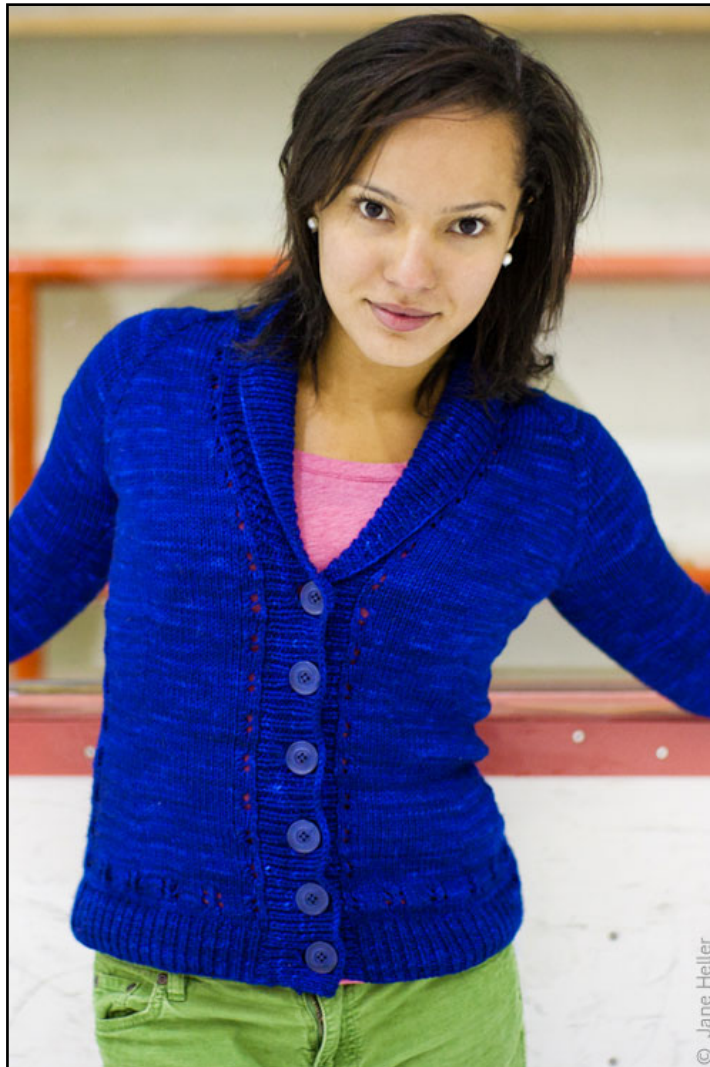




Thayer Preece's first design for Twist Collective is [Blair](#), a flattering cardigan with plenty of flattering detailing. Thayer tells us a little about her inspiration for this piece in today's blog post. She also posted this [on her own site](#).



I was incredibly honored and excited when my cardigan pattern was accepted into the [Winter 2010 issue of Twist Collective](#). Diving head-first into the world of sweater design has been quite an adventure!

Blair is a top-down raglan cardigan, knit all in one piece. The eyelet details give it some visual interest, but still maintain the simple quality of the garment, so that it's suitable for everyday wear—perfect for throwing on over a t-shirt and pair of jeans. The simple construction makes it a good choice for all levels of knitters, and the simple shape makes it appropriate for a wide range of body types.



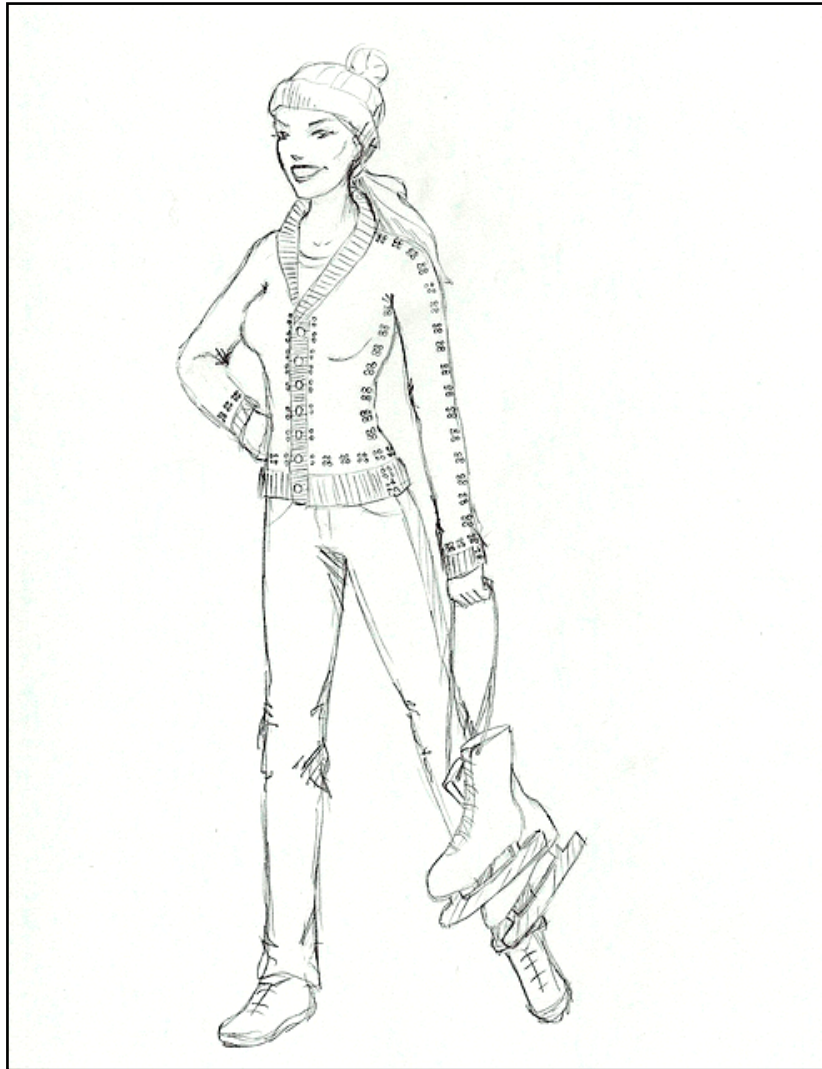
Before I sent the sample sweater in to Twist, I couldn't resist taking a picture for myself, even though it was much too small for me. I'm working on my own size now, and can't wait to wear it! Though it's shown in my picture below with negative ease, I would advise aiming for as close to zero ease as possible, or slight positive ease, depending on what you plan to wear under the sweater.



I got the inspiration for this sweater while watching the Olympics last Winter. During the ice skating competition, I saw a girl wearing a sweater backstage with an eyelet detail running down the sleeves. After some swatching and brainstorming, I came up with the design you see above. When I saw the mood board for the Winter issue of Twist, and that it featured a segment inspired by ice



skaters, I knew I had to submit it, even though I was pretty nervous about heading right into the big leagues with my first sweater pattern! The sketch I submitted is shown below:



When naming the sweater, I finally settled on Blair as an homage to [Bonnie Blair](#), the 5-time Olympic gold medalist speed skater, who grew up in my hometown of Champaign, IL. Growing up, I took skating lessons on the same ice where she learned to skate, looking up at banners congratulating her on her wins.

I hope you enjoy this pattern, and I can't wait to see what you create with it!

Blair can be purchased and downloaded from the Twist Collective, [here](#).

The Ravelry page for the pattern is [here](#).