

Class Details – Kate Atherley

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I do take special requests, and can customize classes for your specific needs – please enquire! See Prospectus downloadable from <http://kateatherley.com/class-offerings/> for rates and terms.

**PATTERN READING & MATHEMATICS
GARMENTS & RELATED SKILLS
SOCKS
MITTENS AND GLOVES
FINISHING SKILLS
LACE & SHAWLS
CABLES**

**COLOURWORK
BRIOCHE
OTHER SKILLS & TECHNIQUES
SPECIFIC PROJECTS
DESIGN, PATTERN WRITING &
TECHNICAL EDITING**

GENERAL INTEREST PRESENTATIONS – Suitable for guild meetings, online presentations

A Brief History of Socks

description: An entertaining talk about the history of socks and sock knitting, with a foray into the topic development of knitting machines during the industrial revolution, and the parallels between today's technological revolutions.

skill level: all levels

length: 1 hour

The Good, The Bad and The Pooling: Working with Multicolored Yarns

description: A discussion of the fun and challenges of working with hand-painted yarns. I review different types of hand-painted colorways, and with help of lots of photos, explain how figure out what a yarn will look like knitted up. I'll provide guidance on how to best apply different types of colorways for the most attractive results. Along the way I tell stories about the best, the worst, and the most surprising skeins of variegated yarns I've bought, and I encourage the audience to show off interesting, challenging and problematic skeins so we can figure them out!

skill level: all levels

length: 1 hour

The First One Doesn't Have to Be Awful: How To Ensure Your First Sweater, Your First Socks And Your First Lace Projects Are Easy, Fun And Beautiful

An honest discussion about the challenges facing newer knitters and those looking to expand their skills. I talk about the classic pitfalls of the "first" project, whether it's a sweater pattern that turns out to be a giant blanket of boring stockinette stitch that takes forever to knit, and results in an error-riddled ill-fitting sack, or the first sock with ridiculously tiny yarn and tiny needles... I propose a better way to learn a new technique and tackle a challenge, showing how knitters can ensure that any "first" project –sweater, socks, cables, lace - is something to be proud of. I provide tips for success, from guidance on choosing a good pattern to the knitting and finishing process.

skill level: all levels

length: 1 hour

The following topics can also be adapted to a shorter presentation, and are also suitable for broader groups:

Yarn Substitution – *see Pattern Reading & Mathematics, below*

Getting Gauge – *see Pattern Reading & Mathematics, below*

Size & Fit: Why the "Medium" Never Fits Quite Right – *see Garments & Related Skills, below*

Blocking & Fiber Care – see *Finishing, below*

PATTERN READING AND MATHEMATICS

Yarn Substitutions

description: Mystified by all these terms - double knitting, worsted, aran? Unsure whether fingering is a potato or a yarn? Wondering why you should care about whether a yarn is superwash or not? How do you go about finding a substitute yarn for a pattern? Why shouldn't you use cotton for cables? Suitable for newer to intermediate knitters, this class will explain yarn terminology, and build your knowledge of types of yarns and fibers. We will dive deep into the topic of yarn weights and gauge, giving you foolproof and easy ways to check and get gauge for a pattern – along the way explaining why it matters, when it doesn't, and what to do if you can't get it. We'll also talk about yarn and fiber types, and how they are best used, to help you be a more confident yarn shopper and knitter.

skill level: all levels

length: 2 hours; can also be delivered as a 1-hour lecture

students should bring: any yarns that they are puzzled by, or want to use and can't figure out what to do with

maximum number of students: 30

equipment requirements: need a projector for my laptop and flip chart or whiteboard

Pattern Reading

description: For knitters who are confident with their needles, but less confident with pattern instructions: this session is all about how to read and fully understand knitting patterns. We'll explain all those abbreviations and terms you encounter, like WS and "even" and how to read instructions for repeats. We'll demystify terms and techniques, and provide a master glossary so you'll never be lost again.

We'll explain how to choose and substitute yarns, and how to check gauge to make sure that your piece comes out exactly the way the pattern promises. And we'll teach you how to understand pattern sizing and measurement information - including garment schematics -- with a focus on making sure you always choose the right size for garment patterns.

This session is all about helping you take the next step as a knitter, so you can take on larger and more complex projects, with complete confidence.

skill level: beginners, suitable for knitters who are confident with the mechanics of knitting, and are looking to take on their first pattern-based project

length: 2 hours

students should bring: any patterns they are have questions about

maximum number of students: 30

equipment requirements: need a projector for my laptop and flip chart or whiteboard

Getting Gauge

description: You've seen the information in the pattern, and you've been told – over and over again! – that it's important, but do you really “get” gauge? This class answers all your questions about gauge: what it actually means, why it matters, how to check it and what to do about it. We'll talk about proper swatching technique – including tips for making it easier, and when you can avoid it entirely. And we'll provide strategies and solutions for when you just can't get it!

skill level: suitable for knitters who are confident with the mechanics of knitting, but need help with pattern reading and related topics

length: 2 hours; can also be delivered as a 1-hour lecture

maximum number of students: 30

equipment requirements: need a projector for my laptop and flip chart or whiteboard

Chart Reading

description: Charts are a very useful way to communicate complex pattern stitches, but they can be intimidating to many. This class provides knitters of all levels the tools to read, understand and comfortably work from charts for any type of knitting pattern: colourwork, cables and lace. We'll talk about how to read them, and also share tips for working with them, keeping track of your progress, and making them as easy to read as possible.

skill level: suitable for knitters of all levels who haven't worked from charts before, or have

struggled with them

length: 1 hour – 1.5 hours; the longer version allows for a more in-depth discussion of lace and cable charts

students should bring: paper and pencil, any patterns with charts they have questions about

maximum number of students: 30

equipment requirements: need a projector for my laptop and flip chart or whiteboard

Math for Knitters: Solving the Knitters' Number Puzzles

description:

Everything you need to know to figure out all those tricky numbers issues you encounter in your knitting. We'll focus on how mathematics fits into pattern reading – counting and working and keeping track. We'll cover how to understand and work challenging instructions like "Decrease every 8 rows 10 times", and "Increase 12 sts evenly distributed across the row". We'll talk about calculating yardage in partial balls of yarn, and how to ensure you're buying enough yarn for a project. We'll also have a discussion of gauge and what it really means – and how to deal with it if you can't match. Suitable for newer knitters, and those who wish to get more comfortable reading patterns - it's all about conquering your fear of the numbers and making you a more powerful knitter!

skill level: beginners, suitable for knitters who are confident with the mechanics of knitting, and are starting to work from patterns

length: 2-3 hours

students should bring: paper, pencil, a tape measure and a calculator/app

maximum number of students: 30

equipment requirements: need a projector for my laptop and flip chart or whiteboard

GARMENTS & RELATED SKILLS

Introduction to Top Down Seamless Garment Knitting

description: The top-down one piece garment construction is very popular, particularly for babies' and kids' garments. This class takes you through the process of working a complete mini-sweater project, building all the skills and techniques you need to successfully work any such design, whether for kids or adults. We'll also show you how to avoid common pitfalls like sizing issues, and holes at the underarm.

A baby-sized sweater pattern is included in the class.

skill level: beginner: knitters need to be able to cast on, knit and bind off, no garment experience required; also suitable for more experienced knitters who have never tackled this type of pattern before

length: 3 hours

students should bring: 4-5mm/US #6-8 16-24 inch circular needle & DPNs, approx. 50gm light-coloured medium-weight yarn

maximum number of students: 20

Make-or-Break Garment Skills

description: A sweater project is a big commitment of time and knitting and yarn, and it can feel like a risk. This class is about setting yourself up for success! We'll talk about how to make sure you're using a good pattern, you've chosen the right size, and have selected a suitable yarn. We'll tackle the thorny issue of gauge head-on, showing you how you can harness this information in simple ways to make sure that you're happy with your garment. We'll also review some of the pattern-reading challenges that can come up in garment projects, and I'll share tips and tricks for make the knitting less daunting, and reducing the fear of going wrong. Feel free to bring any garment patterns or projects you need help with.

skill level: adventurous: suitable for knitters ready for making a first garment, or for those who want to get better and more confident with garment-knitting.

length: 3 hours

students should bring: paper, pencil, a tape measure, any garment patterns you're considering or have questions about; a bit of scrap medium-yarn and needles to match

maximum number of students: 30

Size & Fit: Why the “Medium” Never Fits Quite Right

description: The biggest challenge for many knitters when choosing a pattern is knowing which size to make. This class will show you how to decide - and set you well along the way to a successful and flattering sweater project. We'll explain how to read sizing tables and schematics to understand how a garment is sized. We'll show you how to measure yourself properly to make the right choice. And most importantly, we'll explain garment fit, including demystifying terms like "negative ease"- and show you how to choose the right pattern from the start. And then once you've got the pattern and size chosen, we'll discuss easy alterations to perfect the fit and look of a garment.

skill level: all levels, ideal for knitters just starting with garment knitting, or for knitters who haven't had a lot of success with garments

length: 3 hours; a high-level overview can also be delivered as a 1-hour lecture

students should bring: paper, pencil, a tape measure and a calculator/app; any patterns they wish to discuss

maximum number of students: 30

equipment requirements: need a projector for my laptop and flip chart or whiteboard

Intro to Garment Alterations

description: Found the perfect pattern but can't find a yarn that matches gauge? Want to change the size of a pattern? Need shorter sleeves, or a longer body, or a different neckline? In addition to sharing methods for changing aspects of garments, we'll delve deep into strategies for approaching the problem that reduce both the work and the risk. We'll also discuss how to choose patterns that are easiest to alter, and good designs that can be leaping-off points for your own inspirations.

skill level: intermediate, suitable for knitters who have worked a couple of garments from a pattern

length: 3 hours

students should bring: paper, pencil, a tape measure and a calculator/app; any patterns they are interested in altering

maximum number of students: 30

equipment requirements: need a projector for my laptop and flip chart or whiteboard

Smart Strategies for Garment Knitting

Note: This is an expanded class covering the content of both Size & Fit and Introduction to Garment Alterations classes, plus additional content.

description: This class takes a deep dive into garment knitting, beginning with how to choose a style that suits your body type and how to choose the most flattering size. You'll also learn how to choose appropriate yarn and how to get gauge, and you'll leave prepared to tweak the fit with your own alterations and adjustments.

skill level: intermediate, suitable for knitters who have worked a couple of garments from a pattern

length: 6 hours

students should bring: paper, pencil, a tape measure and a calculator/app; any patterns they wish to discuss

maximum number of students: 30

equipment requirements: need a projector for my laptop and flip chart or whiteboard

SOCKS

Socks 101: Top Down; Socks 101: Toe Up

Note: These classes have the same format. Top Down is strongly recommended for first-time sock knitters; Toe Up is best for knitters with a little sock experience, or stronger skills.

description – Top Down: Learn how to make top-down socks. Starting with a mini “training sock”, we teach you everything you need to know to knit socks - from working in the round to turning the heel to shaping the toe. Once you’ve mastered the mini, we get you started on your first full-size sock. Along the way, we share lots of tips and techniques, including easy ways to join the round – without twisting! -- handling the gusset pickup, and a beginner-friendly no-graft toe. If you’ve not made socks before, this is the class for you. I also demonstrate Magic Loop and patterns provided permit use of both DPNs, magic loop or two circulars.

description – Toe Up: Once you’ve tackled top down socks, take the next step: working the other way. Learn how to make toe-up socks on double-pointed needles. We teach you everything you need to know to work toe-up - from handling the special cast-on for the toe, to turning the heel to the specialized cast offs required. Once you’ve mastered the mini, we make sure you’re equipped to get started on your first full-size sock. Along the way, we share lots of tips and techniques – choose the right yarn, getting the right size of sock, working tidy short rows and hole-free gussets and heels. I also demonstrate Magic Loop and patterns provided permit use of both DPNs, magic loop or two circulars.

skill level: advanced beginner/intermediate - knitters must be comfortable with knit, purl, ribbing and decreasing; some experience working in the round is preferable but not absolutely required

length: 3-4 hours. If all students have experience working in the round, the material can be covered in 3 hours.

students should bring: 4mm/US #6 DPNs and scrap medium-weight yarn in a light colour

maximum number of students: 20

Long-Lasting Socks

description: Make your handknit socks last longer. This session is all about practical solutions for making the most of these precious items. We’ll talk about how to start with longevity in mind: a discussion of yarn type, fabric and fit. I’ll share a variety of reinforcement strategies: other yarns and threads, special pattern stitches and key places to work them – not just the heel flap! And I’ll provide a few techniques for repairing thin spots and making sure holes never develop.

skill level: intermediate; students must have knitted at least one pair of socks

length: 2 hours

students should bring: 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles in their preferred configuration for working socks and scrap medium-weight yarn in a light colour

maximum number of students: 12

Socks for Absolute Beginners

description: Curious about sock knitting but feeling intimidated? This class equips you for your first sock-knitting adventures. We get you started working in the round and give you all the skills you need. I’ll explain the two types of sock construction (toe-up and top-down) and the different ways to work them (DPNs, Magic Loop, and on two circular needles). You’ll learn how to read a sock pattern, how to understand sock sizing, and how to find great sock patterns. By the end of this class you’ll be well on our way to making your first sock.

skill level: advanced beginners, knitters must be confident with knit & purl; experience working in the round helpful but not required

length: 4 hours

students should bring: 4mm/US #6 DPNs and scrap medium-weight yarn in a light colour; 300yds of a washable medium-weight wool-blend yarn to make your first socks with.

maximum number of students: 16

Two Socks in One: The War & Peace Method

description: Suffering from Second Sock Syndrome? Bored with your usual way of knitting socks? Looking for a way to impress your friends and challenge yourself? Learn to knit two socks at the same time - one inside the other, on the same set of needles, using a double knitting technique! This class will expand your skills, and add an excellent new trick to your repertoire.

skill level: advanced; students must be proficient sock knitters

length: 3 hours

students should bring: 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles in your preferred configuration for sock knitting; two colours of medium-weight yarn

maximum number of students: 16

Two Socks Side-by-Side

description: This class teaches how to knit two socks at the same time on magic loop. We'll discuss both top-down and top-up techniques. A nice addition to the sock-knitter's toolkit, this technique helps banish Second Sock Syndrome and ensures that your pair matches exactly.

skill level: intermediate; students must have knitted at least one pair of socks but need not have experience working with circular needles for sock knitting

length: 3 hours

students should bring: a 32-40 inch 4-5mm/US #6-8 circular needle, and two colours of medium-weight yarn, approx. 50gm of each color

maximum number of students: 16

Custom Fit Socks

description: Liberate yourself from pattern books! Make a sock to meet your own unique needs, for your size foot, and in your choice of yarn. Learn how to create a top-down or toe-up sock pattern. I'll show you how to custom fit a sock for specific size requirements, and how to make your own design customizations like pattern stitches and colourwork.

skill level: intermediate; students must have knitted a few pairs of socks

length: 2 hours

students should bring: paper, pencil, a tape measure and a calculator/app

homework: optional - a roughly 5x5-inch/12x12cm swatch in the round using the yarn you wish to design a sock for; if it's sock yarn, use the needles recommended on the ball band; if it's non-sock yarn, use needles a couple of sizes smaller.

maximum number of students: 30

equipment requirements: need a projector for my laptop and flip chart or whiteboard

Custom Fit Socks: Focus on Toe-Up

description: Liberate yourself from pattern books! Make a sock to meet your own unique needs, for your size foot, and in your choice of yarn. Learn how to create a toe-up sock pattern for any yarn, and for any foot. We'll discuss the specific fit challenges of working toe-up, while embracing the benefits of never running out of yarn! I'll also talk about adding your own design customizations like pattern stitches and colourwork.

skill level: intermediate; students must have knitted a few pairs of socks

length: 2 hours

students should bring: paper, pencil, a tape measure and a calculator/app

homework: optional - a roughly 5x5-inch/12x12cm swatch in the round using the yarn you wish to design a sock for; if it's sock yarn, use the needles recommended on the ball band; if it's non-sock yarn, use needles a couple of sizes smaller.

maximum number of students: 30

equipment requirements: need a projector for my laptop and flip chart or whiteboard

Custom Fit Knee Socks

description: Handknit knee socks are fantastically warm and fabulously stylish, but can be pretty challenging to fit. This class teaches you how to measure your leg and customize the leg on a standard sock pattern so it fits properly, stays up, and looks great. Class includes patterns for toe-up and top down knee sock patterns; discussion focuses on leg fit.

skill level: intermediate; students must have knitted a few pairs of socks

length: 2 hours

students should bring: tape measure, pen and paper, calculator

maximum number of students: 16

equipment requirements: need a projector for my laptop and flip chart or whiteboard

Heels and Toes

description: For experienced sock knitters, this class dives deep into different types of heel and toe constructions, with a focus on how they affect fit. We discuss some common and not-so-common methods for both top down and toe-up socks, and show you how to easily substitute into an existing pattern, or use them as the basis for your own designs.

skill level: intermediate; students must have knitted a few pairs of socks

length: 3 hours

students should bring: 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles in your preferred configuration for sock knitting, and scrap medium-weight yarn

maximum number of students: 16

equipment requirements: need a projector for my laptop and flip chart or whiteboard

NEW Better Afterthought Heels

description: This type of sock heel is having a moment right now. They're popular because they look so tidy when done right, and because they work really well with self-stripping sock yarns. This session will talk you through the hows and the whys. We'll take you through fixes for a couple of trouble spots, and how to fine-tune the fit.

skill level: intermediate; students must have knitted a few pairs of socks

length: 2 hours

students will need: there is homework for this class, please enquire; 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles in your preferred configuration for sock knitting, and scrap medium-weight yarn

Soxpertise

description: You've worked a few socks, now it's time to expand your skills a bit. In this class you'll learn how determine size and fit needs, how to choose a good yarn and reinforce for longevity.

We'll address the tricky bits like how to avoid holes at the top of your heel, how to get a tidy gusset pick up, and special cast-ons and cast offs. We'll talk about both toe up and top down socks, and discuss different heel and toe constructions – and when to choose one over another.

skill level: intermediate; students must have knitted a few pairs of socks

length: 3 hours; a high-level overview can also be delivered as a 1-hour lecture

students should bring: work about 1 inch of (k1, p1) ribbing in the round on 36 stitches with medium-weight yarn, using 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles in your preferred configuration for sock knitting; also bring tape measure and calculator/app

maximum number of students: 30

equipment requirements: need a projector for my laptop and flip chart or whiteboard

MITTENS & GLOVES

Mittens 101

description: Mittens are not only a key winter wardrobe item, and a great gift, but they're also a terrific way to learn some new knitting skills. This class takes knitters through a mini "training" mitten – a classic cuff-up mitt with gusset thumb – so that they can learn everything they need about making mitts in a short amount of time, and then gets them started on a pair of full size mittens. We'll also talk about how to make fingerless versions, and other style and fit customizations.

skill level: advanced beginner - knitters must be comfortable with knit, purl and ribbing; some experience working in the round is preferable but not absolutely required

length: 3 hours

students should bring: scrap medium-weight yarn & 4mm/US #6 DPNs or magic loop; for the full-size mitts, 220 yds medium-weight wool or wool-blend yarn

maximum number of students: 16

Custom Mittens

description: Winter is coming! It's never too early in the year to prep for the cold weather. We'll show you how to create a custom mitten – regular or fingerless! - for any hand, and any yarn. Use up your stash and keep your friends and family warm. Along the way we'll share tips for making hand-mittens as warm and possible – from yarn choice to lining strategies, and help you deal with problem areas like ill-fitting or holey thumbs.

skill level: intermediate – knitters should ideally have made a pair of mittens or two

length: 3 hours

students should bring: tape measure, pen and paper, calculator/app; light-coloured medium weight scrap yarn, 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles, 2 stitch markers; optionally bring a swatch of yarn they wish to use (worked in the round)

maximum number of students: 16

equipment requirements: need a projector for my laptop and flip chart or whiteboard

Introduction to Gloves

description: Want to tackle glove knitting, but are intimidated? This class teaches you everything you need to know to work one of the most challenging and fun knitting projects you'll ever tackle. We'll talk about ensuring a proper fit. We'll talk about warmth and good glove fabrics. And we'll provide easy solutions for the trouble spots: fiddly fingers and tricky thumbs, including what to do about all those holes and ends. Students will leave with a pattern and all the skills they need to make perfectly fitted – and perfectly executed – gloves.

skill level: intermediate – knitters should ideally have made a pair of mittens or two

length: 3 hours

students should bring: There is homework for this class. Details will be provided.

maximum number of students: 16

FINISHING SKILLS

Blocking & Fiber Care

description: Blocking: it's a critical step in the finishing process for hand knits, and is all too often ignored or skipped. Contrary to many beliefs, it's incredibly easy, and the value it provides is immense, taking an item from complete to truly, beautifully finished. This session will demystify the process, breaking it down by both fiber and project type. Along the way, we'll also talk about fiber care: safely and easily washing handknits - when you can use the machine and when you should handwash (or not wash at all). We'll also talk about moth prevention, and safe yarn and garment storage.

skill level: all levels

length: 1 hour – 1.5 hours; the longer version allows for a detailed demonstration of how to use blocking wires for lace projects

students should bring: any projects that need blocking

maximum number of students: 30

Fearless Finishing

description: Many knitters avoid a lot of garment patterns because of the finishing work required, and even the most experienced knitters often have holes in their finishing knowledge – or simply lack confidence about them. The reason is simple: information in books and patterns is often very weak in this area, leaving knitters to try to figure it out themselves. This hands-on workshop teaches practical, useful and sensible finishing skills. Along the way we'll dispel a lot of common myths, break down some common sources of confusion, and show you short-cuts that make the finishing task easier and improve the finished project. We'll cover the three key seaming methods – reviewing how to do them and where to use them, including how to set in a sleeve. We'll practice two key skills that cause problems for knitters of all experience levels: grafting (Kitchener stitch) and picking up stitches - how and where to pick them up, how to handle large numbers of picked up stitches, and what to do if you can't match the number the pattern calls for. We'll discuss blocking, weaving in ends and how the proper cast ons and bind offs can make your finishing work easier - and improve the finished result.

skill level: all levels

length: 3 hours

students should bring: any projects that need finishing, the swatches below, and a blunt-tipped darning needle.

homework: Using 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles and medium-weight yarn in a light colour, make the following squares: two 4 x 4 in squares in stocking stitch, one 4 x 4 in square in garter stitch, one 4 x 4 in square (k1, p1) ribbing; 2 15-stitch swatches of stockinette stitch – work 4 rows and leave the stitches on holders.

maximum number of students: 16

Kitchener Confidence/Painless Grafting

description: Kitchener Stitch (Grafting) is feared by many knitters. It's a tricky thing, and if you get it wrong, it can look pretty terrible. This class focuses on taking the fear out of the process. We'll build confidence and skills through practice, sharing tips for remembering the steps, and for fixing it if you mess up. I'll talk about how to handle a variety of fabrics: stockinette stitch, garter stitch and ribbing. I'll also share tricks for avoiding it entirely!

skill level: advanced beginner - knitters need to be proficient with knit, purl

length: 1.5-2 hours

students should bring: 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles and two colours of scrap medium-weight yarn, a blunt-ended darning needle

maximum number of students: 16

Closure

description: This class is all about two challenging garment finishing details: buttons and zippers. We begin with a discussion of buttonholes: what's the best method to make them and how to keep them tidy and neat. And then once you've got the holes, we talk about how to attach the buttons to make sure they stay on and don't get loose. And then, of course, if you don't want buttons, we'll show you how to insert a zipper into knits.

skill level: intermediate, students should have some garment experience

length: 2 hours

students should bring: 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles, and some scrap worsted weight yarn, a single button, a 6-inch zipper, a sewing needle and thread

maximum number of students: 16

Steeking

description: It may well be the scariest thing you can do with your knitting... taking a pair of scissors to it! Steeking – cutting a piece of knitting – is on many knitters' "bucket lists", and this class is any easy way to learn about it, and to take the fear out of it. We'll talk about the hows and whys of steeking, discussing different methods of reinforcement, edging and finishing. Whether you're a keen colourwork knitter looking to take your skills to the next level, or just curious what the fuss is about, this class will explain it all!

skill level: intermediate; colourwork and garment experience helpful but not required

length: 2 hours

students should bring: There is homework for this class. Details will be provided.

maximum number of students: 16

LACE & SHAWLS

Your First Lace Scarf/Shawl

description: Are you a newer knitter ready for a challenge? Are you looking to learn a new skill? Lace is the most beautiful work a knitter can produce. Start your lace knitting adventures with a simple but satisfying – and beautiful! – project in a traditional Shetland lace pattern. We'll teach you the basics of lace knitting - including working from charts and written instructions, and get you well on your way with your first project. We'll also talk about how to identify, fix and prevent mistakes, and provide tips for making lace easier and more fun.

skill level: confident beginner; knitters must be comfortable with knit and purl. Note: there are two versions of the class, depending on the level of the knitters: for absolute beginners, the project is quicker-knit scarf worked on medium-weight yarn; for slightly more skilled knitters, we work on a triangular shawl in sport or DK weight yarn.

length: 3 hours

students should bring: 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles - straight or short circular - and light-coloured medium weight scrap yarn; project requirements depend on project chosen.

maximum number of students: 16

Lace 101

An introduction to the magic of lace knitting. Through swatching, we explore different types of stitch patterns, and how to work them. We also talk about how to read patterns, making sure you're confident with both written and charted instructions. We'll also talk about how to identify, fix and

prevent mistakes, and provide tips for making lace easier and more fun. If you've got a lace project you want to tackle, bring it so we can make sure we work on the skills you need.

skill level: advanced beginner; knitters must be comfortable with knit, purl, increasing and decreasing. Note: this is an excellent class for students who have their own project in mind or underway, and wish to build the appropriate skills and confidence. "Your First Lace Shawl" provides a first project for less experienced/less confident knitters.

length: 3 hours

students should bring: 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles - straight or short circular - and light-coloured medium weight scrap yarn; students should also bring the project they wish to start

maximum number of students: 16

Next Steps in Lace Knitting

description: For knitters who have successfully worked one or two lace patterns, this class focuses on building lace knitting confidence and skills. We'll talk about more advanced stitchwork like double yarnovers, nups and faggoting stitches, and knitted-on borders. In class, we work through a number of different types of lace stitches. Along the way, I'll share tips on preventing mistakes, and demonstrate how to fix them without unravelling! I'll provide an overview of different shawl shapings and constructions. And we'll spend some time on answering frequently asked questions, and trouble-shooting.

skill level: intermediate; knitters should have some lace experience

length: 2-3 hours

students should bring: 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles - straight or short circular, light-coloured medium weight scrap yarn, and any lace pattern you'd like to work

maximum number of students: 16

Fixing Mistakes in Lace

description: For knitters who have successfully worked one or two lace patterns, this class focuses on building lace knitting confidence and skills with a focus on fixing mistakes. Through hands-on practice, we'll demonstrate how to deal with missing or misplaced yarnovers, incorrect or misplaced decreases, and messed up patterns. We'll also discuss mistake prevention: the use of the lifeline, how to keep track of your progress on your pattern, and tips for ensuring you stay on track.

skill level: intermediate; knitters should have some lace experience

length: 2 hours

students should bring: 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles - straight or short circular, and light-coloured medium weight scrap yarn; a crochet hook in a similar size

maximum number of students: 16

The Pi Shawl

description: The circular Pi shawl is a fabulous and fascinating project, and it's a great way to expand your lace knitting skills. It's also very easy to customize, and works well with any weight of yarn. Use one of our patterns, or create your own one-of-a-kind lace piece. If you've got a favourite lace stitch pattern, bring it, and I'll show you how to use it in your own design. I'll demonstrate the magical circular beginning – and some easier alternatives, and demonstrate several clever and easy finishes, including the no-cast-off, blocking-friendly crochet edging.

skill level: advanced beginner; knitters should be confident working in the round, increasing and decreasing; lace experience not necessary.

length: 3 hours

materials required: 1000m-1200m of yarn, DPNs and a 16-inch circular needle to match: for sock/fingering weight, bring 3.75mm/US #5 needles, for DK weight, bring 5mm/US #8 needles; students can bring lace stitch patterns they wish to use or adapt

maximum number of students: 16

equipment requirements: need a projector for my laptop and flip chart or whiteboard

Shawl Skills: The Garter Tab

description: S A focused session all about the garter tab shawl start – explaining why it's needed, how it works, and how to actually do it. I'll also share tips for clever variations, including a stocki-nette version.

skill level: Suitable for knitters of any level

length: 1 or 2 hours

materials required: scrap light-colored medium-weight yarn and a 4-5mm/US #6-8 circular needle, removable stitch markers

maximum number of students: 20

equipment requirements: need a projector for my laptop and flip chart or whiteboard

Shawl Skills: Easy Starts and Finishes

description: Shawls are excellent all-year-round knitting, and there are projects for all skill levels and tastes. This session focuses on key techniques to make shawl projects even more fun: we'll demystify the garter tab start, share techniques for stretchy bind offs and learn about no-fuss solutions for finishing, blocking (no special equipment needed!) and weaving in ends.

skill level: Suitable for knitters of any level

length: 2 or 3 hours

materials required: scrap light-coloured medium-weight yarn and 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles

maximum number of students: 20

equipment requirements: need a projector for my laptop and flip chart or whiteboard

Shawl Skills

Note: this session includes the material from the Starts and Finishes class.

description: A deep dive into skills you need for shawl knitting, starting with casting on and the garter tab start, a discussion of edgings and increases and how they affect the shape and size of the project, and answers on key finishing tasks, including stretchy bind-offs, blocking and weaving in ends.

skill level: Suitable for knitters who have made a shawl or two, and are looking to understand more.

length: 3 hours

materials required: scrap light-coloured medium-weight yarn and 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles

maximum number of students: 20

equipment requirements: need a projector for my laptop and flip chart or whiteboard

Shawl Shapes 101

description: This class explains key shawl shapes, and how to make them your own with stitch patterns and custom design details. We'll talk about which shapes work best if you want to maximize size, if you want to work with multiple colors, or if you've only got a limited amount of yarn to use up. We'll share some tips for creating fun variations on standard shapes and patterns. Students leave with a set of pattern templates and the confidence and knowledge to start customizing and creating their own designs.

skill level: knitters must have made a few shawls

length: 3 hours

materials required: scrap light-coloured medium-weight yarn and 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles

maximum number of students: 30

equipment requirements: need a projector for my laptop and flip chart or whiteboard

Shawl Shapes 201

description: A deeper dive into shawl design and customization. We'll talk about more shapes, and a variety of ways to adjust them. We'll discuss the effects of changing the placement of increases and decreases, the use of short rows for changing the look, shape and direction; we'll review how different fabrics can affect the finished project. Students leave with a set of pattern templates and tools to start getting creative.

skill level: knitters must have made a few shawls

length: 3 hours

materials required: scrap light-coloured medium-weight yarn and 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles

Shawl Design Deep Dive: Create Your Own Perfect Shawl

description: For adventurous knitters looking to expand their skills, and get creative! This class explains key shawl shapes, and how to make them your own with stitch patterns and custom design details. We'll share tips for shawl knitting: stretchy cast ons and bind offs, and increase and edging options for decorative and functional purposes. We'll talk about yarn choices and fabrics, how to use multiple colors, and stitch patterns that work for variegated yarns. Students leave with a set of

pattern templates and the confidence and knowledge to start customizing and creating their own designs.

skill level: knitters must have made a few shawls, and have some lace skill.

length: 3-6 hours

materials required: scrap light-coloured medium-weight yarn and 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles, paper and pencil; optionally, bring yarn they wish to use, patterns for any designs you want to adapt or alter, stitch patterns they wish to use, sketches or notes on design ideas

maximum number of students: 20-30

equipment requirements: need a projector for my laptop and flip chart or whiteboard

COLOURWORK

See also Steeking under Finishing

NEW! A Gentle Introduction to Fair Isle

description: Ideal for newer knitters, or those who have struggled with colourwork, this class is focused on approachable and practical guidance on working with more than one yarn at a time. We'll talk about how to handle the two yarns without getting tangled (and why this matters!), whether you work English or Continental, one-handed or two. We'll discuss reading the patterns and charts. Along the way, we'll cover tips for choosing and managing yarns, and the importance of blocking – and how to do it.

skill level: advanced beginner - knitters need to be proficient with knit, purl

length: 2 hours

students will need: two contrasting colours of scrap medium-weight yarn and 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles

skill level: advanced beginner - knitters need to be proficient with knit, purl

length: 2 or 3 hours

maximum number of students: 16

NEW! Colourwork: Stripes and Intarsia

This class focuses on other ways to add colour to your projects. We'll talk about how to join and manage your yarns, how to avoid holes and gaps. We'll address key trouble spots like weaving in ends tidily. We'd spend time on the issue of the jog when working in the round, reviewing various methods for a 'jogless' jog, and talking about the almost-magical helical stripes. Along the way, we'll talk about how these methods allow you to customize and add a personal touch to your projects – or use up some stash!

skill level: advanced beginner - knitters need to be proficient with knit, purl

length: 2 hours

students will need: two contrasting colours of scrap medium-weight yarn and 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles

maximum number of students: 16

Slip Stitch Colourwork: The Mod Squad Hat

description: Slip-stitch colourwork is a less-known but amazingly easy method for working with multiple colours. If you want to dip your toe into colourwork, but aren't sure where to start, this is a great way to begin.

skill level: knitters must have experience working in the round, ideal for those with no colourwork experience

length: 2 hours

students should bring: 2 x 200yds of worsted-weight yarn in contrasting colours; 4.5mm/US #7 DPNs or long circular for magic loop method (whichever the knitter is most familiar with)

maximum number of students: 16

Introduction to Colourwork: Fair Isle, Intarsia and Slip-Stitch Knitting

description: Learn how to work with multiple colours in your knitting, in multiple ways. We'll start with stripes, then progress to Fair Isle, showing you how read the patterns and charts, and to handle two yarns, whether you work English or Continental, one-handed or two. I'll demonstrate how (and why) to handle long floats, and how to make sure your fabric is tidy and even. We'll also tackle Intarsia and slipped stitch colourwork, demonstrating the key differences in

techniques required for these other colourwork methods. Along the way, we'll cover chart reading, how to manage your yarns, and the importance of blocking – and how to do it.

skill level: advanced beginner - knitters need to be proficient with knit, purl

length: 3 hours

students should bring: two contrasting colours of scrap medium-weight yarn and 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles

maximum number of students: 16

CABLES

Introduction to Cables

description: Learn the knitter's dirtiest secret - cables are easy! We'll address not only how to work cables, but also how to read charts and patterns, and we'll share expert tips on how to manage the knitting of a complex cable design.

skill level: advanced beginner; knitters need to be proficient with knit, purl

length: 2 hours

students should bring: scrap yarn in a light colour and matching needles - medium-weight and 5mm/US #8 needles is recommended; a cable needle

maximum number of students: 16

Cabling Without a Cable Needle

description: Speed up your cable knitting and expand your skills by learning to work cables without a cable needle.

skill level: intermediate; knitters must have some cable-knitting experience

length: 1-2 hours, depending on skill level of knitters

students should bring: scrap yarn in a light colour and matching needles - medium-weight and 5mm/US #8 needles is recommended; a cable needle

maximum number of students: 16

Cable Knitting Masterclass

Suitable for knitters with some cable experience, this class takes your skills to the next level. We'll create a sampler, playing with a wide variety of cable patterns and stitches: knit/purl versions, uneven cables, reversible one, slip-stitch variations. We'll show you how to work without a cable needle, speeding up the process. We'll share tips for making cables fabrics more tidy. And along the way we'll also review chart and pattern reading, and teach you how to fix mistakes. We'll also touch on designing and customizing cable patterns.

skill level: intermediate; knitters must have some cable-knitting experience

length: 2-3 hours, depending on skill level of knitters

students should bring: materials: scrap light-coloured medium-weight yarn and 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles, a cable needle, a crochet hook and two DPNs in a similar size; students may also bring any patterns or projects they wish to discuss

maximum number of students: 16

BRIOCHE

Introduction to Brioche Knitting

description: Brioche knitting uses a simple and clever technique to create beautiful fabrics – deep ribs and fascinating colourwork. It's particularly effectively in two colours, and is an excellent way to tame a busy variegated yarn. This class covers the skills for working brioche patterns, including reading the sometimes-complicated instructions, and fixing mistakes. Knitters will leave with a one-of-a-kind shawl or scarf project well underway.

skill level: no specific skills required, but knitters must be confident with increasing and decreasing

length: 3 hours

students should bring: 16-20 inch circular 4mm/US #6 needle and 2 strongly contrasting colours of scrap worsted weight yarn; 250-300 yards each of two colours of yarn: recommend one variegated, one solid; newer knitters should bring DK or worsted; more experienced knitters can bring fingering or sport.

maximum number of students: 16

Next Steps in Brioche

description: For knitters with a little bit of experience with Brioche knitting, this class will get you started on more complex patterns, starting with Kate's "Omnishambles" patterned brioche scarf. The session focuses on building skills and confidence with the technique. We'll talk about working increase and decreases, tidy edges, and fixing mistakes. Along the way we'll share a few tips for making the process easier and more fun.

skill level: intermediate; must have a little bit of brioche experience

length: 3 hours

students should bring: 16-20 inch circular 4.5mm/US #7 needle and 100-125yds each of two colours of worsted or aran weight yarn: recommend one variegated, one solid

maximum number of students: 16

Brioche Deep Dive

description: For knitters with a little bit of experience with Brioche knitting, this class will build skills and explore techniques: syncopated brioche, standard and reversible increases and decreases, more complex stitch patterns, working from charts. We'll also address fixing mistakes. Students will leave with a pattern for a brioche sampler scarf/shawl that allows them to practise and dip their toes into design.

skill level: intermediate; must have a little bit of brioche experience

length: 3 hours

students should bring: 16-20 inch circular 4.5mm/US #7 needle and scraps each of two colours of worsted or aran weight yarn: recommend one variegated, one solid

maximum number of students: 16

OTHER SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES

NEW! The "Holey Grail": Avoiding Gaps and Holes

description: This class focuses on tips and techniques for dealing with common holes and gaps in your knitting: why they're there, how to avoid making them, and how to deal with them up if they do happen. We'll talk about mitten thumbs, underarms in seamless garments, sock gusset pickups, necklines, starts and ends of rounds, and more! Bring your questions and holes.

skill level: advanced beginner - knitter should be confident with knit and purl

length: 2 hours

students will need: 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles, and scrap medium-weight yarn; there is homework for this class, details will be provided

maximum number of students: 20

NEW! Mending

description: This is the ideal class for anyone looking to get as much life out of their garments as possible. We'll teach you how to repair scary pulls in your fabric and to mend snags, wear and holes in all types of garments. The techniques we cover are applicable to both hand-knit and storebought knits so you will be all set to keep that favourite sweater for years to come.

skill level: advanced beginner - knitter should be confident with knit and purl

length: 2 hours

students will need: there is homework for this class, please enquire; 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles in your preferred configuration for sock knitting, and scrap medium-weight yarn

4-5mm/US #6-8 needles and scrap yarn in a light colour; a crochet hook in a similar size

maximum number of students: 20

Entrelac

description: Entrelac is one of the most beautiful and mystifying of knitterly arts! We'll teach you everything you need to know to create your own one-of-a-kind scarf, and along the way improve your skills with some new techniques for increasing, decreasing and picking up stitches.

skill level: advanced beginner - knitters need to be proficient with knit, purl

length: 3 hours

students should bring: 4.5mm/US #7 needles (straight or short circular); 3 balls Noro Silk Garden or Kureyon (or similar)

maximum number of students: 16

Short Row Savvy

description: "Wrap & Turn" is not a dance move, it's a fabulous way to create shapes with your knitting. Short rows are used for sock heels, they're common in shawls to create, and to create ruffles. In this class we'll discuss four or five common methods of working short rows (and hiding them, just as important!): wrap, German, Yarnover, Shadow, Japanese. We'll discuss their use in bust shaping to custom fit a garment and how they can make shoulder seaming easier.

skill level: intermediate suitable for knitters just starting with short rows

length: 1-2 hours; a 1-hour version covers two techniques, the longer class goes deeper and explains substitution

students should bring: scrap light-coloured medium-weight yarn and 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles, 8 removable stitch markers or small safety pins

maximum number of students: 16

DPNs, Magic Loop & Two Circulars: Options for Working in the Round

description: There are many different ways to knit in the round: on double-pointed needles, circular needles, with magic loop, two circular needles and the newer Flexi-Flips and bent DPNs. This class will demonstrate the techniques, and provide opportunities to practice all of them. We'll share tips & techniques for knitting in the round on any style of needles, and for any project, including easy ways to join and a magic trick for fixing a twisted round. Whether you're new to working in the round, or have tried it with difficulties, this class is for you!

skill level: advanced beginner; some experience working in the round

length: 1-2 hours, depending on experience level of knitters.

students should bring: scrap medium-weight yarn, as many of the following needles as they have: 4-5mm/US #6-8DPNs, long circulars, short circulars

maximum number of students: 16

Continental Knitting

description: Want to knit faster? Are you ready to tackle colour work? Knitting continental style – with the yarn in your left hand rather than right – is the key to speed, and also helps you enormously with colourwork. It's also useful for knitters who want to manage and minimize hand-strain. We'll also demonstrate a magical technique for working ribbing and seed stitch without moving the yarn.

skill level: all levels

length: 2 hours

students should bring: 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles (straight or short circular) and two colours of scrap medium-weight yarn.

maximum number of students: 16

Better Edges

description: Struggling with too-tight edges? Can't get your mittens on? Garment necklines too tight? This session will show you key techniques for ensuring stretchy edges: a variety of flexible cast ons, some very helpful bind offs, and tips for making them easier and better. (You'll never run out of tail on your long tail cast on again!) We'll also talk about how to make the side edges of your pieces better, whether for one-piece items like scarves, or for pieces that are to be sewn up.

skill level: advanced beginner/intermediate; knitters should be confident with knit, purl, cast on and bind off

length: 2 hours; a high-level overview can also be delivered as a 1-hour lecture

students should bring: 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles and scrap yarn in a light colour

maximum number of students: 20

Casting on & Binding Off

description: A deep dive into starts and ends; we'll cover key ways to cast on and bind off your knitting, highlighting both good general-purpose methods, and speciality methods and when you might use them. We'll talk about how to create stretch when you need it, and how to stop it when you don't. Along the way we'll provide tips like how to ensure you never run out of yarn for your long-tail cast on, and how a crochet hook can change your life.

skill level: advanced beginner - knitter should be confident with knit and purl

length: 2 hours

students should bring: 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles and scrap yarn in a light colour; a crochet hook in a similar size

maximum number of students: 20

Increase & Decreases

description: A deep dive into shaping methods, we'll cover key ways to add and take away stitches in your knitting. We'll talk about decorative and visible methods, and methods that hide; we'll talk about left-and right-leaning, and when and why it's important to mirror and pair them. Along the way we'll share tricks to ensure you will never again need to look up M1R and M1L – and discuss why a neutral increase is often your best choice.

skill level: advanced beginner - knitter should be confident with knit and purl

length: 2 hours

students should bring: 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles and scrap yarn in a light colour

maximum number of students: 20

Expert Tips/Best Methods

Note: This class is a highlights session, covering key techniques from Better Edges, Casting On & Binding Off and Increase & Decreases

description: There's a broad variety of methods for increasing, decreasing, casting on and casting off. In this class, I'll review four or five major methods for each, discussing the pros and cons, what they look like, and where they are best used. We'll also discuss placement of shaping to make finishing easier, and make the finished project look better.

skill level: all levels

length: 2 hours; a high-level overview can also be delivered as a 1-hour lecture

students should bring: a swatch: with a light-coloured medium-weight yarn and 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles, cast on 30 stitches and work 1 inch of stocking stitch

maximum number of students: 20

SPECIFIC PROJECTS

No-Pattern Custom Fit Hats

description: Make a hat for any head, with any yarn in your stash. We'll teach you how to work a top-down hat to fit any head, without a swatch! We'll show you how to customize the style and fit – work to the length you want, make it slouchy or fitted, fold-over cuff or beanie-style, add custom ribbings and cuff patterns, work with different colours. Whether you want to make a quick gift or use up your stash, or free yourself from patterns, this class will make you a better and more powerful hat knitter.

skill level: Suitable for knitters who have experience working in the round.

length: 3 hours

students should bring: the measurement of the head you want to fit; any yarn you want to use and the following needles: DPNs and 16 inch circular in the size recommended for the yarn, and 16 inch circular 2 sizes smaller. Also bring a stitch marker, scrap yarn in a similar weight and a blunt-ended darning needle. For fingering weight/sock yarn, bring 300m, for DK bring 250m, for worsted weight or thicker, bring 150m.

maximum number of students: 16

Baby Surprise Jacket Bootcamp

description: Elizabeth Zimmermann's Baby Surprise Jacket is a very popular and clever project. But it's a challenging pattern to read, and the knitting can be a bit tricky! This class guides you through the pattern by working a mini version – along the way learning not only how to read it, but all the key stitches and skills required. We'll discuss yarn choices, sizing, and ways to customize the pattern – including adding a hood or collar & working with multiple colours.

skill level: advanced beginner/intermediate - knitters must be confident with knit and purl, increase and decrease

length: 3 hours

students should bring: 50gm of a medium-weight yarn and 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles – a short circular is easiest. Store should supply (or make available for sale) the standalone version of the

pattern, available from Schoolhouse Press.

maximum number of students: 16

DESIGN, PATTERN WRITING & TECHNICAL EDITING

Pattern Writing

description: You've designed a great piece, and now it's time to write up the pattern to share. Whether you want to self-publish or submit to a publication, this class will show you how to write up a clear and easy-to-follow pattern that works for any knitter. I will discuss sizing and fit, addressing grading and size ranges. I'll share secrets for handling pattern stitches, written and charted. I'll talk about charting software & solutions, and provide tips for creating easy-to-use charts. And I'll share with you the three key tricks to make sure both knitters and editors love you!

skill level: intermediate, aspiring designer

length: 3 hours

students should bring: paper, pencil, a tape measure and a calculator/app

maximum number of students: 30

equipment requirements: need a projector for my laptop and flip chart or whiteboard

Introduction to Design

See also "Introduction to Shawl Design" in Lace & Shawls

description: For adventurous knitters who are interested in designing their own garments and accessories, and publishing their own patterns. We'll discuss how to approach a design project, from a concept and yarn to a finished item and a complete pattern that anyone else can follow. We'll share brilliant and maths-reducing shortcuts for creating your own designs using existing templates. We'll talk about grading, and yarn choices, and provide strategies for ensuring your design appeals to as broad an audience as possible. We'll also talk about the process around designing: yarn support, submitting to publications, working with technical editors and test knitters. We'll review key questions about copyright to ensure that you're always in the clear. And we'll spend some time on writing up your pattern for publication, and how to ensure that it's easy to understand and useful for knitters and magazine editors alike.

skill level: intermediate, aspiring designer

length: 4 hours

students should bring: paper, pencil, a tape measure and a calculator/app

maximum number of students: 30

equipment requirements: need a projector for my laptop and flip chart or whiteboard

Introduction To Technical Editing

description: Interested in what a technical editor does? Thinking of expanding your skillset and product offerings? The technical editor is a vital part of the pattern publication process, helping designers turn their notes and outlines into patterns ready for publication. Training in technical editing also makes you a better teacher and pattern writer, enhancing your understanding of how patterns work and how to read and write them.

This introductory-level session gets you started down the path. We'll explain the role of the technical editor in the pattern development and publication process. We'll dive deep into the different types of reviews required: language, numbers and usability. And we'll explain the value of the pattern style sheet: what it includes, how to establish one, and how to edit a pattern to meet specific requirements.

skill level: experienced

length: 3 hours

students should bring: paper, pencil, a tape measure and a calculator/app

maximum number of students: 30

equipment requirements: need a projector for my laptop and flip chart or whiteboard

NEW Introduction To Grading

description: Grading – creating all the sizes – is the most challenging task in preparing a pattern for publication. This session goes beyond customary tutorials about mathematical calculations and instead dives into the whats, the hows and the whys of grading. We'll define the crucial elements of the task and discuss strategies for tackling them. Along the way, we'll talk about resources for body

sizing information, and discuss how to determine an appropriate size range for your design to make it marketable to a wider audience.

skill level: experienced

length: 3 hours

maximum number of students: 30

equipment requirements: need a projector for my laptop and flip chart or whiteboard