

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
Washington, D.C. 20549

## OMB APPROVAL

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**INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

<b>1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*</b> <b>MATTEO CARL</b> <hr/> (Last) (First) (Middle) <b>8333 CENTRAL AVE</b> <hr/> (Street) <b>NEWARK CA 94560</b> <hr/> (City) (State) (Zip)	<b>2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year)</b> <b>08/01/2003</b>	<b>3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol</b> <b>ROSS STORES INC [ROST]</b>	
		<b>4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer</b> (Check all applicable) <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below)  <b>SVP GMM</b> </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner  <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)         </div> </div>	<b>5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)</b>  <b>6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
COMMON STOCK	10,535	D	

**Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares <sup>M</sup>			
NON-QUALIFIED STOCK OPTION	04/22/2001 <sup>(1)</sup>	03/22/2011	Common Stock	1,475	\$19.75	D	
NON-QUALIFIED STOCK OPTION	04/19/1998 <sup>(2)</sup>	03/19/2008	COMMON STOCK	148	\$21	D	
NON-QUALIFIED STOCK OPTION	04/21/2002 <sup>(1)</sup>	03/21/2012	COMMON STOCK	1,862	\$37.78	D	
NON-QUALIFIED STOCK OPTION	04/20/2003 <sup>(1)</sup>	03/20/2013	COMMON STOCK	1,005	\$38.04	D	

**Explanation of Responses:**

1. Option is exercisable as it vests in monthly increments beginning the first full month from date of grant with a vested ratio of 1/72 for the first year, 2/72 for the second year and 3/72 for the third year

2. Option is fully vested and exercisable

/s/ Mark Askanas POA for      08/04/2003  
Carl Matteo

\*\* Signature of Reporting      Date  
Person

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.**

ROSS STORES, INC.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Know all by these presents, that the undersigned hereby authorizes Mark Askanas, General Counsel, and John Call, Chief Financial Officer, and their designees, Mary Tanner, Vice President of Human Resources, and Chuck Kurth, Vice President of Finance and Treasurer, of Ross Stores, Inc. (the "Company"), to execute for and on behalf of the undersigned, in the undersigned's capacity as an officer or director of the Company, Forms 3, 4 and 5, and any amendments thereto, and cause such form(s) to be filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Act of 1934, relating to the undersigned's beneficial ownership of securities in the Company. The undersigned hereby grants to each such attorney-in-fact full power and authority to do and perform any and every act and thing whatsoever requisite, necessary, or proper to be done in the exercise of any of the rights and powers herein granted, as fully to all intents and purposes as the undersigned might or could do if personally present, with full power of substitution or revocation, hereby ratifying and confirming all that such attorney-in-fact, or such attorney-in-fact's substitute or substitutes, shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue of this power of attorney and the rights and powers herein granted. The undersigned acknowledges that the foregoing attorneys-in-fact, in serving in such capacity at the request of the undersigned, are not assuming, nor is the Company assuming, any of the undersigned's responsibilities to comply with Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. This Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until the undersigned is no longer required to file Forms 4 and 5 with respect to the undersigned's holdings of, and transactions in, securities issued by the Company, unless earlier revoked by the undersigned in a signed writing delivered to the foregoing attorneys-in-fact.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has cause this Power of Attorney to be executed as of this 1 day of August, 2003.

/s/ Carl J. Matte

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