from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum along said coupling axis, wherein said expanding portion is urged to said semi-spherical surface.

140. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 135, wherein said coupling member pivots by receiving a force from the main assembly engaging portion as said drum unit is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

141. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 135, said drum unit further comprising a pivoting assistance member for urging said coupling member to assist pivoting of said coupling member as said drum unit is dismounted from the main assembly of the apparatus.

142. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 135, wherein said drum unit is dismounted upwardly, and said coupling member pivots by its weight with movement of said drum unit in the dismounting direction thereof.

143. An image forming apparatus according to any one of Claims 135 - 142, wherein when said coupling member is capable of receiving said rotational force from the main assembly engaging portion, said coupling axis and said drum axis are substantially coaxial with each other.

144. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 143, wherein said coupling member pivots such that an angle between said coupling axis and said drum axis is 20 - 60°, when said coupling member disengages from the main assembly engaging portion.

145. An image forming apparatus according to Claims 135, wherein said drum unit includes process means

actable on said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

Claims

1. An electrophotographic photosensitive drum unit (B) usable with a main assembly of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, the main assembly including a driving shaft (180) to be driven by a motor, having a rotational force applying portion, wherein said electrophotographic drum unit is dismountable from the main assembly in a dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to an axial direction (L3) of the driving shaft, said electrophotographic drum unit comprising:

i) an electrophotographic photosensitive drum (107) having a photosensitive layer (1076) at a peripheral surface thereof, said electrophotographic photosensitive drum being rotatable about an axis (L1) thereof;
ii) a coupling member (150) rotatable about an axis (L2) thereof, engageable with the driving shaft 180) to receive a rotational force, from the rotational force applying portion, for rotating said electrophotographic photosensitive drum (107) said coupling member is provided at an axial end of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum (107) such that said coupling member (150) is capable of taking a rotational force transmitting angular position substantially co-axial with said axis (L1) of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum (107) for transmitting the rotational force for rotating said electrophotographic photosensitive drum (107) to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum (107) and a disengaging angular position in which said coupling member (150) is inclined away from the axis (11) of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum (107) from said rotational force transmitting angular position for disengagement of the coupling member (150) from the driving shaft (180).

wherein said electrophotographic drum unit (B) is adapted such that when said electrophotographic drum unit (B) is dismounted from the main assembly in the dismounting direction substantially perpendicular to the axis (L1) of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum (107) said coupling member (150) moves from said rotational force transmitting angular position to said disengaging angular position.

2. An electrophotographic drum unit according to Claim 1, wherein said coupling member isdisengagable from the driving shaft by moving from said rotational force transmitting angular position to said disengaging angular position.

3. An electrophotographic drum unit according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein said electrophotographic drum unit is adapted such that, in a state in which coupling member is positioned at said disengaging angular position, the axis (L2) of said coupling member is inclined toward upstream with respect to the dismounting direction.

4. An electrophotographic drum unit according to Claim 1 to 3, wherein said electrophotographic drum unit is adapted such that, in a state in which said electrophotographic drum unit is mounted to the main assembly, a part of said coupling member is behind the driving shaft as seen in a direction opposite the dismounting direction,
wherein when said electrophotographic drum unit is dismounted from the main assembly, said coupling member is disengaged from the driving shaft by said coupling member moving from the rotational force transmitting angular position to the disengaging angular position so as to permit the part of the coupling member to circumvent the driving shaft.

5. An electrophotographic drum unit according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein said electrophotographic drum unit is adapted such that, when said electrophotographic drum unit is dismounted from the main assembly, said coupling member is disengaged from the driving shaft by moving from said rotational force transmitting angular position to said disengaging angular position in response to movement of said electrophotographic drum unit in the dismounting direction.

6. An electrophotographic drum unit according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, further comprising a rotating force receiving member (151, 153, 155, 15151) for receiving the rotating force, said rotating force receiving member is provided on an end of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum, wherein said coupling member is coupled with said rotating force receiving member so that said coupling member is capable of taking said rotational force transmitting angular position and said disengaging angular position.

7. An electrophotographic drum unit according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, further comprising an urging member (10634) for urging said coupling member in a direction of the axis (L1) of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum away from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

8. An electrophotographic drum unit according to Claim 7, wherein said coupling member is movable toward said electrophotographic photosensitive drum against an urging force of said urging member, when said coupling member moves from said rotational force transmitting angular position to said disengaging angular position.

9. An electrophotographic drum unit according to any one of Claims 1 to 8, wherein said coupling member includes a rotational force receiving portion for engaging with the rotational force applying portion to receive the rotational force from the driving shaft, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force received through said rotational force receiving portion to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

10. An electrophotographic drum unit according to Claim 9, wherein said electrophotographic drum unit is adapted such that when said rotating force receiving portion receives the driving force for rotating said coupling member, said rotating force receiving portion is inclined with respect to the axis (L2) of said coupling member so as to receive a force toward the driving shaft.

11. An electrophotographic drum unit according to Claim 9 or 10, wherein said coupling member includes a connecting portion between said rotating force receiving portion and said rotating force transmitting portion.

12. An electrophotographic drum unit according to Claim 11, wherein said connecting portion includes a shaft that is formed along the axis (L2) of said coupling member.

13. An electrophotographic drum unit according to any one of Claims 1 to 12, wherein said coupling member has a recess in which an axis (L2) of said coupling member extends, wherein said recess is over a free end of said driving shaft in the state in which electrophotographic drum unit is mounted to said main assembly.

14. An electrophotographic drum unit according to Claim 13, wherein said recess includes an expanding portion expanding toward a free end of said coupling member.

15. An electrophotographic drum unit according to Claim 14, wherein:

the recess (150z) is constituted by a conical surface; or
the recess (14150z) is constituted by two surfaces (14150f1; 14150f2) which is expanded in a direction away from the coupling member axis (L2); or
the recess has a divergent shape, a bell-like shape, a cylindrical shape or a spherical shape; or
the recess are constituted by a prularity of projections (12350d1, 12350d2; 12350d3; 12350d4) radically toward the free end of said coupling member.

16. An electrophotographic drum unit according to any one of Claims 1 to 15, wherein a plurality of such rotational force receiving portions are provided on a phantom circle having a center on the axis (L2) of said coupling member at positions substantially diametrically opposite to each other.

17. An electrophotographic drum unit according to Claim 16, wherein a plurality of said rotational force receiving portions are provided at regular intervals along a rotational direction of said coupling member, wherein the rotational force applying portion is provided at each of two positions which are diametrically opposite to each other with respect to the axis (L3) of the driving shaft

18. An electrophotographic drum unit according to any one of Claims 1 to 17, wherein said electrophotographic drum unit is adapted such that said coupling member moves from said rotational force transmitting angular position to said disengaging angular position by receiving a force from said driving shaft as said drum unit is dismounted from the main assembly.

19. An electrophotographic drum unit according to any one of Claims 1 to 17, further comprising an another urging member (4159) for urging said coupling member from said rotational force transmitting angular position to said disengaging force angular position.

20. An electrophotographic drum unit according to any one of Claims 1 to 17, wherein said electrophotographic drum unit is adapted such that said coupling member moves from said rotational force transmitting angular position to said disengaging force angular position by it weight as said drum unit is dismounted upwardly from the main assembly.

21. An electrophotographic drum unit according to any one of Claims 1 to 20, wherein in a state in which said coupling member is positioned at said rotational force transmitting angular position, the axis (L2) of said coupling member is substantially coaxial with the axis (L1) of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

22. An electrophotographic drum unit according to any one of Claims 1 to 21, wherein an angle between the axis (L2) of said coupling member and the axis (L1) of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum is about 20° to about 60°, when said coupling member takes said disengaging angular position.

23. An electrophotographic drum unit according to any one of Claims 1 to 22, wherein said coupling member

is provided to an end of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum and is capable of tilting relative to the axis (L1) of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum substantially in all directions.

24. An electrophotographic drum unit according to any one of Claims 1 to 23, wherein the direction of dismounting is a combination of straight lines or is a curvilinear.

25. A process cartridge having an electrophotographic drum unit according to any of the preceding claims and process means actable on said electrophotographic drum, wherein said process cartridge is dismountable from the main assembly.

26. A process cartridge according to Claim 25, wherein said electrophotographic photosensitive drum is provided with a gear at the same end portion having said coupling member, wherein said gear is effective to transmit the rotating force received from the main assembly by said coupling member to a developing roller as said process means, and wherein said gear and said rotating force transmitting portion are overlapped with each other with respect to a direction of the axis (L1) of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

27. A process cartridge according to Claim 26, wherein said gear includes a helical gear.

28. A process cartridge according to Claim 26, wherein said gear includes a spur gear.

29. An electrophotographic image forming apparatus comprising:

i) a main assembly including a driving shaft, to be driven by a motor, having a rotational force applying portion; and
ii) an electrophotographic photosensitive drum unit according to claim 1.

30. An apparatus according to Claim 29, wherein said coupling member is disengagable from the driving shaft by moving from said rotational force transmitting angular position to said disengaging angular position.

31. An apparatus according to Claim 29 or 30, wherein the apparatus is adapted such that, in a state in which coupling member is positioned at said disengaging angular position, the axis (L2) of said coupling member is inclined toward upstream with respect to the dismounting direction.

32. An apparatus according to Claim 29 to 31, wherein the apparatus is adapted such that, in a state in which said electrophotographic drum unit is mounted to the main assembly, a part of said coupling member is behind the driving shaft as seen in a direction opposite the dismounting direction,
wherein when said electrophotographic drum unit is dismounted from the main assembly, said coupling member is disengaged from the driving shaft by said coupling member moving from the rotational force transmitting angular position to the disengaging angular position so as to permit the part of the coupling member to circumvent the driving shaft.

33. An apparatus according to any one of Claims 29 to 32, wherein the apparatus is adapted such that, when said electrophotographic drum unit is dismounted from the main assembly, said coupling member is disengaged from the driving shaft by moving from said rotational force transmitting angular position to said disengaging angular position in response to movement of said electrophotographic drum unit in the dismounting direction.

34. An apparatus according to any one of Claims 29 to 33, wherein said drum unit includes a rotating force receiving member (151, 153, 155, 15151) for receiving the rotating force, said rotating force receiving member is provided on an end of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum, wherein said coupling member is coupled with said rotating force receiving member so that said coupling member is capable of taking said rotational force transmitting angular position and said disengaging angular position.

35. An apparatus according to any one of Claims 29 to 34, wherein said drum unit includes an urging member (10634) for urging said coupling member in a direction of the axis (L1) of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum away from said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

36. An apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein the apparatus is adapted such that said coupling member moves to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum against an urging force of said urging member, when said coupling member moves from said rotational force transmitting angular position to said disengaging angular position.

37. An apparatus according to any one of Claims 29 to 36, wherein said coupling member includes a rotational force receiving portion for engaging with the rotational force applying portion to receive the rotational force from the driving shaft, and a rotational force transmitting portion for transmitting the rotational force received through said rotational force receiving portion to said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

38. An apparatus according to Claim 37, wherein the apparatus is adapted such that, when said rotating force receiving portion receives the driving force for rotating said coupling member, said rotating force receiving portion is inclined with respect to the axis (L2) of said coupling member so as to receive a force toward the driving shaft.

39. An apparatus according to Claim 37 or 38, wherein said coupling member includes a connecting portion between said rotating force receiving portion and said rotating force transmitting portion.

40. An apparatus according to Claim 39, wherein said connecting portion includes a shaft that is formed along the axis (L2) of said coupling member.

41. An apparatus according to any one of Claims 29 to 40, wherein said coupling member has a recess in which an axis (L2) of said coupling member extends, wherein said recess is over a free end of said driving shaft in the state in which electrophotographic drum unit is mounted to said main assembly.

42. An apparatus according to Claim 41, wherein said recess includes an expanding portion expanding toward a free end of said coupling member.

43. An apparatus according to Claim 42, wherein:

the recess (150z) is constituted by a conical surface; or
the recess (14150z) is constituted by two surfaces (14150f1; 14150f2) which is expanded in a direction away from the coupling member axis (L2); or
the recess has a divergent shape, a bell-like shape, a cylindrical shape or a spherical shape; or
the recess are constituted by a prularity of projections (12350d1, 12350d2; 12350d3; 12350d4) radically toward the free end of said coupling member.

44. An apparatus according to any one of Claims 29 to 43, wherein a plurality of such rotational force receiving portions are provided on a phantom circle having a center on the axis (L2) of said coupling member at positions substantially diametrically opposite to each other.

45. An apparatus according to Claims 44, wherein a plurality of said rotational force receiving portions are provided at regular intervals along a rotational direction of said coupling member, wherein the rotational force applying portion is provided at each of two positions which are diametrically opposite to each other with respect to the axis (L3) of the driving shaft

46. An apparatus according to any one of Claims 29 to 45, wherein the apparatus is adapted such that said coupling member moves from said rotational force transmitting angular position to said disengaging angular position by receiving a force from said driving shaft as said drum unit is dismounted from the main assembly.

47. An apparatus according to any one of Claims 29 to 45, wherein said drum unit includes an another urging member (4159) for urging said coupling member from said rotational force transmitting angular position to said disengaging force angular position.

48. An apparatus according to any one of Claims 29 to 45, wherein the apparatus is adapted such that, said coupling member moves from said rotational force transmitting angular position to said disengaging force angular position by it weight as said drum unit is dismounted upwardly from the main assembly.

49. An apparatus according to any one of Claims 29 to 48, wherein the apparatus is adapted such that in a state in which said coupling member is positioned at said rotational force transmitting angular position, the axis (L2) of said coupling member is substantially coaxial with the axis (L1) of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

50. An apparatus according to any one of Claims 29 to 49, wherein an angle between the axis (L2) of said coupling member and the axis (L1) of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum is about 20° to about 60°, when said coupling member takes said disengaging angular position.

51. An apparatus according to any one of Claims 29 to 50, wherein said coupling member is provided to an end of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum and is capable of tilting relative to the axis (L1) of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum substantially in all directions.

52. An apparatus according to any one of Claims 29 to 51, wherein the apparatus is adapted such that the direction of dismounting is a combination of straight lines or is a curvilinear.

53. An apparatus according to any one of Claims 29 to 52, wherein said electrophotographic drum unit includes process means actable on said electrophotographic photosensitive drum to consitute a process cartridge.

54. An apparatus according to Claim 53, wherein said electrophotographic photosensitive drum is provided with a gear at the same end portion having said coupling member, wherein said gear is effective to transmit the rotating force received from the main assembly by said coupling member to a developing roller as said process means, and wherein said gear and said rotating force transmitting portion are overlapped with each other with respect to a direction of the axis (L1) of said electrophotographic photosensitive drum.

55. An apparatus according to Claim 54, wherein said gear includes a helical gear.

56. An apparatus according to Claim 54, wherein said gear includes a spur gear.