



UPHOLSTERY FOUNDATION COURSE

A great introduction to upholstery for beginners
Every Thursday for 12 weeks 9.30am to 5pm
Make four fabulous bespoke projects



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Today's professional upholsterer will have spent years training in a craft which, while its roots are firmly based on traditional methods, must be able to exist in the modern world. An upholsterer's skills extend from building up traditional hair-filled 18th century furniture, to pattern cutting for mid-century modern furniture.

It takes years to master such a complex craft professionally. Yet at the Traditional Upholstery School we know there are many people who would like to be able to learn upholstery as a rewarding, useful and creative hobby, and to be able to successfully reupholster pieces to a high standard for their own homes.

We have designed this course to bridge the gap between an informal leisure class and full professional training. The 12-week foundation course gives students a solid grounding in many of the upholsterer's core skills. Students will learn: traditional stitched and stuffed upholstery using natural hair and fibres; working with foam and modern methods; and core sewing skills.

Students learn these skills working on carefully-picked pieces of furniture, producing four beautiful projects by the end of the course. We have made sure there is enough choice and flexibility for students to make something they love and want in their own home. The skills learned will be transferable across a broad range of future upholstery projects.

Practical workroom experience is at the heart of the training. Students work alongside each other, enabling work to be discussed with peers and tutors. Students get a sound grounding in all the processes, techniques and materials.



Upholstery Foundation Course

The 12-week upholstery foundation course runs for 12 days, one day a week. Hours are 9.30am to 4.30pm.

2024 dates:

Thursday 19 September to Thursday 12 December 2024

(there is a two week half term break half way through the course)

MAKE FOUR GORGEOUS BESPOKE PROJECTS

Project 1 Scatter cushion

Sewing is essential skill for upholsterers. You will make a beautiful scatter cushion, trimmed with piping or a ricrac scalloped edge and finished with an inserted zip. There are a lot of useful sewing skills packed into this natty little project, from cutting, measuring and pinning to confident use of your sewing machine.



What you need

Students will be provided with a 40cm or 50cm square feather-filled cushion pad, piping cords and zips. The charge is approximately £10.

Students will provide their own top fabric: one meter of suitable* soft furnishing fabric is enough for the front and back, plus the piping.

Students are asked to bring their own sewing machines, which should be in good working order. Let us know if you haven't got one, thank you.

*a medium weight cotton or linen fabric is ideal. Avoid anything stretchy, with a thick pile such as heavy velvet, or bumpy texture or embroidery.

Project 2 Bespoke ottoman footstool

We simply love an ottoman footstool. It's the ideal way to insert a beautiful fabric right in the middle of your room... and of course you can put your feet and even a tea tray on it. Perfect!

Traditional Upholstery School will provide the stool frames. You have a choice of three sizes of frame and three styles of leg, from bang-on-trend bobbin legs to classic turned legs with brass castors. All show wood is left raw so that you can be creative with stains, wax or paints.

The bespoke choices continue with your upholstery treatment: create a piped border, add button details or even top it with a loose box cushion. This is an exciting start to your upholstery journey.



What you need

- Students supply their own top fabric.
- Sundries such as cord and staples are provided at no charge.
- Materials such as foam and calico are charged for on an as-you-use-it basis.
- **Footstool frames** – TUS has two sizes of ottoman footstool frame available and several leg styles.

120cm x 80cm. Cost tbc

100cm x 60cm.. Cost tbc

40cm x 40cm. Cost tbc

Bespoke stool sizes are also available as long as enough notice is given. They are likely incur extra cost as we will not benefit from a bulk order.

Leg styles include vintage bobbin legs, classic turned legs with casters and tapered plain legs, all 20cm height which give a finished footstool height of 35cm. We also offer a choice of two taller legs of approximately 45cm which are ideal for hall and bed-end benches and dressing table stools.

We are still in the planning stages at the time of writing – please enquire to see photos – we'll have them soon!

Project 3 Reupholster a vintage dining chair

Working with traditional materials such as hessian and horsehair, and hand tools including a magnetic hammer and web stretcher, this is a neat introduction to traditional upholstery. You will reupholster a vintage drop-in seat chair, learning essential knots and stitches, and how to tension fabric to create beautiful lines. Your chair can be colourfully painted or polished to its original glory.



What you need

- Students supply their own top fabric.
- Sundries such as cord and staples are provided at no charge.
- Materials such as foam and calico will be charged for on an as-you-use-it basis.
- Chair frames can often be supplied by TUS at an average charge of £15-£20, please enquire. Students are of course welcome to provide their own.

Project 4 Upholster an antique chair or footstool using traditional methods.

The grand finale of the course. You will learn the core skills of traditional upholstery: hand springing, and creating a stitched and stuffed seat pad using blind and top edge stitches. It is an ambitious skills-packed project which will really immerse you in upholstery skills. At this point we guarantee you'll be in love with your new hobby.

Students may choose to work on an antique Victorian or Edwardian chair, or one of our purpose-made footstool frames to create a hall or bed-end bench, footstool or dressing table stool.



What you need

- Students supply their own top fabric.
- Sundries such as cord and staples are provided at no charge.
- Materials such as hessian, calico, webbing and hair will be charged for on an as-you-use-it basis.
- Chair frames can often be supplied by TUS at an average charge of £45, please enquire. Students are of course welcome to provide their own.
- TUS stool frames can also be used for this project.

Additional syllabus content

In addition to the practical syllabus, students have workshop inductions, demonstrations and teaching about modern and traditional core materials and techniques. This includes instruction on:

- Health & safety: when working with tools and equipment in a workshop environment
- Appropriate use and care of tools and equipment, both hand and machine
- Appropriate care handling of materials in a professional workroom
- Correct use of fillings & sundry materials
- Techniques and processes including knots, blind, top and slip stitching

On successful completion of the foundation course, students will be able to apply technical knowledge and skills to a series of basic modern and traditional upholstered techniques.

A typical day – how it works

Our tutors are knowledgeable, friendly and patient and we aim to make sure that students thoroughly enjoy the learning process. A typical day is busy, and there will be lots to learn and remember, so students should arrive ready and prepared.

Students are at their workbenches by 9.30am. The workroom is open at 9am and anyone arriving a little early is welcome to make a cup of tea and settle in. Lunchtimes are at 1pm-ish and tend to be short

to make the most of the day. Students usually eat soup or a sandwich at the bar.

The end of the teaching day is 4.30pm, when your tutor will step away from the class. All students are expected to leave their workbenches and the surrounding floor area swept and clean, and tools put away properly – just as they found it – before leaving by 5pm.

Attendance – an important note

The 12-week upholstery Foundation Course follows a tight syllabus and is packed with information, with our tutors planning the pace of each session carefully to ensure that students are taught thoroughly and to a high standard. Students should aim to avoid missing any sessions.

How to enrol

The full cost of the 12-week foundation course fees is £695. This can be paid as a £200 deposit with further installments due before the start of the course. Please see our website for further details on booking terms.

On the first day you will be asked to fill in a contact form giving your phone, mobile and email details so that we can contact you in an emergency. This information will be kept private and not be shared with anyone.

Additional costs

Additional costs to bear in mind are the cost of your chairs, stool frames, and the cost of upholstery materials and sundries such as hessian, foam and hair used. Each student will be given a sundries sheet, on which their materials are listed on an as-you-use-it bases. This can be paid at the end of each session, or totted up throughout the course to be paid on sessions 6 and 11.

At the Traditional Upholstery School we charge just over trade prices (so much lower than retail prices) for most sundries, allowing students to get a good idea of the real costs involved.

At any stage you're welcome to get in touch with questions. The best way to do this is by email at traditionalupholsterschool@gmail.com If you'd like to chat in the phone, please do email so we can arrange a suitable convenient time. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

New students ... getting into the swing of it

The first session of the course is always really exciting. There'll be new faces who'll become friends and the brand new challenge of learning the hugely varied and complex skills of upholstery to get used to. We aim to make it a really positive experience and to ensure students enjoy it.

You will have a huge amount to take on board in the first few sessions: from knowing everyone's names; to the rules on how we look after tools, to fitting in with our health and safety policy. Rather than bombard you at the beginning, every student will receive a code of practice once they have enrolled. This will be enforced as we go along with tutors leading the way.

So to start with we would like to encourage new students to make sure they arrive prepared and ready to learn. Here are a few tips and suggestions that we think will help you make a success of your first few days and weeks:

- Always aim to arrive on time or a little before. The kettle will be available for mugs of tea if you need time to recover from a long drive. Your tutor is likely to be preparing for the day's class at this stage so do give her space to get on with it.

- A little research really helps. From week one you will be following a syllabus. You will find it helps your learning if you read up a little about each process before you start. Your tutor will help guide you in this.

- Save a little time each week for homework. Students aren't required to keep a portfolio on this course, but we know there's a huge advantage in taking notes while you work. Stage-by-stage photos really help as reminders of what you've learned. Update your info each week, rather than in bursts.

- In the workroom, always wear workroom appropriate clothing. This doesn't mean the full Dickies Workwear catalogue (but you can if you wish) but it must include sturdy shoes which cover your toes, and clothing you don't mind getting dusty and dirty. In winter the workroom is heated, but it is still likely to be far colder than your home. Many students favour warm puffa jackets and scarves. (Students who arrive in flip flops or crocs will not be allowed to work in the workroom for their own safety!).

- Specialist hand tools are provided for use on the course. However, just like in school, you must always bring your pencil case of workbench essentials. This workbench essentials kit must include the following items:

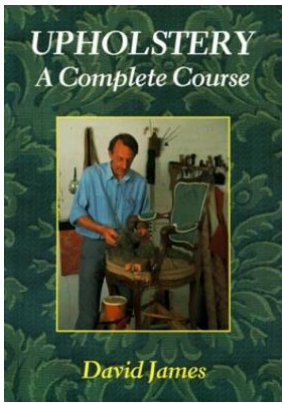
- fabric scissors, general craft scissors, 6B pencil, black marker pen, sturdy bead-headed pins, selection of hand sewing needles, tape measure, ruler.

- notepad and pencil, plus phone for taking photos.
- specs – if you need them for reading, bring them with you.

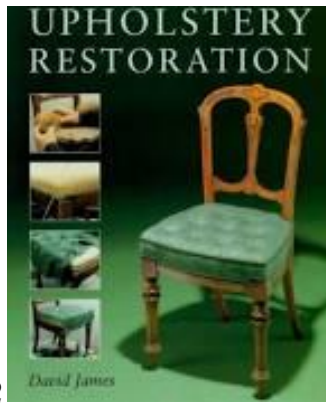
Suggested reading list

The Traditional Upholstery School workroom has an ever-growing library of excellent resource books for upholstery, woodwork repairs, sewing skills and related topics. We do ask students to make sure they have two or three good upholstery handbooks of their own, as they will find them an essential support for their studies. Happily, even though many are rather old-fashioned, the content doesn't go out of date and they can be bought fairly cheaply second hand. Here are some of our favourites, with the top five considered fairly essential:

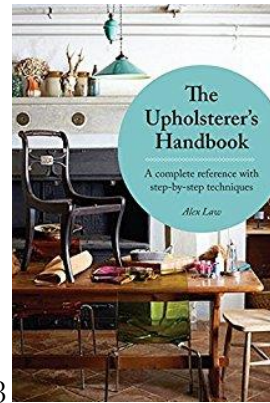
1. Upholstery A Complete Course, by David James
2. Upholstery Restoration by David James
3. The Upholsterer's Handbook: A Practical Reference by Alex Law
4. Upholstery A Practical Guide by Desmond Gaston
5. Practical Upholstering and the Cutting of Loose Covers, by Frederick Palmer
6. Upholstery techniques and projects, by David James
7. Upholstery Hits & Tips by David James
8. The Upholsterer's Pocket Reference Book by David James
9. The Complete Upholsterer by Carole Thomerson
10. Professional Soft Furnishings by Wendy Shorter



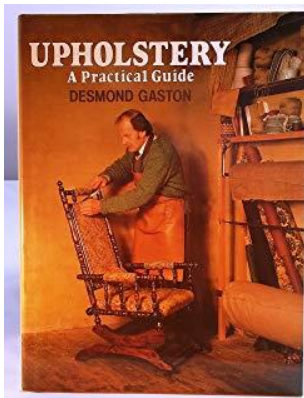
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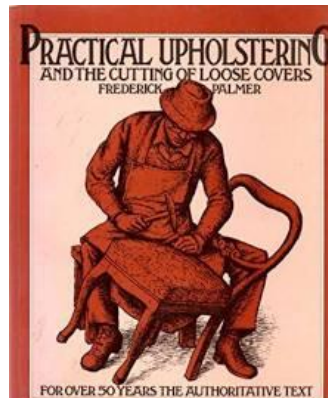
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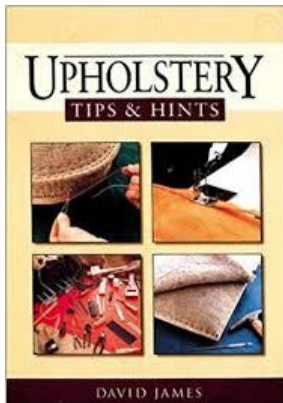
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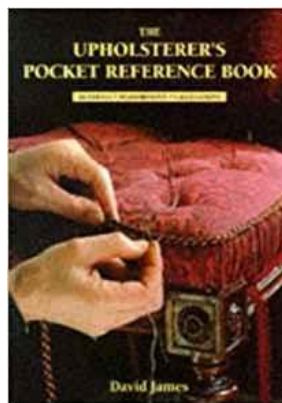
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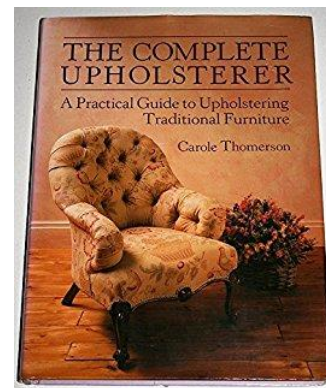
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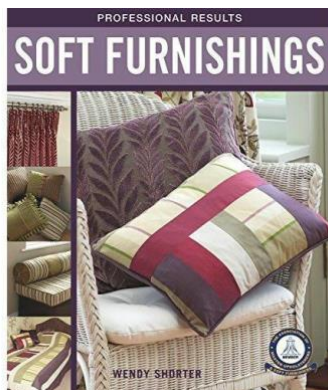
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Why train at the Traditional Upholstery School?



The Traditional Upholstery School was set up in 2016 by professional upholsterer Joanna Heptinstall. It has already launched many talented students into the working world of upholstery. It is based in a lovely big, light and airy workroom in the Wiltshire countryside. We are two miles from Bradford on Avon, ten miles from Bath, 30 miles from Salisbury and just 14 miles south of the M4 Junction 17.

We are very proud that the Traditional Upholstery School in Wiltshire is one of only a handful of UK training centres approved by the Association of Master Upholsterers and Soft Furnishers to teach its professional diploma. As well as this highly-respected qualification, we also run a series of very popular leisure classes, and short courses in specialist upholstery techniques.

We have plenty of free parking and are based on the ground floor (important when carrying chairs to and fro!). There's a kitchen, huge teaching workroom and additional classroom for specific tutoring.

There's a 'bar area' too, where tea-breaks, lunches and chats happen. This is where the best ideas are often formed... and cake is munched.

Class sizes are small and our tutors are experienced, supportive and friendly. Each class has a maximum of eight students. This small tutor-student ratio ensures we can give every student individual attention, allowing everyone to get the best from the training.

