



ADVANCED PLEATING TECHNIQUES FOR LAMP SHADES

A creative four-day pleated lampshade maker's masterclass

9.30am to 5pm £485

Next available dates are listed on the website



Fan pleats, swathed pleats, box pleats, sun-ray pleats.... these wonderful pleating styles are all coming right back into fashion, which is an absolute joy for anyone who loves exploring the creative possibilities of lampshade making.

Join lampshade maker, author of best-selling book *Sewing Lampshades* and teacher Joanna Heptinstall for a creative four day workshop concentrating on mastering pleating skills.

We will begin by making a set of samples, on which students can explore and practice the various techniques. These small shades worked in simple lawn and muslin cloth can be taken home as a resource for future shade-making. Once we have thoroughly explored and learned the core skills behind swathed, box, sunray and fan pleating students will move onto design their own lampshade featuring one of their newly acquired pleating techniques, taking it to fruition as a finished shade.



Who's it for?

As we will be working at an intermediate level, some lampshade making experience is required for this course. Ideally students will have already attended our one day pleated lampshade workshop, or completed the pleated Lesson in a Box. If you aren't sure if it's right for you, please send us an email at traditionalupholsteryschool@gmail.com and we'll arrange a time to contact you for a chat.

The course

Days one and two

- We start with coffee and introductions, health and safety, and a chance to find out about your level of experience. Students are welcome to arrive from 9am to settle in and we'll start the teaching day promptly at 9.30am.
- We'll launch into two days of pleating techniques. Students will work on small 8in shade frames, using simple muslin and lawn cloth to make a sample lampshade of fan pleats, swathed pleats, sun ray pleats and box pleats. These instructive samples will be yours to take home.

As you work we will discuss ways each technique can be brought forward to create more unique and bespoke shades.





Days three and four

Once we have mastered a range of pleating techniques, we will move on to making a beautiful finished full-sized lampshade using one of the techniques that you have learned. This will be fully lined with a balloon lining, and worked in an advanced pleating style, trimmed with either gimp and fringing or hand made bias trimming.



What is provided

- Sample sized lampshade frames, x4
- White cotton muslin and lawn for making up samples.
- Cotton binding tape; specialist sewing threads; and needles
- Lining fabrics in shades of cream and off-white.
- Plenty of tea, coffee and a full biscuit tin.
- **SHADE FRAMES** We will have a range of interesting shade frames for you to choose from to use for your final project. These will be individually priced. If



you are hoping to use a particular shade shape and can't find one DO let us know in good time, as we may be able to help.

If you have a frame you are hoping to use, please do send us a photo so that we can advise whether it will be suitable. If in doubt, bring it anyway.

What to bring

- **TOP FABRIC** There are so many choices... but here's a guide to help you: Most quality pleated lampshades are worked in silk chiffon over a base of either cotton lawn or silk dupion. The chiffon is ideal as it is gauzy and highly flexible.
- We advise that you buy: 2m silk chiffon or silk georgette; 1m of silk dupion or cotton lawn as a base lining colour; 4m matching gimp braid; plus 2m fringe trim, if required.
- **MATCHING SEWING THREAD** for your tailored top fabric.
- **YOUR HABERDASHERY KIT** including fabric scissors, thread snips, bead-headed pins, tape measure, soft 6B pencil or marking chalk.

A note on sourcing fabrics

BUYING SILKS

We tend to buy our silk fabrics from Pongees Ltd. They have a wide range of dupions, chiffons and georgettes and are happy to send you colour samples before you buy.

BUYING TRIMMINGS

Barnett Lawson Trimmings, Collybrook and VV Rouleaux all have lovely and versatile selections which vcan be bought online.

A BUYING TIP...

Because there is a much broader range of fabrics than trimmings, select your trimmings first, then choose the silks to match.

And don't forget:

- Camera or smartphone (to capture the best bits...)
- A notebook and pencil (...to write down the important bits)



- It's a big, spacious workroom with a concrete floor in a breezy rural site. In summer it's lovely. In winter, we have strong 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. There's usually a 'lunch dash' for those who need something.
Many students are keen to crack on with their projects so take a short-ish lunch break in the workroom.
- 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.

Timetable

We need some undisturbed time to set up the class first thing. Students are welcome to arrive from 9.10am onwards. Classes begin at 9.30am and finish at 5pm. Tutors also need time at the end of the day to tidy up before going home.

Parking

The course is held at the workshops of The Lampshade School in Wiltshire. The address is Traditional Upholstery School, Unit 2, Holt Holdings Business Park, East Lane, Holt, Trowbridge Wiltshire BA14 6QU.

The Lampshade School and its big sister the Traditional Upholstery School are now part of a rural business estate, so you'll now find there's plenty of parking. When you drive through the gate, park on the left. The entrance is halfway along the large wooden barn-like building.

Directions

From Holt on the B3107 towards Melksham

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

If you get lost call us 07505 651030.

Any other queries?

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

Joanna Heptinstall