



Lallan is Christa Giles' second design for Twist Collective. Like her previous design, [Piper](#), Christa offers us her creative blend of fashion, detailing and functionality. This is a cross post from Christa's [own blog](#). Click to find out more about [Lallans](#) and [Piper](#).



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I have such a hard time keeping secrets, but here's another can't-tell-until-it-is-live project: [Lallans](#) for the [Fall 2010 issue of Twist Collective](#), a fabulous online knitting magazine (but you knew that already, right?)



The picture above is of the prototype - see the Lallans pattern page [here](#) or on [Twist Collective](#) for photos of the real version (this length of ribbing didn't work out with the short rows).

The mood boards for this issue included three stories: a woodland shoot, with the words "walk along quiet byways, wander through the woods"; What Would Mary-Heather Wear, a colourful and quirky tribute to the stylish [Mary-Heather Cogar](#) who is a knitting designer and Ravelry employee and lover of cute German Shepard dogs (her's is named Charlie); and then a black and white selection of glamorous, edgy, strong rocking women.

I submitted ideas for all three stories, and Lallans was chosen - this was the one that had already been fully knit, and perhaps my completed hats are easier to judge than my sketched ideas! ([Piper](#) was submitted in the same way, with photos of a completed hat along with drawings of other concepts.) I thought that design would work particularly well for the woodlands idea, as it had a bit more of the kicking-around-in-the-fields flavour and less of Piper's glam or the playfulness that I'd associate with Mary-Heather!



The design itself was a sideline project that came after I finished my NaKniSweMo hoodie in January. I had used the braiding technique to trim all around the bottom, front, and hood edges before applying the final ribbing band, and I really loved the way it looked! (Note, however, that I did NOT love applying it to the hoodie! Lesson learned: braid is good on small things, like hats or mittens. That much twisted yarn as you work on hundreds of stitches, not so fun.) I wanted to use piping again (yes, I'm still on that kick) and also throw in a bit more texture, so that's where those garter ridges joined us. The slip stitch pattern was tougher: I consulted a few different stitch dictionaries, but didn't find anything I liked, so I started playing around. This pattern that resulted is the colourwork equivalent of the textured stitch in [Picker's Delight](#), balanced for easy shifting between colours and rows, and simple to remember! There's a bit of fiddly work at the start and end of some of the rounds, but I think it does a good job of helping to minimize the jog.

This hat had the original working title of Hound, since I thought that the slip stitch patterning looked like the weave structure called Houndstooth. In the second or third round of edits, Kate suggested we rename it Lallans, the Scottish word for Lowlands (the region that developed the Houndstooth pattern). I always find naming patterns hard (read about Piper's process [here](#)) but was content with Hound.. but Lallans is a lovely fit! I have a friend visiting Scotland right now, so I'll be getting coached in the proper pronunciation.

Knitting the two samples was fun, and I loved the colour combinations that Kate chose for me. The Caledon Hills Worsted Wool was delicious to work with, too! One of the things I really enjoy about designing for publications that provide yarn support is that I get to experience a wide range of fibres, not just what the local shops carry..

And finally, I really love the photo shoot with the model digging around under the hood of a vehicle

- my sister and I both spent a lot of time in our teen years working on motorcycles or my dad's truck, as he tried to give us some good mechanical basics. It obviously stuck with my sister (she's an electrician, working towards becoming a millwright in a sawmill in the middle of BC), but didn't have as much of a lasting effect on me. I'm happy that Chris is a handyman and will help me out in that area when needed! As pretty as it looks on the Twist Collective models, I'm planning to get some photos of men wearing the straight ribbing version as I think this pattern can be pretty masculine or unisex too!