Description

FIELD OF THE INVENTION AND RELATED ART

The present invention relates to an image forming apparatus such as an electrophotographic copying machine or an electrophotographic printer, more particularly to a process cartridge detachably mountable to such an image forming apparatus, as known from EP-A-0 251 693.

In conventional image forming machines such as an electrophotographic copying machine or an electrophotographic printer, images are repeatedly formed by repeating the process steps including charging a photosensitive member (image bearing member), exposing it to image light, developing the image into a toner image, transferring the toner image onto a transfer material, and cleaning the photosensitive member.

In a modern image forming machine, the image bearing member and at least one of the process means such as a charger, a developing device and a cleaner actable on the image bearing member, are constituted as a unit detachably mountable to the image forming apparatus.

Particularly, a personal use type copying machine of the process cartridge type is usable with different process cartridges such as a process cartridge having a developer containing black developer and a process cartridge having a developing device containing a chromatic color developer such as red, blue or green developer. Such different process cartridges are usable with the same copying machine to permit image formations in different colors.

The black developer may be a magnetic developer, but the chromatic color developer is preferably a non-magnetic developer because of the coloring of the developer. For this reason or another, the developing conditions may be different depending on the material of the developer. In addition, it is preferable, as the case may be, that the rotational speed of the developing sleeve is made different between when the developer is magnetic and when the developer is non-magnetic.

If the different speeds are used, and if the driving force is transmitted from the image bearing member to the developing sleeve, a gear train would be used to provide a different gear ratio and, therefore, a different rotational speed of the developing sleeve.

However, the provision of the gear train requires a greater number of parts such as gears, gear shafts and bearings therefor, with the result of bulkiness and cost increase of the process cartridge. In addition, the increase of the number of gears results in greater noise and greater loss of the drive transmission.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is a principal object of the present invention to provide a process cartridge wherein the drive can be transmitted with a simple structure from an image bearing member to a developer carrying member such as a developing sleeve of developing means.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a process cartridge in which the rotational speed of the developer carrying member is different depending on the material of the developer.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a process cartridge wherein an image bearing member is usable commonly with plural different process cartridges.

It is a yet further object of the present invention to provide a process cartridge having a small size and manufactured at low cost.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a process cartridge wherein the drive transmission efficiency is high with the suppressed noise level in use.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide an image forming apparatus usable with such a process cartridge.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a sectional view of an electrophotographic copying machine as an exemplary image forming apparatus according to the present invention.

Figures 2A and 2B are top plan views of major parts for the drive transmission between a photosensitive drum and a developing sleeve, according to the embodiment of the present invention.

Figures 3A and 3B are sectional views of different developing devices.

Figure 4 is a partial sectional view of an apparatus according to a second embodiment of the present invention.

Figures 5A and 5B are top plan views illustrating a drive transmission between the photosensitive drum and the developing sleeve in an apparatus according to a third embodiment of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring first to Figure 1, there is shown an electrophotographic copying machine as an exemplary image forming apparatus usable with the process cartridge according to an embodiment of the present invention.

A photosensitive drum (image bearing member) 1 rotates in a direction indicated by an arrow. The photosensitive drum 1 is uniformly charged by a charging

roller (charging means) 10 which may be as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,851,960. An original supported on a movable original platen 11 is illuminated by a light source L, and the light image therefrom is projected onto the photosensitive drum 1 through an optical element 12, so that an electrostatic latent image is formed on the photosensitive drum 1. The electrostatic latent image is developed with toner particles on a developing sleeve (developer carrying member) 14 of a developing device 13.

On the other hand, a recording material P is supplied by a pick-up roller 15. The recording material P is fed along a conveyance guide 15 and a pair of registration rollers 17 into a nip formed between the photosensitive drum 1 and a transfer roller 18 rotatable in contact with the photosensitive drum 1.

The toner image is transferred from the photosensitive drum 1 into the recording material P by the transfer roller 18. The recording material P now having the toner image is conveyed on a conveying belt 19 to an image fixing apparatus, where the toner image is fixed thereon. Finally, the recording material P is discharged outside the machine.

After the image transfer, the photosensitive drum 1 is cleaned by a cleaning device so that the remaining toner is removed, by which the photosensitive drum 1 is prepared for the next image forming operation.

In this embodiment, the photosensitive drum 1, the charging roller 10, the developing device 13 and the cleaning device 21 (process means) are constituted as a unit (process cartridge C). The process cartridge C is detachably mountable into the main assembly of the copying machine along guides 22a and 22b.

Referring to Figures 2A and 2B, the drive transmission between the image bearing member (photosensitive drum) and the developer carrying member (developing sleeve). Adjacent a longitudinal end of the photosensitive drum 1, there are a first drum flange gear 2 and a second drum flange gear 3 (drive transmitting portion). The gears 2 and 3 are integrally molded with plastic resin material. The flange having the gears is securedly fixed to the basic member of the drum cylinder by suitable means such as press-fitting or by bonding agent, for example.

Developing sleeves 14a and 14b have respective sleeve gears 4a and 4b at the respective longitudinal ends. The sleeve gears 4a and 4b are meshable with the drum flange gears 2 and 3, respectively. Similarly to the drum flange gears, the sleeve gears are securedly fixed to the respective sleeve bodies by press-fitting, bonding or the like.

In this embodiment, Figure 2A shows the process cartridge having a developing device containing a magnetic and one component developer. Figure 2B shows a process cartridge having a developing device containing a non-magnetic one component developer. More particularly, the former process cartridge contains a black developer, whereas the latter process cartridge contains a red developer.

The description will be made as to the details of the developing devices. The structures of the process cartridges are the same except for the developing devices, and therefore, the detailed description thereof are omitted.

Referring to Figure 3A, which is a sectional view of the developing device 13a containing a magnetic one component developer, a developer t_1 is applied on the developing sleeve 14a with the aid of the magnetic force of a magnet 5 disposed in the developing sleeve 14a. The thickness of the developer layer thereon is controlled by the pressure of contact between a regulating blade 6 of an elastic material and a developing sleeve 14a. The regulating blade is not limited to the elastic blade, but it may be of a type disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,297,970 (magnetic blade). Figure 3B is a sectional view of a developing device 13b containing the non-magnetic one component developer. The developing sleeve 14b and the elastic roller 7 of a foamed material are rotated in the directions of the arrows. The developer t_2 is introduced into between the two rotatable members, by which the triboelectric charge of the toner is increased by the rubbing action thereby, so that the developer is applied on the developing sleeve 14b. The thickness of the developer layer is controlled by the pressure of contact between the regulating blade 6 and the developing sleeve 14b.

Thus, the developing device 13b using the non-magnetic one component developer is provided with the elastic roller press-contacted to the developing sleeve for the purpose of triboelectric charging of the developer in addition to the elements employed in the developing device 13a using the magnetic one component developer. On the other hand, the developing device 13b is not provided with a magnet 5 for retaining the developing device on the developing sleeve in the developing device 13a. For the purpose of preventing scattering of the developer which can not be controlled by the magnetic force and for another purpose, the pressure of contact between the regulating blade and the developing sleeve is made greater, and therefore, the thickness of the layer of the developer is thinner in the developing device 13b than in the developing device 13a. This increases the torque required for rotating the developing sleeve. Under the circumstances, the peripheral speed of the developing sleeve 14b of the developing device 13b using the non-magnetic one component developer is substantially equal to the peripheral speed of the photosensitive drum 1 in order to prevent the toner from scattering, to maintain the high image quality and to reduce the required torque, while the peripheral speed of the developing sleeve 14a of the developing device 13a using the magnetic one component developer is ap-

proximately 1.5 times the peripheral speed of the photosensitive drum 1. In other words, the rotational speed of the developing sleeve is lower in the case of the non-magnetic developer than in the case of the magnetic developer.

Because of the different developing system and different characteristics of the developer, the lower rotating speed of the developing sleeve does not influence the image quality.

For the purpose of providing the different peripheral speed difference of the developing sleeve in accordance with the developer used, it would be considered that the developing sleeve used with the magnetic one component developer is directly driven by a flange gear of the photosensitive drum so that it is rotated at a speed approximately 1.5 times the drum peripheral speed, whereas the developing sleeve used with the non-magnetic one component developer is driven by the same flange gear of the photosensitive drum but through a gear train so that the gear ratio is reduced to 2/3.

However, the use of gear train would result in the problems described hereinbefore.

In this embodiment, the selective drive for the developing sleeves from the common photosensitive drum at different speeds is accomplished by the structure shown in Figures 2A and 2B.

More particularly, in Figure 2A, the photosensitive drum 1 is driven by driving means M of an electrophotographic copying machine main assembly. The developing sleeve 14a is driven by the photosensitive drum 1 through a drum flange gear 3 and a sleeve gear 4a, whereas in Figure 2B, the developing sleeve 14b is driven from the same photosensitive drum 1 but through a different drum gear 2 and a different sleeve gear 4b.

Here, the number Z1 of the teeth of the drum flange bear 2 is smaller than the number Z2 of the teeth of the drum flange gear 3. The outer diameter of the gears are the same. Therefore, the rotational speed of the developing sleeve is lower when the non-magnetic one component developer is used than when the magnetic one component developer is used.

In this embodiment, the drum flange gear and the sleeve gear are in the form of helical gears, as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,829,335.

As described in the foregoing, the process cartridge containing as a unit the photosensitive drum and at least the developing device is, generally speaking, different if the developer of the developing device is different. Therefore, by selection of a gear of the photosensitive drum by the gear of the developing sleeve of the developing device, the developing sleeve may be driven at a proper rotational speed. Then, a common photosensitive drum is usable for different process cartridges.

In this embodiment, the developing sleeves and the sleeve gears therefore are common, and the sleeve peripheral speed is changed by the difference of the number of the teeth of the drum flange gear 3. However, modifications are possible, for example, the pitch circle diameters of the sleeve gears are made different, or the modules of the drum flange gears are made different, in order to provide different driving performances.

In addition, the outer diameters of the developing sleeve may be made different in addition to the structure for changing the peripheral speed of the developing sleeve by selection of the drum gear.

Since the process cartridge having the developing device using the magnetic developer requires smaller load of the developing sleeve as compared with the non-magnetic developer case, and therefore, the diameter of the developing sleeve can be reduced. By reducing the outer diameter of the developing sleeve, the volume capacity of the developer of the developing device in the process cartridge can be increased.

An example will be described. The outer diameter of the photosensitive drum 1 is 24 mm; the number Z1 of the teeth of the flange gear 32 is 30; the number Z2 of the teeth of the flange gear 3 is 33; an outer diameter of the developing sleeve 14a is 12 mm; the number of the teeth of the sleeve gear 4a is 11; an outer diameter of the developing sleeve 14b is 16 mm; and the number of the teeth of the sleeve gear 4b is 19. The process cartridge having the magnetic developer has a sleeve gear 4a meshable with the flange gear 3, whereas the process cartridge containing the non-magnetic developer has a sleeve gear 4b meshable with the flange gear 2. The two different types of the process cartridges are detachably mountable to an electrophotographic copying machine. Good images were produced with either of the process cartridges.

In the above example, the developing sleeve 14a is rotated at the peripheral speed which is approximately 150 % of the peripheral speed of the photosensitive drum, whereas the developing sleeve 14b is rotated at a peripheral speed which is approximately 105 % of the peripheral speed of the photosensitive drum.

In each of the process cartridges, the developing method was as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,395,476. The distance between the sleeve and the drum of the developing device using the magnetic developer was approximately 300 μm, and the distance between the sleeve and the drum in the developing device using the non-magnetic developer was approximately 250 μm.

Referring to Figure 4, a second embodiment of the present invention will be described. In the first embodiment, the flange of the photosensitive drum is provided with two gears having different numbers of teeth to provide different peripheral speed of the de-

veloping sleeve by using different drum flange gears, depending on the materials of the developer. In the present embodiment, the flange of the photosensitive drum 1 has three gears having different numbers of teeth. Two of the gear portions 2 and 3 are used for driving the photosensitive drum as in the first embodiment. The rest of the gears, that is, a gear portion 9 is used to drive the image transfer roller 18 by meshing engagement with a gear 8 of the transfer roller 18. In this case, the drive is used to feed the recording material.

In this embodiment, the transfer roller is driven, but it is possible that the drum flange gear is used to drive a conveyer belt or a conveying roller.

In this embodiment, a third gear is used for driving the transfer roller, but it is a possible alternative that one of the drum flange gears 2 and 3 in the first embodiment is used to drive the transfer roller, as well as, the developing sleeve.

In Figures 2A and 2B, the plural drive transmitting portions are provided adjacent a longitudinal end of the photosensitive drum. As shown in Figures 5A and 5B, the flange gears 2 and 3 which are shown in this example as spur gears, are provided at opposite ends of the photosensitive drum 1 to drive the developing sleeves 14a and 14b, respectively. In the Figures, designated by a reference numeral 30 is a driving gear at the main assembly side to couple with a driving means M of the main assembly of the electrophotographic copying machine. It is meshed with the drum flange gear 3 to drive the photosensitive drum 1.

The structure of the process cartridge of this invention is not limited to those described in the foregoing, but it may be of a type disclosed in U.S. Serial Nos. 580,563 and U.S. Patent Application Claiming the Convention Priority of Japanese patent Application No. 324090/1989.

As described in the foregoing, according to the present invention, the image bearing member such as a photosensitive drum is provided with plural drive transmitting portions (gear portions) having different driving performances. Therefore, gear trains or another parts are not required for changing the speed, so that the space required is reduced. The reduction of the number of parts is effective to reduce the cost. In addition, the drive transmission efficiency is increased. The reduction of the number of drive transmitting members is effective to reduce the noise level.

In addition, the structure other than the developing device can be made common, and therefore, the present invention is advantageous when plural kinds of the process cartridges are prepared.

While the invention has been described with reference to the structures disclosed herein, it is not confined to the details set forth and this application is intended to cover such modifications or changes as may come within the scope of the following claims.

Claims

1. A process cartridge detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus, comprising:

   a movable image bearing member (1) having first (2) and second (3) drive transmitting portions;

   a developer carrying member (14a, 14b) for carrying a developer (t_1, t_2) to supply the developer to said image bearing member, said developer carrying member having a third drive transmitting portion (4a, 4b);

   wherein said third drive transmitting portion is selectively engageable with said first drive transmitting portion and said second drive transmitting portion.

2. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said first (2) and second (3) drive transmitting portions are provided adjacent an end of said image bearing member (1).

3. A process cartridge according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein said first (2) and second (3) drive transmitting portions have different drive transmitting performances.

4. A process cartridge according to Claim 3, wherein said first (2) and second (3) drive transmitting portions have respective gears having different numbers of teeth.

5. A process cartridge according to Claim 3, wherein a different peripheral speed of said developer carrying member (14a, 14b) is provided when the second drive transmitting portion (3) is engaged with the third drive transmitting portion (4a) than when the first drive transmitting portion (2) is engaged with the third drive transmitting portion (4b).

6. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein when the process cartridge is mounted in said image forming apparatus, one of said first (2) and second (3) drive transmitting portions is engaged with driving means (M) of said image forming apparatus to permit drive transmission from the driving means.

7. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein, in use, at least one of the first (2) and second (3) drive transmitting portions drives means in said image forming apparatus.

8. A process cartridge according to Claim 7, where-

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veloping sleeve by using different drum flange gears, depending on the materials of the developer. In the present embodiment, the flange of the photosensitive drum 1 has three gears having different numbers of teeth. Two of the gear portions 2 and 3 are used for driving the photosensitive drum as in the first embodiment. The rest of the gears, that is, a gear portion 9 is used to drive the image transfer roller 18 by meshing engagement with a gear 8 of the transfer roller 18. In this case, the drive is used to feed the recording material.

In this embodiment, the transfer roller is driven, but it is possible that the drum flange gear is used to drive a conveyer belt or a conveying roller.

In this embodiment, a third gear is used for driving the transfer roller, but it is a possible alternative that one of the drum flange gears 2 and 3 in the first embodiment is used to drive the transfer roller, as well as, the developing sleeve.

In Figures 2A and 2B, the plural drive transmitting portions are provided adjacent a longitudinal end of the photosensitive drum. As shown in Figures 5A and 5B, the flange gears 2 and 3 which are shown in this example as spur gears, are provided at opposite ends of the photosensitive drum 1 to drive the developing sleeves 14a and 14b, respectively. In the Figures, designated by a reference numeral 30 is a driving gear at the main assembly side to couple with a driving means M of the main assembly of the electrophotographic copying machine. It is meshed with the drum flange gear 3 to drive the photosensitive drum 1.

The structure of the process cartridge of this invention is not limited to those described in the foregoing, but it may be of a type disclosed in U.S. Serial Nos. 580,563 and U.S. Patent Application Claiming the Convention Priority of Japanese patent Application No. 324090/1989.

As described in the foregoing, according to the present invention, the image bearing member such as a photosensitive drum is provided with plural drive transmitting portions (gear portions) having different driving performances. Therefore, gear trains or another parts are not required for changing the speed, so that the space required is reduced. The reduction of the number of parts is effective to reduce the cost. In addition, the drive transmission efficiency is increased. The reduction of the number of drive transmitting members is effective to reduce the noise level.

In addition, the structure other than the developing device can be made common, and therefore, the present invention is advantageous when plural kinds of the process cartridges are prepared.

While the invention has been described with reference to the structures disclosed herein, it is not confined to the details set forth and this application is intended to cover such modifications or changes as may come within the scope of the following claims.

Claims

1. A process cartridge detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus, comprising:

   a movable image bearing member (1) having first (2) and second (3) drive transmitting portions;

   a developer carrying member (14a, 14b) for carrying a developer (t_1, t_2) to supply the developer to said image bearing member, said developer carrying member having a third drive transmitting portion (4a, 4b);

   wherein said third drive transmitting portion is selectively engageable with said first drive transmitting portion and said second drive transmitting portion.

2. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said first (2) and second (3) drive transmitting portions are provided adjacent an end of said image bearing member (1).

3. A process cartridge according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein said first (2) and second (3) drive transmitting portions have different drive transmitting performances.

4. A process cartridge according to Claim 3, wherein said first (2) and second (3) drive transmitting portions have respective gears having different numbers of teeth.

5. A process cartridge according to Claim 3, wherein a different peripheral speed of said developer carrying member (14a, 14b) is provided when the second drive transmitting portion (3) is engaged with the third drive transmitting portion (4a) than when the first drive transmitting portion (2) is engaged with the third drive transmitting portion (4b).

6. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein when the process cartridge is mounted in said image forming apparatus, one of said first (2) and second (3) drive transmitting portions is engaged with driving means (M) of said image forming apparatus to permit drive transmission from the driving means.

7. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein, in use, at least one of the first (2) and second (3) drive transmitting portions drives means in said image forming apparatus.

8. A process cartridge according to Claim 7, where-

in said means of said image forming apparatus is an rotatable image transfer member (18).

9. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, which further comprises charging means (10) for charging said image bearing member (1) and cleaning means (21) for cleaning said image bearing member.

10. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein the selective engagement is dependent on the developer (t_1, t_2) contained in said process cartridge.

11. A process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein the selective engagement is dependent on whether the developer (t_1, t_2) contained in said process cartridge is magnetic or non-magnetic.

12. A process cartridge according to Claim 11, wherein the process cartridge containing the non-magnetic developer (t_2) includes an elastic member (7) press-contacted to said developer carrying member (14b) to supply the developer to said developer carrying member and an elastic member press-contacted to said developer carrying member to regulate a thickness of a layer of the developer on said developer carrying member.

13. A process cartridge according to Claim 11, wherein said process cartridge containing the magnetic developer (t_1) includes a magnet (5) in said developer carrying member (14a) and a regulating member (6) for regulating a thickness of a layer of the developer on said developer carrying member.

14. A process cartridge according to Claim 11, wherein said developer carrying member (14a, 14b) has a cylindrical member having an outside diameter which is different depending on whether the magnetic developer (t_1) is used or whether the non-magnetic developer (t_2) is used.

15. An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a process cartridge (C) according to claim 1;

supporting means (22b) for detachably supporting said process cartridge; and

driving means (M) engageable with one of said first (2) and second (3) drive transmitting means of said image bearing member (1) to transmit driving force to said process cartridge when said process cartridge is mounted in said image forming apparatus.

16. An apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said first (2) and second (3) drive transmitting portions have different drive transmitting performance.

Patentansprüche

1. Prozeßkassette, die an ein Bilderzeugungsgerät lösbar montierbar ist und aufweist:

ein bewegbares Bildtrageelement (1), das einen ersten (2) und einen zweiten (3) Antriebsübertragungsabschnitt hat,

ein Entwicklertrageelement (14a, 14b) zum Tragen eines Entwicklers (t1, t2), um den Entwickler dem Bildtrageelement zuzuführen, wobei das Entwicklertrageelement einen dritten Antriebsübertragungsabschnitt (4a, 4b) hat,

wobei der dritte Antriebsübertragungsabschnitt mit dem ersten Antriebsübertragungsabschnitt und dem zweiten Antriebsübertragungsabschnitt auswählend in Eingriff stehen kann.

2. Prozeßkassette nach Anspruch 1, wobei der erste (2) und der zweite (3) Antriebsübertragungsabschnitt nahe einem Ende des Bildtrageelements (1) vorgesehen sind.

3. Prozeßkassette nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, wobei der erste (2) und der zweite (3) Antriebsübertragungsabschnitt unterschiedliche Antriebsübertragungsverhalten haben.

4. Prozeßkassette nach Anspruch 3, wobei der erste (2) und der zweite (3) Antriebsübertragungsabschnitt jeweilige Zahnräder mit unterschiedlichen Zähnezahlen haben.

5. Prozeßkassette nach Anspruch 3, wobei eine andere Umfangsgeschwindigkeit des Entwicklertrageelements (14a, 14b) in dem Fall vorgesehen ist, in dem der zweite Antriebsübertragungsabschnitt (3) mit dem dritten Antriebsübertragungsabschnitt (4a) in Eingriff steht, als in dem Fall, in dem der erste Antriebsübertragungsabschnitt (2) mit dem dritten Antriebsübertragungsabschnitt (4b) in Eingriff steht.

6. Prozeßkassette nach Anspruch 1, wobei, wenn die Prozeßkassette im Bilderzeugungsgerät montiert ist, entweder der erste (2) oder der zweite (3) Antriebsübertragungsabschnitt mit der Antriebseinrichtung (M) des Bilderzeugungsgerätes in Eingriff steht, um eine Antriebsübertragung von der Antriebseinrichtung zu gestatten.

7. Prozeßkassette nach Anspruch 1, wobei bei Anwendung zumindest einer der ersten (2) und zweiten (3) Antriebsübertragungsabschnitte eine

Einrichtung im Bilderzeugungsgerät antreibt.

8. Prozeßkassette nach Anspruch 7, wobei die Einrichtung des Bilderzeugungsgerätes ein drehbares Bildübertragungselement (18) ist.

9. Prozeßkassette nach Anspruch 1, die ferner eine Ladeeinrichtung (10) zum Laden des Bildtrageelements (1) und eine Reinigungseinrichtung (21) zum Reinigen des Bildtrageelements aufweist.

10. Prozeßkassette nach Anspruch 1, wobei der auswählende Eingriff vom in der Prozeßkassette enthaltenen Entwickler (t1, t2) abhängig ist.

11. Prozeßkassette nach Anspruch 1, wobei der auswählende Eingriff davon abhängig ist, ob der in der Prozeßkassette enthaltene Entwickler (t1, t2) magnetisch oder nichtmagnetisch ist.

12. Prozeßkassette nach Anspruch 11, wobei die den nichtmagnetischen Entwickler (t2) enthaltende Prozeßkassette ein elastisches Element (7), das mit dem Entwicklertrageelement (14b) in Druckberührung steht, um den Entwickler dem Entwicklertrageelement zuzuführen, und ein elastisches Element aufweist, das mit dem Entwicklertrageelement in Druckberührung steht, um die Dicke einer Schicht des Entwicklers auf dem Bildtrageelement zu regulieren.

13. Prozeßkassette nach Anspruch 11, wobei die den magnetischen Entwickler (t1) enthaltende Prozeßkassette einen Magneten (5) im Entwicklertrageelement (14a) und ein Regulierelement (6) zum Regulieren der Dicke einer Schicht des Entwicklers auf dem Entwicklertrageelement aufweist.

14. Prozeßkassette nach Anspruch 11, wobei das Entwicklertrageelement (14a, 14b) ein zylindrisches Element mit einem Außendurchmesser hat, der in abhängig davon verschieden ist, ob der magnetische Entwickler (tl) verwendet wird oder ob der nichtmagnetische Entwickler (t2) verwendet wird.

15. Bilderzeugungsgerät, das aufweist:
eine Prozeßkassette (C) nach Anspruch 1,
eine Halteeinrichtung (22b) zum lösbaren Halten der Prozeßkassette, und
eine Antriebseinrichtung (M), die mit einer der ersten (2) und zweiten (3) Antriebsübertragungseinrichtungen des Bildtrageelements (1) in Eingriff stehen kann, um eine Antriebskraft zur Prozeßkassette zu übertragen, wenn die Prozeßkassette im Bilderzeugungsgerät montiert ist.

16. Bilderzeugungsgerät nach Anspruch 14, wobei der erste und der zweite Antriebsübertragungsabschnitt unterschiedliche Antriebsübertragungsverhalten haben.

Revendications

1. Cartouche de traitement pouvant être montée de façon amovible sur un appareil de formation d'images, comportant :
un élément mobile (1) porteur d'image ayant des première (2) et seconde (3) parties de transmission d'entraînement ;
un élément (14a, 14b) de transport de développateur destiné à transporter un développateur (t_1, t_2) pour amener le développateur audit élément porteur d'image, ledit élément de transport de développateur ayant une troisième partie (4a, 4b) de transmission d'entraînement ;
dans laquelle ladite troisième partie de transmission d'entraînement peut être sélectivement engagée avec ladite première partie de transmission d'entraînement et ladite deuxième partie de transmission d'entraînement.

2. Cartouche de traitement selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle lesdites première (2) et deuxième (3) parties de transmission d'entraînement sont placées de façon à être adjacentes à une extrémité dudit élément (1) porteur d'image.

3. Cartouche de traitement selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans laquelle lesdites première (2) et deuxième (3) parties de transmission d'entraînement ont des comportements de transmission d'entraînement différents.

4. Cartouche de traitement selon la revendication 3, dans laquelle lesdites première (2) et deuxième (3) parties de transmission d'entraînement ont des roues dentées respectives ayant des nombres de dents différents.

5. Cartouche de traitement selon la revendication 3, dans laquelle la vitesse périphérique dudit élément (14a, 14b) de transport de développateur est différente lorsque la deuxième partie (3) de transmission d'entraînement est engagée avec la troisième partie (4a) de transmission d'entraînement et lorsque la première partie (2) de transmission d'entraînement est engagée avec la troisième partie (4b) de transmission d'entraînement.

6. Cartouche de traitement selon la revendication 1,

dans laquelle, lorsque la cartouche de traitement est montée dans ledit appareil de formation d'images, l'une desdites première (2) et deuxième (3) parties de transmission d'entraînement est engagée avec des moyens d'entraînement (M) dudit appareil de formation d'images pour permettre une transmission d'entraînement à partir des moyens d'entraînement.

7. Cartouche de traitement selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle, lors de l'utilisation, au moins l'une des première (2) et deuxième (3) parties de transmission d'entraînement entraîne des moyens dans ledit appareil de formation d'images.

8. Cartouche de traitement selon la revendication 7, dans laquelle lesdits moyens dudit appareil de formation d'images comprennent un élément rotatif (18) de report d'image.

9. Cartouche de traitement selon la revendication 1, qui comporte en outre des moyens (10) de charge destinés à charger ledit élément (1) porteur d'image et des moyens (21) de nettoyage destinés à nettoyer ledit élément porteur d'image.

10. Cartouche de traitement selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle l'engagement sélectif dépend du développateur (t_1, t_2) contenu dans ladite cartouche de traitement.

11. Cartouche de traitement selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle l'engagement sélectif dépend selon que le développateur (t_1, t_2) contenu dans ladite cartouche de traitement est magnétique ou non magnétique.

12. Cartouche de traitement selon la revendication 11, dans laquelle la cartouche de traitement contenant le développateur non magnétique (t_2) comprend un élément élastique (7) en contact sous pression avec ledit élément (14b) de transport de développateur pour amener le développateur audit élément de transport de développateur et un élément élastique en contact sous pression avec ledit élément de transport de développateur pour réguler l'épaisseur d'une couche du développateur sur ledit élément de transport de développateur.

13. Cartouche de traitement selon la revendication 11, dans laquelle ladite cartouche de traitement contenant le développateur magnétique (t_1) comprend un aimant (5) dans ledit élément (14a) de transport de développateur et un élément de régulation (6) destiné à réguler l'épaisseur d'une couche du développateur sur ledit élément de transport de développateur.

14. Cartouche de traitement selon la revendication 11, dans laquelle ledit élément (14a, 14b) de transport de développateur a un élément cylindrique ayant un diamètre extérieur qui est différent selon que le développateur magnétique (t_1) est utilisé ou que le développateur non magnétique (t_2) est utilisé.

15. Appareil de formation d'images, comportant :

une cartouche de traitement (C) selon la revendication 1 ;

des moyens de support (22b) destinés à supporter de façon amovible ladite cartouche de traitement ; et

des moyens d'entraînement (M) pouvant être engagés avec l'un desdits premier (2) et deuxième (3) moyens de transmission d'entraînement dudit élément (1) porteur d'image pour transmettre une force d'entraînement à ladite cartouche de traitement lorsque ladite cartouche de traitement est montée dans ledit appareil de formation d'images.

16. Appareil selon la revendication 14, dans lequel lesdites première et deuxième parties de transmission d'entraînement ont des comportements de transmission d'entraînement différents.