

DEEP BUTTONED FOOTSTOOL

A two-day workshop
09:30 to 17:00

Next available workshop dates are listed on the website



An elegant deep-buttoned footstool is a stylish and fashionable addition to any home. Making your own is a fantastically creative and rewarding project – but it's quite a challenge if you aren't an expert upholsterer.

This busy, fun course is a chance to spend two days learning to make your own deep-buttoned footstool. We provide the wooden frame and two days packed with new ideas, tips and skills from our expert tutors.

It's hard work, great fun and there's a huge sense of achievement when you end up with your own beautifully finished footstool.

The course

Starting with an elegant handmade wooden frame provided by us, we'll show you how to create your own deep-buttoned footstool. That's an ambitious target for a two-day course so it's pretty full-on, with lots of information from your tutors and plenty of concentration and determination needed by you.

The course is great fun and it's very rewarding discovering classic traditional upholstery techniques including how to create traditional diamond patterns using calico; working with slip knots; and how to make your own fabric buttons using our button press.

This lively and ambitious course is always fuelled with plenty of tea, coffee, homemade cake and great company.



What is provided?

- A wooden footstool frame. On booking you should let us know whether you would like a 12 x 26in or 12 x 18in frame.
- All frames are fitted with 6in Queen Anne period-style beech legs (6 inches tall). Students who would like to provide their own legs, should supply them to the school four weeks prior to the course.
- All the foam and calico you will need
- Specialist upholstery tools for use on the course
- Tea, coffee, cold drinks and snacks are provided throughout the day.

What to bring?

Before you come you have the important task of choosing the fabric for covering your footstool. Fabrics vary enormously and choosing is part of the fun. Your fabric should be upholstery grade. We like to recommend wool fabrics for deep buttoning. Warwick's Amatheon and Moon's wool ranges are very good.

One metre of fabric will be enough for either size of footstool.

You also need a tiny bit of fabric for covering your buttons. You can use your footstool fabric, or something contrasting. A lighter weight fabric will be fine for this. You only need about one square inch for each button, so a scrap will suffice.

And don't forget:

- Camera or smartphone (to capture the best bits...)
- A notebook and pencil (...to write down the important bits)
- Consider comfy clothes and sturdy shoes. It's a big, airy, spacious workroom with a concrete floor in a breezy rural site. We have strong heating but some people still find it chilly on a cold day – so please pack extra layers and a scarf just in case you need it. We promise no-one will laugh if you work in a woolly hat.
- 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 however 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. Then you are welcome to arrive from 9.10am onwards. Classes officially begin at 9.30am and finish at 5pm.



Health and safety

As with all soft furniture and upholstery crafts, there are some small risks due to the processes and tools involved.

There will be a short health and safety talk at the start, covering things like working safely with long sharp needles, and keeping your fingers safe when using a ripping chisel.

Parking

The course is held at the workshops of the Traditional Upholstery School in Wiltshire. The address is Holt Holdings, East Lane, Holt, Wiltshire, BA14 6QU.

If you are a long-standing student please note we have moved from the Old Glove Factory in Holt. The School is 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 plant pot outside.

You are welcome to drop your heavy bags, equipment or furniture right at the door. Drive through the metal gate to the right of the main building. Our doorway is halfway along (there's always a plant pot outside). Please keep on the left of this narrow stretch because other businesses use it for access and may need to get past. When you've dropped your stuff you need to reverse back to the parking area.

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 you left. Immediately after, 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.



Booking

Places on these courses are limited in order to maximise experience. Course dates and availability can be found on the [website](#) and you can book your place there too.

Any other queries?

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

Joanna Heptinstall