



GATHERED LAMP SHADES

A one-day course to master core skills

9.30am to 5pm

£180

Next available dates for this workshop are listed on the website



Gathered lampshades add a wonderfully relaxed and informal feature to any room, which is why they are currently very popular with top interior designers across the world.

It's challenging but very rewarding to make your own gathered shades. Learn all the skills you need on this two-day course at The Lampshade School, including hand stitching the gathers and fitting a classic pleated lining. You'll be encouraged to explore the technique using different shapes and fabrics. The course is suitable for beginners and professional soft furnishers.

The course

The day is packed with creative information and techniques, and you'll be fuelled with plenty of tea, coffee and a full biscuit tin..

The creative process can seem daunting but we break it down into easy stages.



First, you'll learn to prepare and bind your frame. Then you plan your gathered cover and prepare the fabric. We'll show you how this needs to pin and stitch it to the frame. You'll learn to fit the lining, then finally how to finish the shade with a very useful-to-know bias binding trimming.

You'll end up taking home your own gathered shade and will have the skills to make many more in the future.

What is provided

- A 10 or 12in 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. Lightweight soft-to-handle fabric is ideal for this technique, so we recommend cotton lawn, muslin and linen voiles, or dupion silk. Think about the room where the shade will live and consider the colours and styles that will work. Avoid anything heavy or stretchy. If in doubt, bring a choice.

TIP: If your fabric is new and feels a little bit stiff, washing it removes any starchy treatments and softens it, this helps create better gathers.

Our own favourite fabrics include Liberty tana lawn, and lovely block printed Indian cotton muslins, usually bought via Etsy.

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)
- 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.

Joanna Heptinstall