CLAIMS

Claim 1. A cartridge comprising;

a photosensitive member;

a first unit including the photosensitive member;

a developing member for depositing toner onto the photosensitive member;

a second unit including the developing member and movable between a developing position in which the toner is capable of being deposited onto the photosensitive member from the developing member and a spaced position in which at least a part of the developing member is spaced from the photosensitive member;

a coupling member;

a first gear portion for receiving a driving force from the coupling member to rotate;

a second gear portion for engagement with the first gear portion to receive a driving force and rotate, the second gear portion being movable relative to the developing member in an axial direction of the developing member;

a holding portion movable relative to the developing member in the axial direction of the developing member between a first position for stably holding the second unit in the spaced position and a second position for stably holding the second unit in the developing position; and

an urging portion for urging the holding portion in a direction from the second position toward the first position,

wherein at least one of the first gear portion and the second gear portion is a helical gear,

wherein when the second gear portion is driven and rotated by the first gear portion, the holding portion is moved from the first position to the second

position by movement of the second gear portion in the axial direction of the developing member by receiving a force from the first gear portion, and

wherein when the second gear portion is not driven by the first gear portion, the holding portion is moved from the second position toward the first position by an urging force of the urging portion.

Claim 2. A cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein the urging portion is provided on an elastic member or a member urged by the elastic member.

Claim 3. A cartridge according to Claim 2, wherein the elastic member is a spring.

Claim 4. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 1 - 3, further comprising a force receiving portion capable of receiving a force for moving the holding portion from the second position toward the first position, wherein the urging portion urges the holding portion from the second position toward the first position when the force receiving portion receives the force.

Claim 5. A cartridge according to Claim 4, wherein the urging portion urges the holding portion from the second position toward the first position by the force receiving portion moving in a direction crossing the axial direction of the developing member.

Claim 6. A cartridge according to Claim 5, further comprising a first movable member provided with the force receiving portion and a second movable member movable by receiving the force from the first movable member, wherein the urging portion is provided on the second movable member.

Claim 7. A cartridge according to Claim 6, wherein the second movable member urges, when moving in the axial direction of the developing member, the holding portion from the second position toward the first position by the urging portion.

Claim 8. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 1 - 7, further comprising a gear member, provided with the second gear portion, for transmitting the driving force to the developing member.

Claim 9. A cartridge according to Claim 8, wherein the gear member has a rotational axis coaxial with the rotational axis of the developing member.

Claim 10. A cartridge according to Claim 8 or 9, wherein the gear member is provided with the holding portion.

Claim 11. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 1 - 10, wherein the first unit includes a first frame rotatably supporting the photosensitive member, and the second unit includes a second frame rotatably supporting the developing member and supporting the holding portion, and wherein the holding portion stably holds the second unit in the spaced position by contacting the first frame.

Claim 12. A cartridge according to Claim 11, wherein the first frame is provided with an inclined surface inclined with respect to the rotational axis of the developing member, and the holding portion moves in the axial direction of the developing member while being in contact with the inclined surface, during movement of the holding portion from the second position to the first position.

Claim 13. A cartridge mountable to a main assembly of an image forming apparatus, the cartridge comprising:

a first unit;

a developing member for depositing toner onto a photosensitive member;

a second unit which includes the developing member and which is movable, by movement relative to the first unit, between a developing position in which the toner is capable of being deposited onto the photosensitive member from the developing member and a spaced position in which at least a part of the developing member is spaced from the photosensitive member;

a driving force receiving portion capable of receiving a driving force from the main assembly;

a first gear portion for receiving a driving force from the driving force receiving portion to rotate;

a second gear portion for engagement with the first gear portion to receive a driving force and rotate, the second gear portion being movable in an axial direction of the developing member;

a holding portion movable, by movement of the developing member in the axial direction, between a first position for stably holding the second unit in the spaced position and a second position for stably holding the second unit in the developing position; and

an urging portion for urging the holding portion in a direction from the second position toward the first position in the axial direction of the developing member,

wherein at least one of the first gear portion and the second gear portion is a helical gear,

wherein when the second gear portion is driven and rotated by the first gear portion, the holding portion is moved from the first position to the second

position by the second gear portion receiving a force from the first gear portion, and

wherein when the second gear portion is not driven by the first gear portion, the holding portion is moved from the second position toward the first position by an urging force of the urging portion.

Claim 14. A cartridge according to Claim 13, wherein the urging portion is provided on an elastic member or a member urged by the elastic member.

Claim 15. A cartridge according to Claim 14, wherein the elastic member is a spring.

Claim 16. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 13 - 15, further comprising a force receiving portion capable of receiving a force for moving the holding portion from the second position toward the first position, wherein the urging portion urges the holding portion from the second position toward the first position when the force receiving portion receives the force.

Claim 17. A cartridge according to Claim 16, wherein the urging portion urges the holding portion from the second position toward the first position by the force receiving portion moving in a direction crossing the axial direction of the developing member.

Claim 18. A cartridge according to Claim 17, further comprising a first movable member provided with the force receiving portion and a second movable member movable by receiving the force from the first movable member, wherein the urging portion is provided on the second movable member.

Claim 19. A cartridge according to Claim 18, wherein the second movable member urges, when moving in the axial direction of the developing member, the holding portion from the second position toward the first position by the urging portion.

Claim 20. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 13 - 19, further comprising a gear member, provided with the second gear portion, for transmitting the driving force to the developing member.

Claim 21. A cartridge according to Claim 20, wherein the gear member has a rotational axis coaxial with the rotational axis of the developing member.

Claim 22. A cartridge according to Claim 20 or 21, wherein the gear member is provided with the holding portion.

Claim 23. A cartridge according to any one of Claims 13 - 22, wherein the first unit includes a first frame rotatably supporting the photosensitive member, and the second unit includes a second frame rotatably supporting the developing member and supporting the holding portion, and wherein the holding portion stably holds the second unit in the spaced position by contacting the first frame.

Claim 24. A cartridge according to Claim 23, wherein the first frame is provided with an inclined surface inclined with respect to the rotational axis of the developing member, and the holding portion moves in the axial direction of the developing member while being in contact with the inclined surface, during movement of the holding portion from the second position to the first position.