



In this entry, cross-posted from her [blog](#), Adriana Hernandez brings us inside the technical and logistical aspects of designing and publishing a pattern with Twist Collective, as well as sharing her inspiration and design process. Her design for this issue of Twist is the lovely vest you see [here](#). She also brought us this [smart jacket](#) last winter. You can find her other designs [here](#), and follow her on twitter [here](#)!



First comes the idea...

Inspiration comes from many different sources. Sometimes, I am inspired by something I see on the street, in a movie, on a magazine cover on the newsstands, or even at the museum within a painting or sculpture. Inspiration can also come from practicality - Me: "Gosh, I really would love a cardigan in xyz color to go with that great top..." Often, I am inspired by the mood boards sent out by magazines and publications; which was the case for Academia, a sweater vest I designed for Twist Collective.

For this project, I was inspired specifically by text on one of the mood boards for Twist Collective's

Fall 2011 collection. One of the themes mentioned "bookworm" and immediately I thought of sweater vests. But, what of them? What kind of sweater vest? A ribbed one or cabled one? I think those are pretty standard. But, what about something a bit more adventurous to knit? At this point, I have to mention that I had already been working on designing some fair-isle mittens so fair-isle was on my mind. I spent over a week researching and reading about the Fair Isles and the history of the stranded color-work we have come to call fair-isle. So, what popped into my mind was this image of the Duke of Windsor wearing a fair-isle sweater with a dog in his arms. Yes, this was it. A fair-isle vest it would be.



Then comes refinement...

What would the color-work pattern be? Would it be lots of X's & O's like on the Prince's jumper? An all-over fair-isle design? I thought the color scheme in the painting was a bit muted for my taste. I studied the pattern and color choices carefully, but muted colors aren't really my style nor did the pattern itself really appeal to my aesthetics.

With those considerations in mind, I combined a series of fair-isle patterns including an argyle segment to create a motif that would be the eye-catcher of the garment. I sketched out the idea, plotted the pattern on a grid with OpenSourceCalc, and then added an illustrated schematic with garment measurements. I then knitted two swatches with yarn I had in my stash. I scanned the swatches, bundled my sketches and illustrations together as a PDF document, and sent it off to the

editors of Twist Collective... and then waited.

The image is a screenshot of a digital design application window. The title bar at the top reads "ESSENTIALS". The main workspace contains a design for a vest. On the left, a sketch shows a woman wearing a yellow and orange patterned vest over a white long-sleeved shirt and a brown skirt. Below the sketch is a technical drawing of the vest's front panel. To the right of the sketch is a large rectangular swatch of the vest's pattern, featuring a repeating diamond or lattice motif in shades of pink, red, and white. Below this swatch is another swatch showing a different colorway of the same pattern, using blue and orange. On the far right, there is a text box with the following information:

**Academia Vest**  
a vest in fair-isle stranded colorwork

Academia is an Oxford-inspired colorwork vest - a wonderful addition to any wardrobe.

**Yarn Requirements:**  
Fingering or Sock weight yarn in various colors. Main color for size

**Tools:**  
2.5mm circular needles for bottom ribbed edge and trim  
3.0mm circular needles for main area and fair-isle colorwork  
Tapestry needle for sewing seams

**Skills Needed:**  
- K1P1 ribbing  
- stranded colorwork techniques  
- picking up stitches  
- flexible cast-on (cable cast-on)

At the bottom left of the design area, it says "By: Adriana Hernandez adriprimo@yahoo.com". On the right side of the window, there is a "LAYOUT" panel with a list of elements and their counts:

Name	Count
add_color_name.pdf	2
bottom_rib	1
neckline_rib	1
neckline_rib	1
vest_bottom_rib	1
vest_bottom_rib	1
vest_neckline	1
vest_neckline	1
vest_neckline	1
vest_neckline	1
vest_neckline	1
vest_neckline	1

Once you've had your design proposal accepted, what's the next step? The sponsored yarn for this project came in hanks, so my first step was to wind one hank of each color yarn into center-pull balls.





Then, I began the gauge-swatch process because the gauge of this yarn was different from that of my proposal. I knew the project would entail some ribbing, plain stockinette, and also fair-isle. So, I made swatches of all three areas to make sure my math worked out for the end-knitter. I also used the first swatch in fair-isle to see if I liked the planned progression of color in the final yarn.



Once I had a good idea of the pattern numbers based on the swatches, I wrote a rough draft of the pattern including the various sizes. I went through the early drafts of the pattern and then knit the sample based on this draft. So, even after the sample was done, there were some changes that needed to be made. Although it's not ideal, some things you just don't see until after you've knitted it and see the garment as a whole! The pattern is then test-knitted by a team of test-knitters who follow the edited second draft.



After assessing all the data gathered from the testers, I updated stitch counts, faulty charts, and edited any unclear text. Then, I packaged schematics, charts, the written text, and the sample. The sample was shipped off and the draft e-mailed to the publishers (the Twist Collective team).

Several weeks later, when the editing team was ready to work on the Fall issue, I received an e-mail notifying me of their progress. After that, we went back and forth reviewing and editing a pre-press formatted version of the pattern. Both sides are responsible for checking numbers, schematic accuracy, language, grammar, knitting terminology and conventions, etc.

Then a few weeks after that, the photos were processed and edited, and finally the pattern was published!







Yay!