CHAPTER 11

Runout Figure Piping

For many reasons, runout figure piping is my favourite subject, but most of all because it expresses individuality.

Ideas for Drawing

Contrary to popular belief, it is not essential to be able to draw in order to do runout figure piping. All that is required is the ability to trace. Ideas come from many sources but mainly from gift-wrapping paper, children's painting books and greetings cards.

The cards illustrated in Fig. 76 are given as working drawings in Fig. 86. You will notice that each has, in some way, been adapted to suit our needs.

Interpretation of Design

Experience plays a large part in being able to take a given design and make it suitable for a runout figure. Initially, a number of greetings cards will be examined and discarded as unsuitable. With practice however, unsuitable sections can be discarded and additional items included to form an acceptable design. The following are examples of this.

Father Christmas (Fig. 76)
The Father Christmas on this card has a sack which was not required although it could have been used, separately, for the side of the cake. In the working drawing (Fig. 86) a toy has been placed in the chimney.

Children on fence (Fig. 76)
This is an ideal drawing for several reasons. Firstly, faces are not visible and this is where the majority of runouts are spoiled. Secondly, although at first glance it would seem suitable only for a child's birthday cake, it could be used for a golden wedding or retirement cake with the inclusion of the appropriate numerals on the side of the cake or as part of the border design. Finally, the position of the boy's hand enables a balloon or a kite, depicting the age of the child, to be easily positioned when required for a birthday cake (working drawings Fig. 86).

This runout is shown on a cake in Plate 3 and on a plaque in Fig. 73.

Baby in hammock (Fig. 76)
This figure can be used with or without the tree; teddy-bear or rabbit. Hands are difficult to pipe and the left hand is not shown on the working drawing (Fig. 86). It can be indicated by a raised

Fig. 76 Greetings cards.
Plate 1. Christmas cake — 18 cm (7 in.) cake on 28 cm (11 in.) board.

Plate 2. Outlined figures.