Abstract

A mechanism for opening/closing a toner falling aperture is adapted to open/close a toner falling aperture (TC2) formed in the bottom of a toner cartridge main body (T1) in which toner is housed. Disposed inside of the toner cartridge main body (T1) is a screw conveyor (SC) for conveying the toner to the toner falling aperture. While the toner cartridge is not under use, an elastic sealing member (S) attached to the top surface of the bottom (TC1) of the toner cartridge main body (T1), closes the toner falling aperture (TC2). One end of the sealing member (S) is secured to the screw conveyor (SC). When the toner cartridge is set to a predetermined portion of the main body of an image forming apparatus and the screw conveyor (SC) is driven, the screw conveyor takes up the sealing member (S) while winding the same thereon, thus opening the toner falling aperture (TC2). The sealing member (S) to which toner is sticked, is taken up by the screw conveyor (SC) and held inside of the toner cartridge main body (T1).

(Fig. 1)

This Sheet Has Been Replaced

