



# Kate Atherley

WRITER • TECH EDITOR • TEACHER • DESIGNER

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**Kate Atherley** is Knitty.com’s Managing Technical Editor, and a seasoned designer and teacher of all things knitterly.

Known for her attention to detail in her patterns and her classes, she regularly teaches at stores and events across North America, including Interweave YarnFest and Vogue Knitting Live. Her work has appeared in many books and magazines.

An expert instructor, Kate has over a decade of experience teaching at local yarn shops, guild gatherings, retreats, and large-scale events. Technique classes are a lively mix of discussion, demonstration, and hands-on practice, with individual attention and guidance provided. All classes include high-quality handouts.

### Books by Kate:

***Custom Shawls for the Creative and Curious Knitter***  
Abrams (Sept 2020), ISBN 978-1419743979

***The Knitter’s Dictionary: Knitting Know-How from A to Z***  
Interweave (Oct 2018), ISBN 978-1632506382

***Knit Mitts: Your Handy Guide to Knitting Mittens & Gloves***  
Interweave (Oct 2017), ISBN 978-1632504920

***The Beginner’s Guide to Writing Knitting Patterns: Learn to Write Patterns Others Can Knit***  
Interweave (Apr 2016), ISBN 978-1632504340

***Custom Socks: Knit to Fit Your Feet***  
Interweave (Aug 2015), ISBN 978-1620337752

***Beyond Knit and Purl***  
Cooperative Press (Nov 2011), ISBN 978-1937513030

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.

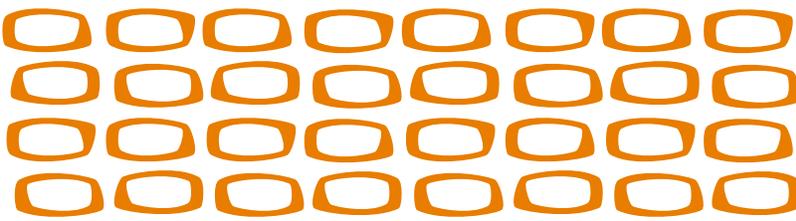
Lecture style classes can accommodate 30 or more students; hands-on classes up to 16.

Fees range from \$125/hour for a single class to \$800 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. A 25% deposit on class fees is to be paid at time of booking, with the balance due on the first class date.

### Guide to symbols used in the class list:

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



# MASTER CLASS LIST • FALL 2020

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## DESIGN, PATTERN WRITING & TECHNICAL EDITING

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

### Pattern Writing

Learn how to write knitting patterns! 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; copy-right and originality; the publication process. This is not the 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.)

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## PATTERN READING & MATHEMATICS

### Yarn Shopping Bootcamp

A discussion of key yarn characteristics: weights and gauge, fibers and their properties. Objective is to help knitters make better yarn choices for their projects. Students won't just learn what they need, but what they need to know. (2 hours.)

### Pattern Reading

Learn to read and understand 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 challenging patterns. (2 hours.)

### Math for Knitters:

#### Solving the Knitters' Number Puzzles

A more focused class than Pattern Reading. A discussion of gauge; addressing pattern reading issues like “repeat 4 times” and “increase evenly across”, distributing button-holes. A review of measurements to guide yarn shopping. This is not the garment alterations class. (2 hours.)

See also *Introduction to Garment Alterations* under **GARMENTS**.

## PATTERN READING & MATHEMATICS CONT'D

### Chart Reading

How to read charts of all kinds: lace, cables, colorwork. From straightforward to more complex ones with repeats, shaping and changing stitch counts. Tips for making work-ing from charts easier. (1-2 hours.)

### Getting Gauge

A deep dive for knitters just starting to work with patterns and projects where gauge and fit matters. An explanation of its significance, when it matters and when it doesn't, how to check it, and what to do if you can't match. (2 hours.)

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## GARMENTS

### Introduction to Top Down Seamless Garment Knitting

Working a mini top-down seamless cardigan to teach the key skills for this garment construction and help with pattern reading. (3 hours.)

### Size & Fit: Why the Medium Never Fits Quite Right

A mathematics-free 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 and how to take garment style into account when making a pattern choice. (2-3 hours.)

### Make-or-Break Garment Skills

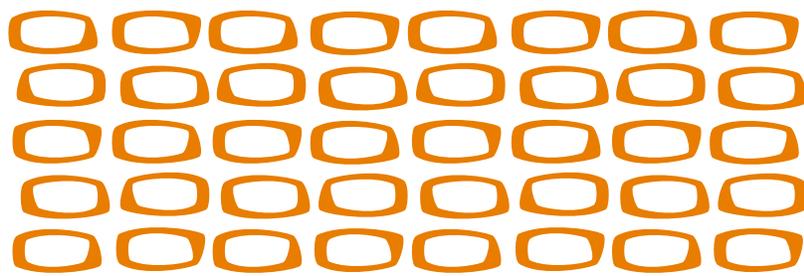
Discussion and demonstrations to answer garment-knitting FAQs: placing and working shaping (“increase 1 st at each end”), creating smooth shoulder steps, picking up stitches for necklines and collars, and key finishing tasks like block-ing and seaming. (3 hours.)

### Introduction to Garment Alterations

A more detailed discussion of garment fit and how to ad-just it. This is not a class on how to custom-fit a given pat-tern, rather a discussion of how to choose the right garment to simplify the alterations, how to identify the alterations required, and approaching adjustments. Suitable for the mathematics-averse. (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.)



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## SOCKS

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

### Introduction to Sock Knitting: Top Down/Introduction to Sock Knitting: Toe Up 1

These two classes are the same format, covering the two different methods of sock knitting. Top Down is best for novice sock knitters; Toe Up requires more skills/a little sock experience. Students must know how to work in the round, DPN experience not required. (3 hours.)

### Socks for Absolute Beginners 1

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

### Two Socks At Once: Side By Side 2

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

### Two Socks At Once: The War & Peace Method 3

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 2

A discussion of sock fit, how to measure feet and design a sock pattern for any foot and any yarn, covering both top down and toe up. Also covers yarn and fiber choice. (3 hours.)

### Custom Fit Knee-High Socks 2

How to measure and calculate the leg for a custom-fit knee sock. A plain sock foot pattern for multiple sizes is provided – class focus is on fitting the leg. (2 hours.)

### Heels & Toes 2

A deep dive on different techniques for making sock heels and toes, covering construction and fit. (3 hours.)

### Soxpertise: Improve Your Sock Knitting 2

A wide-ranging survey of sock topics: 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 focus the discussion. (3 hours.)



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## MITTENS & GLOVES

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

### Introduction to Mittens 1

All the key skills for making mittens: size and fit, fiber choices, working in the round, creating the thumb, and dealing with associated holes, etc. No experience working in the round required. (3 hours.)

### Custom Mittens 2

How to work mittens – full or fingerless – at any gauge, for any hand. Includes discussion of fiber choice for warmth. (3 hours.)

### Introduction to Gloves 2

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

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## FINISHING SKILLS

### The Finishing Touch: Blocking & Fiber Care 2

Easy and practical techniques for different fibers, fabrics and projects. Storage and moth prevention. (2 hours.)

### Fearless Finishing 1

Key finishing skills: seaming, blocking, weaving in ends, Kitchener stitch, picking up stitches. (2-3 hours.)

### Kitchener Confidence: Painless Grafting 1

Grafting for stockinette stitch and garter stitch. Emphasis is on practice of the skills. (1 hour.)

### Closure 1

Practical skills for daunting finishing tasks: attaching zippers, working buttonholes, and sewing on buttons. (2 hours.)

### Steeking 1

Taking the scary out of the steek. Includes a discussion of the importance of proper yarn choice, and blocking. (2 hours.)

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## LACE & SHAWLS

Recommended Resource: *Custom Shawls for the Creative and Curious Knitter* (Abrams, 2020, ISBN 978-1419743979)

### Shawl Skills ①

Key skills for shawl knitters: the garter tab, stretchy edges - CO, BO and sides, yarn choice, blocking. A discussion of increases and decreases - visible vs. invisible. Chart reading. Some discussion of shawl shapes. Knitters are encouraged to bring their questions and problems. (3 hours.)

### Shawl Shapes ①

An overview of key shawl shapes – rectangle, triangles, crescents, semi- and full circles – and how to create them. Discussion of yarn choice and use of color, and how to customize existing patterns. (3 hours.)

### Shawl Design Deep Dive ②

A more in-depth review of shawl shapes. How to create a design from the ground up, working with and adjusting existing recipes. Pattern stitches, how to incorporate them into a design. Discussion of yarn and fabrics. (3-6 hours.)

### Your First Shawl: An Introduction to Lace Knitting ①

A gentle introduction to lace. Two version of this class are offered: a worsted-weight feather-and-fan scarf project for brand new knitters, or a top-down triangle shawl for those who increase and decrease with confidence. (2-3 hours.)

### Lace 101 ①

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 ②

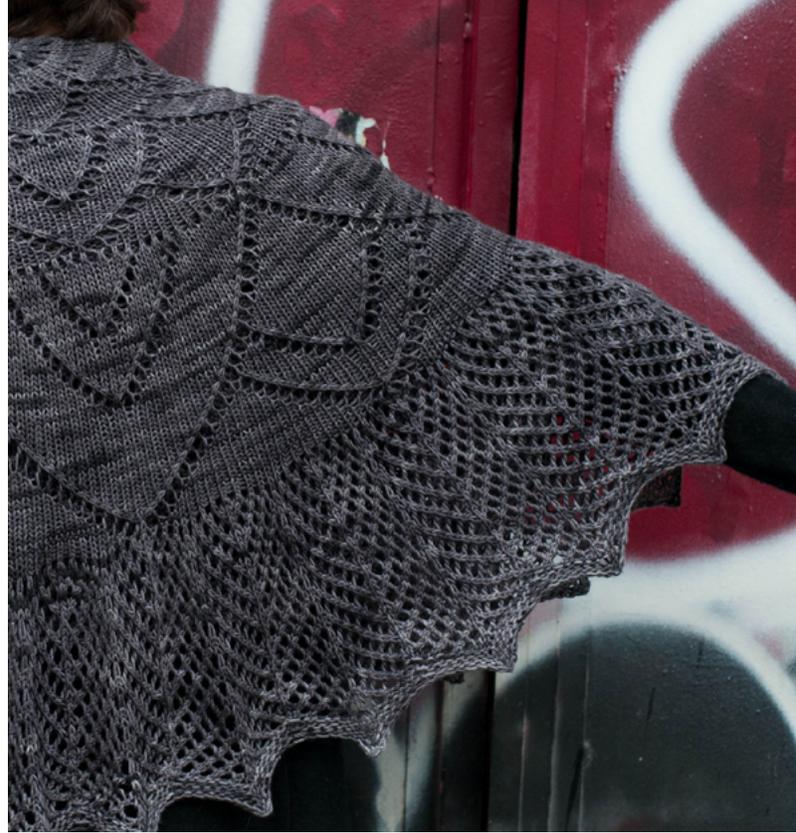
Exploring a variety of more complex lace stitch patterns: one- and two-sided patterns, patterns with changing stitch counts, Nupps, Shetland bead stitches, and attached edg-ings. (2-3 hours.)

### Fixing Lace Mistakes ②

A problem-solving session to address both missing or misplaced yarnovers and missing, misplaced, or incorrect decreases. Plenty of techniques for avoiding and preventing mistakes. (2 hours.)

### The Pi Shawl ②

How it works, how to create your own or customize an existing pattern. Techniques for the start, edgings and binding off, blocking. Class provides patterns for two full Pi shawls, 2 half-Pi shawls, and a template for designing one's own. In the hands-on version, students leave with a shawl project underway. (2-3 hours.)



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## COLORWORK

### Stranded Colorwork for Beginners ①

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

### Slip-Stitch Colorwork ①

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

### Introduction to Colorwork: Stripes, Stranded, Intarsia & Slip Stitch ①

Through swatching, an exploration of different methods for working with more than one color. Also covers yarn choice and the importance of blocking. (2 hours.)

See also *Steeking* under **FINISHING SKILLS**.

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## BRIOCHE

### Introduction to Brioche Knitting ①

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 scarf. (3 hours.)

### Next Steps in Brioche Knitting ②

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

### Brioche Deep Dive ②

Through swatching, this class focuses on building brioche skills: syncopated brioche, standard and reversible increases and decreases, more complex stitch patterns, etc. (3 hours.)

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## 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**   
Different methods: wrap & turn, German, Japanese, shad-ow, and yarnover. Discusses the pros and cons of each, and how to substitute one for the other. (1-2 hours, depend- ing on students' skill level.)

**Introduction to Working in the Round: My First Hat**   
Covers working in the round on DPNs and circulars. Students leave with a hat started. (2 hours.)

**Tools & Techniques for Working in the Round:**  
**DPNs, Magic Loop & Two Circulars**   
Small circumference knitting methods: DPNs, Magic Loop, 2 circulars, the new flexible DPNs. Emphasis on building skills and confidence. Also focuses on problem solving: preventing and fixing ladders, fixing twisted rounds (yes, it's possible!), and dealing with loose joins. (2 hours.)

**Continental**   
How to work in the Continental style – yarn in left hand. Emphasis is on practice. Includes an overview of other methods of working: Combination, Portuguese, and sup-ported-needle. (2 hours.)

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

**Casting On & Binding Off**   
Standard and special-purpose methods and where to use them. Long tail, cable, provisional, Twisted German, Judy's Magic, and Chinese Waitress cast ons; suspended, lace, and 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 Casting On & Binding Off, Increases & Decreases, and Better Edges discussions. (2 hours.)

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## CABLES

**Introduction to Cables**   
Through swatching, this class teaches how to work cables and read cable patterns/charts. (2 hours.)

**Cabling Without a Cable Needle**   
Just what it says on the label! Includes a discussion of mock cables and 2-stitch twists. (1 hour.)

**Cable Knitting Masterclass**   
A deeper dive: slip stitch variations, reversible cables, fixing mistakes, working without a cable needle, and designing with cables. (2-3 hours.)

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## SPECIFIC PROJECTS

Each of these classes focuses on building the pattern reading and technical skills to be able to execute a particular item.

**No Pattern Custom Fit Hats**   
A new method for knitting hats - starting from the top, without a swatch. Class demonstrates how to measure and create a hat pattern with any yarn, for any head. Students leave with a hat started. (3 hours)

**Elizabeth Zimmerman's Baby Surprise Jacket**   
This legendary garment design is a highly unusual construc- tion, 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)

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## LECTURES & GUILD PRESENTATIONS

**The Good, The Bad & 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 sug- gestions 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 & Fit: Why the Medium Never Fits Quite Right** 

**The Pi Shawl** 

**Blocking & Fiber Care** 

**Steeking** 

**Shawl Shapes/Shawl Design** 

**Yarn Shopping Bootcamp** 

**Introduction to Design** 

*Photographs by Gale Zucker, Gillian Martin, Interweave/F&W Media, and Norm Wilner.*

