

DESCRIPTION

[TITLE OF THE INVENTION]

CARTRIDGE, PROCESS CARTRIDGE AND
ELECTROPHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

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[FIELD OF THE INVENTION]

[0001] The present invention relates to an electrophotographic image forming apparatus (image forming apparatus) and a cartridge detachably mountable to a main assembly of the image forming apparatus.

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[0002] The image forming apparatus forms an image on a recording material using an electrophotographic image forming process. Examples of the image forming apparatus include an electrophotographic copying machine, an electrophotographic printer (laser beam printer, LED or printer, for example), a facsimile machine, a word processor and so on.

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[0003] The cartridge comprises an electrophotographic photosensitive drum as an image bearing member, and at least one of process means actable on the drum (a developer carrying member (developing roller)), which are unified into a cartridge which is detachably mountable to the image forming apparatus. The cartridge may comprise the drum and the developing roller as a unit, or may comprises the drum, or may comprises the developing roller. A cartridge which comprises the drum is a drum cartridge, and the cartridge which comprises the developing roller is a developing cartridge.

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[0004] The main assembly of the image forming apparatus is portions of the image forming apparatus other than the cartridge.

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[BACKGROUND ART]

[0005] In a conventional image forming apparatus, a drum and process means actable on the drum are unified into a cartridge which is detachably mountable to

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