



MATTRESS CUSHIONS WORKSHOP

A two-day workshop in making tufted French style mattress cushion
9.30am to 5pm each day



Mattress cushions can be used as window seat cushions, dog beds, bench cushions, garden kneelers, kids' floor cushions... in fact they are incredibly useful anywhere!

We've developed this two day workshop to teach you how to make up a box cushion in your chosen fabric, stuff it with lovely UK-sourced lambswool and then work tufting stitches to create that scrumptious pie crust edge.

We think they look great in traditional ticking stripes, but anything goes... floral prints, velvet... up to you.

The workshop

Day one will start with measuring and cutting out your fabric accurately. You'll then pin and machine sew your cushion together, and stuff it using carded lambswool, which has been sourced in the UK.

Once your cushion is assembled, stuffed and slip stitched together, the tufting begins! We'll start with through ties which will hold the cushion into the right depth. These can be worked in simple linen twine, colourful threads or fancy buttons - we'll show you how.

One day two the tufting continues. At this point you will learn to mattress stitch the edges of your box cushion using a curved needle to create that recognisable pie-crust edge.

Depending on the size of the cushion you make, some students may have some finishing to do at home, and some may be able to make more than one. We recommend that your first cushion is no bigger than 75cm x 75cm. You don't have to be an expert in sewing at all, but a little bit of experience using a sewing machine and handling needles and pins will help.

What is provided

- Tea, coffee, cold drinks and snacks are provided throughout the day
- Specialist needles and twines.
- Lambswool stuffings are available for use. As students will be working on different sizes, we have not included this cost into the course fee and students will be charged on how much they use. Additional stuffings will be available if students wish to buy some to take home.

What to bring

• Fabric

Choosing your own fabric is one of the most enjoyable parts of the process, so we invite our students to bring their own top fabric.

Suitable fabric for a mattress cushion is a medium to sturdy weight cotton or linen fabric, suitable for soft furnishings. Avoid stretchy, heavily textured and lightweight fabrics. If in doubt, bring a choice. 1m of fabric will suffice to make an average-sized seat cushion or kneeler pad.

• Matching thread

Don't forget to bring sewing thread to match your fabric.

• Sewing machine

Make sure it is in good working order. Do let us know if you don't have one. You will be able to drive up to the door and have help carrying too.

• 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.

And don't forget:

- We find that most of our students like to bring their own sewing kit, including sharp fabric scissors, pins and a marking pencil. 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.

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

Traditional Upholstery School is 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.

Still have questions? Get in touch...

Email us at traditionalupholsteryschool@gmail.com or text/call 07505 651030

Looking forward to seeing you!

Joanna Hepinstall

