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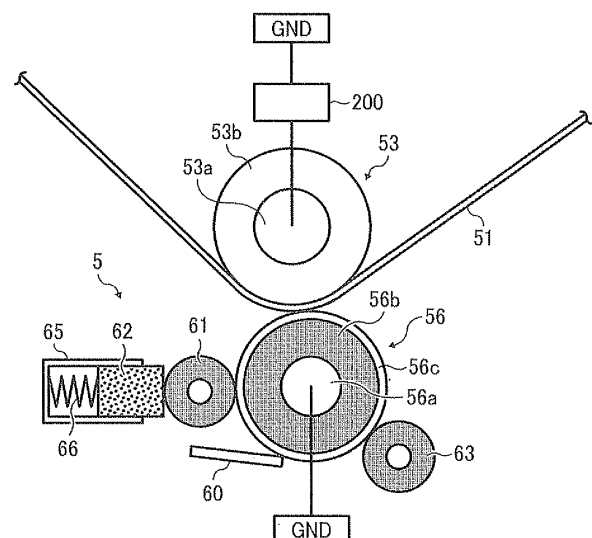
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(54) **Transfer device and image forming apparatus**

(57) A transfer device comprises a freely rotatable transferring member (56) contacting an image bearing member (51) to form a transfer nip therebetween; a transfer bias applying member (200) to apply a first bias (202) created by superimposing an alternating current component on a direct current component to the transferring member (56) to transfer a toner image borne on the image bearing member (51) to a recording medium (P) in the transfer nip; and an applicator (5) to apply protective agent (62) to a surface of the transferring member (56).

FIG. 6



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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			G03B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 12 April 2017	Examiner Durucan, Emrullah
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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