

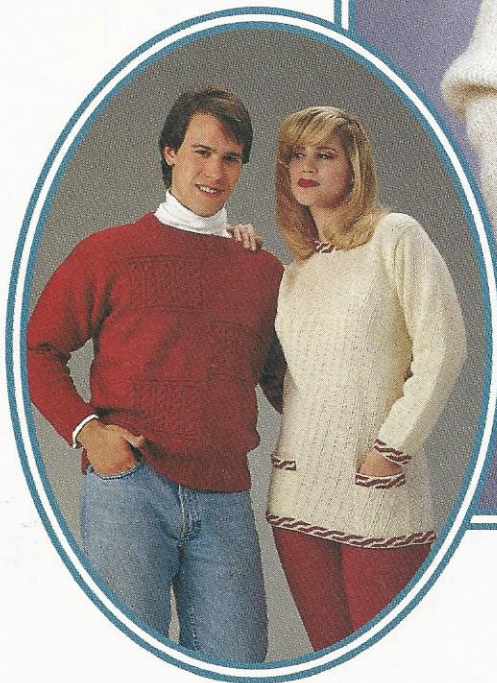
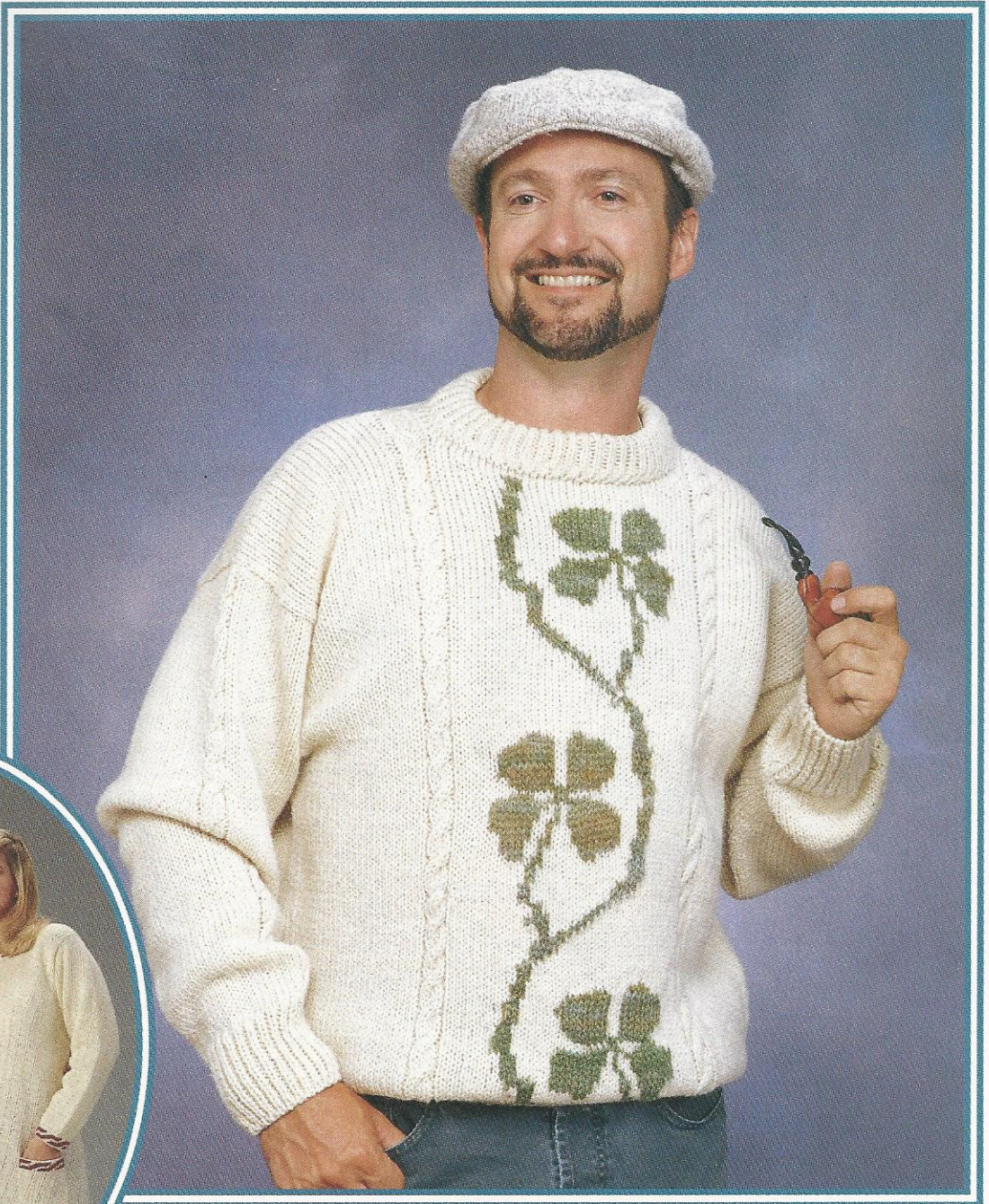
# MACHINE *Knit* AMERICA

Vol 3 No 4 **Design & Fashion for Today's Knitter** \$6.25

**SWING INTO  
1994**  
Knitting, Profit  
and Success

**BABY GIRLS?**  
Mix & Match  
special

**ON A ROLL**  
What it is  
and...  
how to do it!



**Machine Knitters' love**

MACHINE *Knit* AMERICA



# QUALITY CHECKS!

## More guidelines for Profit Making from Sharon Nani

Quality not only gives us pride and satisfaction, it is a necessity to the marketability of our products. This series concentrates on knitting for profit and professional techniques. Therefore, I am going to discuss a slightly different aspect of quality check points.

The quality check goal for a marketable product is to achieve the best quality for the acceptable production time allowed. You have to make decisions about what are acceptable factors for your given situation. Some factors to be considered are: quality in workmanship; defects in the yarn; and the acceptable error range for sizing. Let us take a closer look at these factors.

Quality in workmanship covers several items. First, the designer must decide which shaping and finishing techniques to apply to the product. Each technique gives a different appearance and requires a different amount of time to preform. These contribute to the overall quality and market price. An example is the choice of attaching a neck band to a sweater. It would have the look of a hand knit if you choose to hang the neckline back on the machine and knit the neck band to it. This would take the longest amount of time. Another choice is to knit the band separately, then link the band to the neckline. A final choice is to knit the band separately and remove it on scrap or waste yarn. Then serge the neck band to the neckline. This would be the fastest. The decision is a compromise between appearance, time, and marketable price range for your product. Examine each technique used in the product with these guidelines kept in mind. I realize that this sounds like much decision making. Once you have established your guidelines, efficiency will follow. Believe me, the time will be well spent!

Part of quality workmanship is the necessity to become an observant knitter. This applies to instructional information as well as the actual knitting of the product. It is the responsibility of the knitter for any faults resulting from not following directions. Pay particular attention to the information on the "order card." This includes style number, quantity, size, color and kind of material used in the product. The other category is the actual knitting. It

is also the knitter's responsibility to understand all directions and techniques applied to the written pattern. That is why you should always have written instructions. There is too much room for error in verbal instructions. It is very important not to rush and "assume" that things are a certain way. ALWAYS take the time to examine your orders, instructions, and patterns with care.

Observe the faults as you knit and take the time to correct them immediately. This eliminates much frustration or dissatis-

faction. An occasional flaw is repaired as long as it does not show as a fault. If the product has several flaws, it is not acceptable even if they are mended. It is up to the knitter to be observant, to catch and correct these flaws. In a production situation, a knitter usually works on a piece rate. Flaws due to NEGLIGENCE on the knitters part would not be paid for under the piece rate plan. Naturally, by law, any worker is guaranteed a minimum wage. Piece rates are set at a rate much higher than minimum wage. Thus, the incentive is to do a good job.

PROBLEM	CAUSE	REMEDY
Color changes	Bad yarn	Re-knit. Will get credit as it is not easy to see color changes until piece is off the machine.
Thin spots	Bad yarn or yarn flow hung up tearing the yarn	Should observe. Unravel row, Reknit Row, Proceed
Tension marks	Yarn Flow Hung Up	Should observe. Unravel rows, Reknit Row, Proceed.
Slipped or puckered stitches all in one line	Bad Needle	Should observe. Change needle, Unravel bad section, if it is quicker, Reknit the Piece.
Knitted-in loops or blobs of yarn	Yarn tension disc not tight enough to straighten out yarn as it flows through the system, or yarn knotted a loop on itself	Should observe. Unravel, remove excess yarn, reknit row, proceed.
Knitted in knots	Bad yarn	Should observe, but sometimes these slip through. If a cone of yarn has several knots, it should be sent back to the manufacturer. An occasional knot is acceptable.
Dropped Stitches	Stitch size too small	Adjust stitch size
	Bad brushes in locks [carriages]	Change brushes
	Stitch size too big	Add weight
	Nicks in orange strippers, or in black stripper blades [sinker plate]	Sand jagged edge or replace
	Tension disc set too loose	Tighten setting

## KNITTING FOR PROFIT

PROBLEM	CAUSE	REMEDY
Loops on Edges (loops must be unravelled when in a finished area)	Tension disc set too loose	Tighten setting
	Moving locks too far past knitting	Correct rhythm and movement
	Nicks in strippers [sinker plate]	Sand or replace
Soiled Knitting	Too much oil on machine or dirty equipment	Clean machine, combs, transfer carriage. As a precaution, when knitting with white or pastel colors, scrap on with contrast yarn, knit 1 row ravel cord. Then proceed as if there was no knitting on the machine. This is one on production machines because they get dirtier than the average machine.
Lopsidedness	Incorrect weight system.	Adjust weights.
	Not clearing the knitting far enough. This makes the edge too tight.	Correct movement

The quality of the materials in your products has a direct effect. You decide what materials to use based on quality, cost, and availability. Every company has their standards for determining yarn quality. You must check with each company as to their policies on returning yarn that does not meet the standard. A yarn might be faulted if it had dye lot changes within the cone. Other problems are thin spots in the yarn, or too many knots on one cone.

Knitwear requires that your items meet the sizing requirements that you establish. In the knitwear industry, there is no standard sizing chart. Each designer interprets their sizing scale and records this chart when they sell their products. Therefore, it is also up to the discretion of the designer as to the acceptable sizing error range. An example of this would be: if you specialized in oversize garments,

an error range of one half inch in width and one half inch in length might be acceptable. On the other hand, if you specialized in fitted dresses, this error range is too large! The bottom line is: if the potential customers or clients do not agree with your decisions in these areas of quality checks, your product will not be very marketable!

The summary check list (shown in box) is not written to be all inclusive, but it covers the ordinary quality checks that I use for knitters operating under the piece rate plan.

An important factor that I mention in this article is the effect time plays on the quality and marketability of your products. In the next issue, I will discuss how to perform a professional time and cost study.

MACHINE KNITTERS - DESIGNS ON DISK

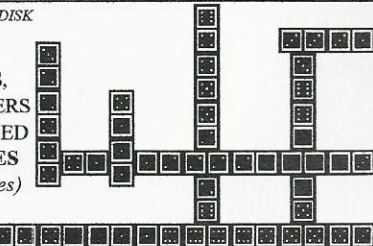
### GAMES

BACKGAMMON, CHESS,  
POKER, CHINESE CHECKERS  
2,3 & 4 COLOR DOUBLE BED  
includes 2 color DOMINOES  
(repeats follow the game rules)

15.00 + 2.50 S/H  
add \$4.00 for 930 disks

Brother 930/940, IBM 3 1/2" or IBM 5 1/4". IBM disks include BBM,  
PCX, CUT, & PAT files. Send SASE FOR FREE CATALOG.

To order, send check or money order to:  
Ruth M. Hagan Designs, P.O. Box 260, Wayne, PA 19087



*Impresario*  
directors in design

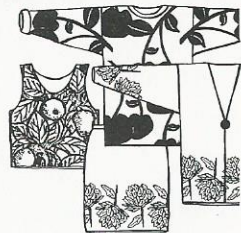
Order Today  
...Experience the  
Excitement of Impresario!



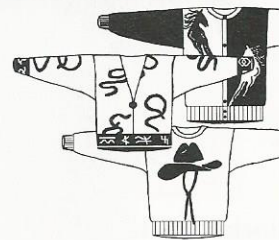
"Blossoms"



"The Geometrics"



"Fruits & Veggies"



"The Cowboy Collection"

Designer pattern books, knitting machine disks and IBM computer disks for the PASSAP and JAPANESE knitting machines (with book), indicate collection/item.

See your local dealer or send check or money order to

IMPRESARIO  
2055 Dahlia St., Denver, CO 80207,  
303-333-3871  
\$24.00 ea., \$2 S/H ea. (VISA/MC).  
Dealer inquiries welcome.