



Kate Atherley

WRITER • TECH EDITOR • TEACHER • DESIGNER

kate.atherley@gmail.com ✉ www.kateatherley.com 🌐 @kateatherley 🐦 kateatherley 📺

Kate Atherley is an expert teacher, with more than 12 years' experience teaching at local yarn shops, guild gatherings, retreats and large-scale events. All classes include high-quality handouts. Technique classes are a lively mix of discussion, demonstration and hands-on practice, with individual attention and guidance provided.

- 👋 = hands on class
- 🗣️ = lecture-style class
- = for all levels
- ① = overview suitable for knitters new to this area
- ② = exploration for those with some experience in this area
- ③ = deep dive for those knowledgeable in this area



MASTER CLASS LIST • FALL 2017

DESIGN, PATTERN WRITING & TECHNICAL EDITING

Recommended resource: *The Beginner's Guide to Writing Knitting Patterns* (F&W/Interweave, 2016; ISBN 978-1632504340).

Pattern Writing 🗣️👋

How to write knitting patterns – specifically, the instructions and how to present them. This is not a design class; it is for designers wishing to publish patterns, teachers looking to improve their class materials, and test knitters and novice tech editors looking to expand their skill set. (3 hours.)

Introduction to Design 🗣️👋

A discussion of what goes into knitwear design, aimed at knitters wishing to share patterns or looking to get published. Topics include creating designs; yarn support; copyright and originality; the publication process. This is not a pattern writing class. (2 hours.)

Introduction to Technical Editing 🗣️👋

A comprehensive overview of the task of technical editing, and how to do it. A discussion of all facets of the review: prose, sizing, clarity, logic, numbers, layout and more. For those with significant experience with knitting and patterns: test knitters, designers, teachers. (3 hours.)

PATTERN READING & MATHEMATICS

Yarn Shopping Bootcamp 🗣️👋①

A discussion of key yarn characteristics: weights and gauge, fibers and their properties. Objective is to help students make better yarn choices for their projects. (2 hours.)

Pattern Reading 🗣️👋①

How to read and understand the key concepts and language used in patterns: from standard abbreviations and common pattern stitches to the significance of gauge and what to do about it, and math challenges like “decrease 5 stitches evenly across”. Knitters are encouraged to bring patterns with which they've been struggling. (2 hours.)

Math for Knitters:

Solving the Knitters' Number Puzzles 🗣️👋②

A more focused class than Pattern Reading. We'll discuss gauge; pattern reading issues like “repeat 4 times” and “increase evenly across”, distributing buttonholes. A review of measurements to guide yarn shopping, including metric and imperial conversions, and how to determine yardage in a partial ball. This is not a garment alterations class. (2 hours.)

Chart Reading 🗣️👋①

A discussion of how to read charts of all kinds: lace, cables, colorwork, from the straightforward to more complex ones with shaping and changing stitch counts. Tips for making working from charts easier. (1 hour.)

Getting Gauge



A deep dive on the topic of gauge for knitters just starting to work from patterns, and just starting to tackle projects where gauge and fit matters. A discussion of the significance of gauge, when it matters and when it doesn't, how to check it, and what to do if you can't match. (2 hours.)

GARMENTS

Introduction to Top Down Seamless Garment Knitting

Class takes students through working a mini top-down seamless cardigan to teach the key skills and help with pattern reading. (3 hours.)

Garment Skills

Discussion and demonstrations to answer frequently asked questions about garment knitting patterns: placing and work shaping ("increase 1 st at each end"), creating smooth shoulder steps, picking up stitches for necklines and collars, and key finishing tasks (blocking and seaming). (3 hours.)

Size And Fit:

Why the Medium Never Fits Quite Right

An overview of how to read garment sizing information and schematics, to determine which size to choose. A detailed explanation of ease, how to properly measure yourself – high bust! – and how to take garment style into account when making a pattern choice. (2-3 hours.)

Introduction to Garment Alterations

A more detailed discussion of garment fit and how to adjust it. This is not a class on how to custom-fit a given pattern, rather a discussion of how to choose the right garment to simplify the alterations, how to identify the alterations required, and how to approach the pattern adjustments. (3 hours.)

Smart Strategies for Garment Knitting

A deep dive on garment knitting. How to choose a garment pattern that suits your body type and determine which size to make, how to choose yarn, how to get gauge and tweak fit with alterations and adjustments. (6 hours.)

SOCKS

Recommended resource: *Custom Fit Socks: Knit to Fit Your Feet* (F&W/Interweave, 2015; ISBN 978-1620337752).

Introduction to Sock Knitting: Top Down, Introduction to Sock Knitting: Toe Up

These two classes are the same format, covering the two different methods of sock knitting. I strongly recommend that novice sock knitters take Top Down first; Toe Up is for knitters with a little sock experience. Students must know how to work in the round, DPN experience not required. (3 hours.)

Socks for Absolute Beginners

A simplified version of the Top Down Introduction to Sock Knitting, for knitters with no experience in the round. (4 hours.)

Two Socks At Once: Side By Side

How to work two socks at the same time, on Magic Loop. (3 hours.)

Two Socks At Once: The War & Peace Method

Using a variation of double knitting, this class teaches how to work two socks at the same time, one inside the other. (3 hours.)

Custom Fit Socks

A discussion of sock fit, how to measure feet and design a sock pattern for that foot, covering both top down and toe up. (3 hours.)

Custom Fit Knee-High Socks

How to measure and calculate the leg for a custom-fit knee sock. I provide a plain sock foot pattern for multiple sizes, and focus on fitting the leg. (3 hours.)

Heels and Toes

An in-depth discussion of different techniques for making sock heels and toes, including a discussion of fit. (3 hours.)

Soxpertise: Improve Your Sock Knitting

A wide-ranging discussion of sock topics, including fit, reinforcement, different constructions and different methods of working them, yarn choices, etc. One key demonstration is how to improve gusset pickup and avoid holes in top-down heel flap socks. Class always begins with an opportunity for students to ask questions, to better focus the discussion. (3 hours.)

MITTENS & GLOVES

Recommended resource: *Knit Mitts! A Handy Guide to Knitting Mittens and Gloves* (F&W/Interweave, 2017; ISBN 978-1632504920).

Introduction to Mittens

Students work through a child-size mitten with gusseted thumb in the round to learn all the key techniques. No experience working in the round required. (3 hours.)

Custom Mittens

How to work mittens at any gauge, for any hand. (3 hours.)

Introduction to Gloves

How to work and fit a glove. Class focuses on key problem areas: working the upper hand, fingers and thumb. (3 hours.)



FINISHING SKILLS

Fearless Finishing



An overview of key finishing skills: seaming, blocking, weaving in ends, Kitchener stitch, picking up stitches. Emphasis is on practice of the skills. (2-3 hours depending on topics covered.)

Kitchener Confidence: Painless Grafting



A hands-on session covering grafting for stockinette stitch and garter stitch. Emphasis is on practice of the skills. (1 hour.)

The Finishing Touch: Blocking and Fiber Care



An in-depth discussion of blocking, focused on easy and practical techniques, focusing on how blocking needs vary for different fibres, fabrics and projects. Storage and moth prevention. (2 hours.)

LACE

Your First Shawl: An Introduction to Lace Knitting



An elementary lace class, taught with a very beginner-friendly project. Two version of this class are offered: a worsted-weight feather-and-fan scarf project for adventurous beginners, or a top-down triangle shawl for more confident knitters. (2-3 hours.)

Lace 101



An alternative introductory lace class, aimed at knitters of a higher overall skill level. Through swatching, the class explores a variety of different stitch patterns, working from written and charted instructions. Also discusses the use of directional decreases, shawl shaping, and use of a lifeline. (3 hours.)

Next Steps in Lace Knitting



Through swatching, the class explores a variety of more complex lace stitch patterns: one and two-sided, patterns with changing stitch counts, Nupps, Shetland bead stitches, attached edgings. (2-3 hours.)

Fixing Lace Mistakes



A problem-solving session focusing on missing or misplaced yarnovers, missing, misplaced or incorrect decreases. We'll discuss techniques for avoiding and preventing mistakes. (2 hours.)

The Pi Shawl



How a Pi shawl works, how to work one, including a discussion of the start, edgings and various patterns. Students are offered patterns for two full Pi shawls, 2 half-Pi shawls, and a template for designing their own. Students leave with a project started. (2-3 hours.)

BRIOCHE

Introduction to Brioche Knitting



For Brioche novices, covering the skills for single-color and two-color brioche, flat and in the round, and how to read patterns. By the end of the class, students will have started a 2-color brioche shawl. (3 hours.)

Next Steps in Brioche Knitting:

The Omnishambles Scarf



Using Kate's scarf design as a basis, this class covers increases, decreases and fixing mistakes. (3 hours.)

COLORWORK

Stranded Colorwork for Beginners:

The Cherry Fizz Hat



Using Kate's hat pattern as a basis, this class teaches skills for stranded colorwork. Includes a discussion of yarn choice and blocking. (2 hours.)

Introduction to Slip-Stitch Colorwork:

The Mod Squad Hat



Using Kate's hat pattern as a basis, this class teaches skills for slip-stitch colorwork. (2 hours.)

Introduction to Colorwork:

Stranded, Intarsia and Slip Stitch



Through swatching, an exploration of different methods for working with more than one color. Discussion will also cover stripes and blocking. (2 hours.)

CABLES

Introduction to Cables



Through swatching, how to work cables and read cable patterns and charts. (2 hours.)

Cabling Without a Cable Needle



How to cable without a cable needle. (1 hour.)

Cable Knitting Masterclass



A deeper dive on cable knitting, including a discussion of slip stitch variations, reversible cables, fixing mistakes, working without a cable needle, and designing with cables. (2-3 hours.)

OTHER SKILLS & TECHNIQUES

Entrelac



Using a scarf pattern as a basis, this class teaches skills for Entrelac, including fixing mistakes. (3 hours.)

Short Row Savvy



A review of different methods of working short rows: wrap & turn, German, Japanese, the yarnover variation. A discussion of the pros and cons. (1-2 hours, depending on students' skill level.)



An Introduction to Working in the Round:

My First Hat



An introduction to working in the round on DPNs and circulars. Students leave with a hat started. (2 hours.)

Tools and Techniques for Working in the Round:

DPNs, Magic Loop and Two Circulars



How to work small circumference knitting on DPNs, Magic Loop and 2 circulars. Emphasis on building skills and confidence, and problem solving: preventing and fixing ladders, fixing twisted rounds (yes, it's possible), dealing with loose joins and ladders. (2 hours.)

Continental



How to work Continental– yarn in left hand. Emphasis is on practice. Class also provides an overview of other methods of working: Combination, Portuguese and supported-needle. (2 hours.)

Better Edges



A discussion of all edges of your knitted fabric: sides, cast on and bind offs. Covers the pros and cons of slipped stitches, and solutions for paired CO/BO edges. (2 hours.)

Casting On & Binding Off



Long tail, cable, provisional, Twisted German, Judy's Magic and Chinese Waitress cast ons; suspended, lace, Jeny's Surprisingly Stretchy bind offs. (2 hours.)

Increases & Decreases



Key methods for both: directional and not, paired, visible and hidden. (2 hours.)

"Best Methods"/Expert Tips



Highlights of the CO/BO, Increases/Decreases and Edges discussions. (2 hours.)

Crochet For Knitters



Using crochet in knitting projects: the provisional CO, picking up stitches, joining, and decorative edgings. (2 hours.)

SPECIFIC PROJECTS

Each of these classes addresses a specific project, focusing on building the pattern reading and technical skills to be able to execute them. For the garments, we work through a mini version of the pattern in class; for the blanket, we start the first square.

For all classes, students are responsible for ensuring they have the pattern and appropriate yarn. The shop may choose to supply the Elizabeth Zimmerman pattern with the class.

Elizabeth Zimmerman's Baby Surprise Jacket



This legendary garment design is a highly unusual construction, made more challenging by the rather unconventional style of pattern instruction; this project builds many skills, including increasing, decreasing and picking up stitches, and provides an introduction to seaming. (3 hours)

Elizabeth Zimmerman's February Baby Sweater



From the Knitter's Almanac, this garment provides an excellent introduction to seamless circular yoke garment construction, and a taste of lace knitting. (3 hours)

The Lizard Ridge Blanket



As published in Knitty, this blanket provides a fantastic overview of traditional short rows. (3 hours)

The Lanesplitter Skirt



As published in Knitty, this bias-knit skirt provides a gentle introduction to garment knitting. (3 hours)

LECTURES & GUILD PRESENTATIONS

The Good, The Bad and The Ugly:

Working with Handpainted Yarns



With lots of visuals, a guide to 'diagnosing' variegated yarns in the skein to learn how they might knit up, and suggestions for pattern stitches and projects to make the most of them. (1 hour)

These classes can also be easily adapted to a shorter lecture format:

Soxpertise: Improve Your Sock Knitting



Size And Fit:

Why the Medium Never Fits Quite Right



The descriptions in this document are intended for bookers and yarn shop staff only. Contact Kate to obtain class descriptions, materials lists, etc., suitable for publication.

Lecture style classes can accommodate 20 or more students; hands-on classes up to 16.

Fees range from \$100/hour for a single class to \$700 for a full day. Multi-day rates are negotiable. Travel and accommodations for venues more than 100km from Toronto will be discussed separately.

Kate usually books 8-12 months in advance but occasionally short-term windows open up. Deposit of 25% of class fees to be paid at time of booking, with the balance due 5 days prior to first class date.