



PLEATED LAMP SHADES

A one-day course to master core skills

9.30am to pm

£180

Next available dates for this workshop are listed on the website



Pleated shades were very popular back in the fifties and are now enjoying a stylistic revival, with a new bold twist of colours and shapes.

Pleating is a satisfying technique that's extremely precise but very creative too. On this busy and rewarding one-day course you'll learn all the techniques you need for making a super-precise knife pleated shade. They are easier to make than you'd imagine... and at the end you'll proudly take home your own finished shade. This class is suitable for beginners and professional soft furnishers.

In order to make sure that you can learn all the techniques in a day, students will be provided with a shade frame and the specialist sundries. If you have a lampshade frame that you are keen to make, do bring it along so that your tutor can help you plan it and put your new skills to good use as soon as you get home.

The course

Our expert tutors will break the making process down into stages that a complete beginner to lampshade making can master easily.



You learn how to restore and bind your frame, then to measure and mark up the fabric for your chosen arrangement of pleats. You'll discover how to fold, pin and stitch the fabric, and then how to fit a lining. We also show you how to make and attach a bias binding trimming. You'll find it's the most useful and versatile trim for any future lampshades you make.

At the end you'll be able to take home your own pleated shade and will have the skills to make many more.

What is provided

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

What to bring

You need to choose a meter of fabric before you come. To many lampshade makers this is one of the most enjoyable parts of the process.

For your first shade, we recommend you use a cotton lawn or silk dupion, both of which are lovely to handle and respond very well to being folded – so great for your first shade. Avoid anything bulky, synthetic, stretchy, heavy or textured. Think about the room where the shade will live and consider the colours and styles that will work too.

Antique white cotton lawn lining fabrics are provided and work with almost all fabric choices. But if you'd like to line your shade in a brightly coloured fabric, please bring your own. A cotton lawn or patchworking weight cotton is ideal.

And don't forget:

- We have sewing machines and plenty of pins but do bring your own sharp fabric scissors and a general sewing kit. It's a good idea to label your things so they don't get muddled up with all the others in the workroom.



- 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. 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. Then you are welcome to arrive from 9.10am onwards. Classes officially begin at 9.30am and finish at 5pm.

Parking

The course is held at the workshops of The Lampshade School in Wiltshire. The address is Holt Holdings, East Lane, Holt, 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 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.



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.

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 traditionalupholsteryschool@gmail.com

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