THE LAMPSHADE SCHOOL

THE COMPLETE LAMPSHADE COURSE

Our famous four-day lampshade masterclass
9.30am to 5pm



Creating bespoke lampshades is one of the most challenging and rewarding interior crafts and a way of adding impressive and beautiful feature pieces to any room.

This four-day specialist course has gained a reputation as one of the best ways for lampshade makers to learn a repertoire of skills to a professional level. With the help of the expert tutors of The Lampshade School you will have time to master gathered, pleated and tailored styles.

The course is suitable for lampshade beginners and those with experience who want to fine-tune their skills. The focus will be on learning core skills thoroughly, taking time to explore the creative possibilities and enabling you to progress to new shapes, sizes and styles.

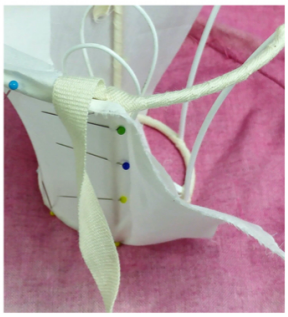
The plan is for you to go home with three different finished shades. The emphasis will be on learning skills. Our aim is that you leave well equipped for many years of inspired lampshade making.

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 one and a half days of tailored, sometimes known as fitted, lampshade techniques. Tailored lampshades have an empire or curved outline and a fitted cover which requires pattern cutting skills. Shapes vary widely, they can have scalloped rings top and bottom and there's a huge variety of outlines. We will advise you on which shape would suit you best to learn on depending on how practised you are. Tailored lampshades are an invaluable core skill for a lampshade maker… challenging, interesting and fun whatever level you start at.



Days two and three

Once we have mastered tailored lampshades we will move on to gathered lampshades. This technique is enjoying great popularity in interiors. Students will work on a French drum shade frame, straight-sided with a slightly smaller top. As you work we will discuss ways each technique can be brought forward to create more unique and bespoke shades.






Day four

One we have tailored and gathered lampshade techniques under our belts we will move onto pleated lampshade making. This wonderfully smart and versatile technique opens up limitless creative possibilities. We will work on a French drum shade using knife pleats – the core pleating skill on which all others are based.

Masterclass intervals

Throughout the course we hold short 'masterclass technique' sessions, where everyone gathers to watch a demonstration of a specific skill. These demonstrations may include:

- making and fitting bias binding
- informal linings for a cone or drum shaped shade
- hand colouring fabric and trims
- handmade frills, flowers and fancy edges
- layering trimmings for creative impact

What is provided

- 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 always have shade frames in stock. Students will be charged cost price for the shades they have used in class, and we will have lots in stock if you would like to take more home. They are chosen because they are suitable styles and sizes for learning on. Students may choose from our selection, or may work on their own shade frame.. we'll advise you before you begin to ensure it is suitable to learn on. Please be advised that most of the frames we have are 10in or 12in in size across the bottom diameter, making them a manageable project for the time we have. They are typically bedside, or table lamp, sized.
- 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.

What to bring

- **TOP FABRIC** There are so many choices... but here's a guide to help you: For **tailored** shades, we recommend: patchworking weight cotton, lightweight linen, silk doupion, all of which behave nicely and look great. Avoid chunky, embroidered or stretchy fabrics. Avoid cotton lawn, which is too thin.



For gathered and pleated shades, choose a finer fabric such as cotton lawn or muslin. Silk doupion works well. Bulky fabrics, even a patchworking cotton, will be harder on your hands so are best avoided. Again, avoid chunky, embroidered or stretchy fabrics.

How much fabric?

Essentially 1m of fabric will be fine for all the options. That said, if you are planning to choose a large shade - say for a standard lamp - for the tailored and pleated options then 1.5m would be wise. We always ask everyone to bring their fabric stash as it's great to have a choice.

And we do have some fabrics always available which we are happy to share so if you turn up empty handed we can probably help you out.

- **LINING FABRIC** if you would like a specific colour or pattern other than the white/cream that we provide.
- **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.
- If you are already a sewer, and can transport your **SEWING MACHINE** easily, do bring it. We have machines available for use but find that many students prefer to use their own.
- **TRIMMINGS**. Many tailored lampshades suit being trimmed with a tassel fringe or pretty gimp braid. We have a small selection in stock, but cannot compete with specialist retailers. If you have a vision in mind, do bring your own trimmings. Barnett Lawson Trimmings and VV Rouleaux both have lovely and versatile selections.

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, 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?

THE LAMPSHADE SCHOOL

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

Joanna Heptinstall