



GATHERED LAMP SHADES

9am to 5pm

£275 one person | £415 two people

Bookable on a day to suit you



Learn this creative skill in one day of bespoke tuition

Gathered shades are the most relaxed lampshade style and are incredibly popular in interiors. They look gorgeous made in block printed fabrics, ikats, silk dupion, Liberty's tana lawns... and there's plenty of scope for original ideas too.

This wonderfully rewarding day of one-to-one tuition in gathered lampshade making is held in the beautifully equipped sewing room at Traditional Upholstery School in Wiltshire. Your tutor will be Naomi, Mel or Joanna, all professional lampshade makers who teach regularly at the school.

The day will be fun, informal and full of learning. You will be taught the core techniques step-by-step – planning and measuring the fabric; hand gathering, pinning and stitching; fitting an informal pleated or a balloon lining; and making your own bias trimming - all at your own pace. You'll take home your own impressive handmade gathered shade and the skills to make many more.

In order to make this class possible in one-day, you will be provided with a shade frame that is suitable for learning on. If you have a shade that you would really love to start making as soon as you get home, do bring it along. Even if it's not quite right for your first attempt, your tutor will be able to offer tips and suggestions to get you started so that you go home full of confidence in your new skills.

On the day

You will be working in a private sewing studio, fully equipped with a huge sewing table and plenty of good lighting. Your tutor will break the process down into achievable stages. You will learn how to bind a frame, how to measure and cut your fabric, then how to gather, pin and stitch it to the frame. We'll teach you how to fit an informal pleated lining or balloon lining (the choice is yours) and finish with a bias binding trimming.

There are a lot of new skills to learn on this busy, lively day – but it's great fun and you'll be fuelled by plenty of tea, coffee and a full biscuit tin.



What is provided

- A 10in French drum lampshade frame, which is the optimum size and shape for learning on
- Binding tape and suitable cotton linings in shades of white
- Pins, scissors and all the specialist sundries
- Sewing machines
- Tea, coffee, cold drinks and snacks are provided throughout the day

What to bring

Choosing your own fabric is one of the most enjoyable parts of the process, so we invite our students to bring their own top fabric.

Suitable fabric for a gathered lampshade is a lightweight cotton, linen, silk or viscose. Cotton lawn is ideal. Silk-like viscose is another perfect choice. Silk dupion and sateen are lovely but bring their own technical challenges and are best saved until you have some experience. Avoid heavy fabrics, pile fabrics, stretchy, textured and embroidered fabric. If in doubt, bring a choice. 1m of fabric will suffice. We provide plain white and ivory lining fabric.

And don't forget:

- Camera or smartphone (to capture the best bits...)
- A notebook and pencil (...to write down the important bits)
- Consider what to wear. We'll be sitting for much of the day. In summer, cool and comfy clothes work well. In winter, bring layers. We have string heating but it's worth packing extra layers just in case.
- Something for lunch. There's a microwave, sink and kettle in the kitchen area and the village shop is a three-minute drive away
- Take as many or as few breaks as you want. We want you to achieve what you want but it's meant to be relaxed, informal and fun too.

Parking

The course is held at the Traditional Upholstery School in Wiltshire. The address is Holt Holdings, East Lane, Holt, Wiltshire, BA14 6QU. Traditional Upholstery School are now part of a rural business estate, so there's plenty of parking.

When you drive in, park on the left, just outside the wooden gates. The School is inside the gates. The entrance is halfway along the large wooden barn-like building with a bench outside.

Directions

From Holt on the B3107 towards Melksham

After Holt, take the first left into East Lane immediately after Hillview Riding Stables, signposted 'Atworth' and 'Broughton Gifford'.

Holt Holdings is about 200 metres along on the left. You'll see a convex mirror in the hedge opposite the turning.



From Melksham on the B3107 towards Holt and Bradford on Avon

About two miles along this winding road from Melksham, just past the West Wiltshire Equestrian Centre on the left, take a sharp right turning into East Lane, which is signposted 'Atworth' and 'Broughton Gifford'.

Holt Holdings is about 200 metres along the East Lane on the left. You'll see a convex mirror in the hedge opposite the turning.

Any other queries?

If you have any requests, questions or concerns, please get in touch. Email traditionalupholsterschool@gmail.com



Joanna Heptinstall

Here's a few gathered shades that students have made in recent 1-2-1 workshops

