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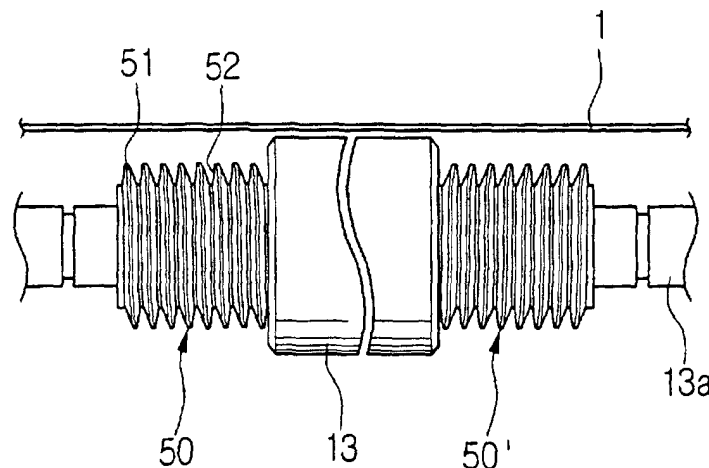
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(54) **Apparatus for preventing ink in a wet electrophotographic printer from polluting a roller mounted therein**

(57) An ink pollution prevention device for use in a wet electrophotographic printer, for preventing a developer from polluting a photoreceptor and peripheral devices by flowing out at the ends of a development roller, a squeegee roller, or a cleaning roller. The ink pollution prevention device comprises a pair of ink stoppers (50,50') mounted around a shaft (13a) of each roller (13)

in a symmetrical manner with each other. Each ink stopper (50,50') has a plurality of peaks (51) and recesses (52) which form a continuous helical shape in an opposite helical direction from the other ink stopper. The helical direction of the ink stopper (50,50') is formed to permit the ink in the ink stopper to flow toward the center of the roller (13) when the roller is rotated.

FIG. 7





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1996, no. 11, 29 November 1996 (1996-11-29) & JP 8 179634 A (RICOH CO LTD), 12 July 1996 (1996-07-12) * abstract; figures 4,6 *	1-6	G03G15/11 G03G15/10 G03G21/00
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			G03G
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
The Hague	3 August 2004	Laeremans, B	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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			

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ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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