

KNITTING CLASSES

Amanda Schwabe

FLASH COURSES (2-HOUR WORKSHOPS)

Any of these could be expanded to fit a 3-Hour space, or extended to become the introduction to a Project class.

How To Read Your Knitting and Fix Mistakes

Learn the structures of stitches and how to correct the most common mistakes. Count stitches and rows, identify what you've done and find your place in the pattern again.

Sew That Sweater Together!

How to set in sleeves, sew seams invisibly, and pick up and knit button bands and collars.

How to Not Hate Finishing

A medley of finishing techniques: Mattress Stitch, Kitchener Stitch grafting, flat seams, duplicate stitch, picking up and knitting.

How to Make Your Knitting Nicer

Fix tension troubles, get gauge, neaten edges, eliminate ladders between needles, pick the right yarn and needles for your pattern.

Technique Mash-Up! Reversible Slip-Stitch Patterns

Learn the medley of techniques that form these reversible, linear patterns, adding methods incrementally to fully understand the structure.

Intro to Brioche Rib

Learn the techniques and terminology of the basic brioche stitches, how they work, and how to read them.

Intro to Double Knitting

Create double-layer fabric with two right sides to make thick, reversible projects.

Continental Knitting

For right-hand "throwers" or English-style knitters who'd like to learn to hold the yarn in the left hand. Knit, purl, yarnover, k2tog, and ssk will get you started.

Knit Faster

Mental and physical adjustments to smoothe out the motions and add speed to your projects.

Getting Started with Stranded Colourwork

Try various methods of holding multiple yarns, catch floats efficiently, get even tension, avoid tangles.

Stretchy Cast Ons & Bind Offs

German Twisted Cast On, Jeny's Surprisingly Stretchy Bind Off, EZ's Sewn Bind Off.

Invisible Cast On & Bind Off

Italian Tubular techniques for beginning and ending.

Decorative Cast Ons

Kihnu Troi, Braided, Twined, all excellent for colourwork mittens.

Latvian Braids & Muhu Vits

Traditional decorative bands that don't look like they're knit -- but they are.

Knitting with Beads

Pre-string beads and knit them into garter stitch to make strikingly patterned pulse warmers.

Mosaic Knitting

Learn this simple style of colourwork that creates graphic designs using garter stitch, slipped stitches, and just one colour per row.

Cut Your Knitting Up!

Learn the Fair Isle tradition of steeking: knitting colourwork in the round, then cutting it open on purpose at arm holes, neck openings, and cardigan fronts. We spend our class time learning various reinforcements and then cutting.

Manage Colourwork Floats with Ladderback Jacquard

Learn this machine-knitting technique for hand knitters that adds stretch and beauty to the backs of your stranded colourwork projects. It's especially good for socks.

Draw Your Knitting

A drawing class for knitters! Learn the anatomy of your knitting in a whole new way through the intimate observation of pencil and paper.

3-HOUR WORKSHOPS

Mastering Sock Heels

The 3 most common heel constructions -- flap and gusset, short row, and afterthought -- and how to modify, substitute, and personalize them.

Sock Heels for High Insteps

Strong Heel (top-down) / Fleegle Heel (toe-up), personalizing a flap-and-gusset heel, adding space around afterthought or short row heels.

PROJECT CLASSES

These can be taught in 4- to 6-week series of 2-hour classes or some remix thereof. I'm always open to writing new patterns to teach techniques, so if you have a request, just ask!

Reversible Slip-Stitch Shawls

Techniques: Slip stitches, shaping, reading stitches & fixing mistakes, reading charts.

Patterns available: One, Two, Three Secrets, Fade & Flip

Brioche Level 1: Brioche Cowl

Techniques: brioche in the round, brioche increases and decreases, reading brioche stitches, fixing mistakes, using brioche charts.

Pattern included: Wintermist

Brioche Level 2: Brioche Shawl

Techniques: flat brioche knit & purl, brioche increases and decreases, reading brioche stitches, fixing mistakes, using brioche charts.

Pattern included: Kairos Shawl

Knit a Beautiful Lace Shawl

Techniques: Garter Tab Cast On, reading charts, aligning yarnovers & decreases, reading lace stitches, correcting mistakes (managing yarnovers, tinking decreases, etc.), tips for knitting lace successfully.

Pattern included: Scintillate

Two-at-a-Time Toe-Up Socks

Techniques: Judy's Magic Cast On, Magic Loop, lifted increases, custom fitting socks, short-row heel with slip-stitch turns (aka Thanks Ma's), Jeny's Surprisingly Stretchy Bind Off

Pattern included: Amanda's Basic Custom Toe-Up Socks

Knit a Sweater That Fits

Techniques: Understanding fit and sizing, getting

gauge, making modifications (including bust darts when applicable).

Pattern: none. Students bring any sweater pattern they've purchased, and I help them assess and modify it.

How to Knit Gloves Without Losing Your Mind

Techniques and pattern features: Fitting, aligning increases, offset thumb gusset, separating stitches for fingers, picking up and knitting stitches (my no-hole method), Magic Loop or dpns, sewing in ends.

Pattern: Amanda's Basic Gloves

Learn to Cable and Knit Mittens

Techniques: Knitting in the round, reading charts, increasing thumb gussets, cables, cabling without a cable needle.

Pattern included: XOX OXO Mittens

Cozy Bed Socks

Techniques: Top-down sock with heel flap & gusset, cables, reading charts.

Pattern included: Fireglow.

First Fair Isle

Techniques: Continental knitting, holding two colours in various ways, stranded colourwork, catching floats, yarn and colour management, choosing a colour palette using traditional Fair

Isle methods.

Pattern: Flocke hat

Super Adorable Baby Knitting: Wool Soakers and Longies

Techniques: crochet provisional cast on, increasing and decreasing, practically-invisible short rows, a perfect way to sew in ends, Kitchener stitch, I-cords, picking up and knitting.

Patterns for wool soakers and longies included.

First Hat

Learn to knit in the round and follow a basic pattern.

Pattern included: First Hat

Design a Hat

Get started with the basics of designing using the hat as our canvas. Learn different hat constructions, how to plan and place stitch patterns, how to work decreases in pattern.

Beginner's Knitting

Techniques: Knitted Cast On, knit, purl, recognizing and counting stitches, reading a simple pattern, even tension and edges, fixing common beginner mistakes, sewing knitting, blocking.

Project: Small squares featuring common stitch patterns for incremental learning that can be joined to form a pillow.

FESTIVE / HOLIDAY PROJECT CLASSES

Heirloom Christmas Stockings

Techniques: Stranded colourwork / Fair Isle knitting, catching floats, even tension, afterthought heel, graphing colourwork patterns to add names.

Pattern included: Heirloom Christmas Stockings

Tiny Santa Mittens

Techniques: Muhu Cast On, Muhu vits, stranded colourwork, afterthought thumb.

Pattern included: Tiny Santa Mittens

SERVICES

These services and special skills often become a part of every class I teach. For example, my experience designing patterns helps me to explain things from a different perspective.

Problem Solving

Ask any knitting question and get solutions and advice.

Examples:

Dig out that old, forgotten project that went off the rails years ago, and I'll help you find your place and get restarted.

Bring me your unfixable disaster, and we'll go over it together to see what can be salvaged. It's probably not as bad as you think it is.

Mistake Fixing

If something has gone wrong somewhere, I can find it and fix it.

Examples:

Giant section of lace that went completely wrong 20 rows ago;

Miscrossed cables 6" below your needles;

Brioche patterning that's gotten out of sync somewhere;

Dropped stitches, knits where there should be purls, mysterious holes;

Knitting Coach

Bring your own project and spend some relaxing knitting time with other knitters, knowing that whatever you're working on, I'll be there to answer any questions, help with any problems, and advise on new techniques.

Finishing

Yes, I'll sew your sweater together.

Custom Design

We meet, take your measurements, discuss your needs, and design a custom-fit pattern that you can knit.

Custom Knitting

Or I can knit it for you.

Pattern Design

I design and write knitting patterns for yarn companies, indie dyers, and independent publishing.

Graded, standard sizing from XS to 5X (source: Craft Yarn Council of America).

TECHNIQUE EXPERTISE & EXPERIENCE

- Sweater constructions & fit, finishing
- Socks, in all directions, with every heel and toe imaginable. How to adjust fit and customize.
- Continental knitting, English knitting, Portuguese knitting, Norwegian purl, levered knitting, Eastern knitting
- Tension and gauge problem solving
- The underlying structure of knitting, and how to read it and fix problems

- Advanced techniques like brioche, entrelac, knitting back, ladderback jacquard, double knitting, reversible slipped stitches, travelling stitches
- Colourwork stranding and carrying techniques from all over the world
- Lace knitting, design, and troubleshooting
- Short-row shaping and turning methods: German, yoyo, twin stitches, Thanks Ma / slipped stitches, wrap & turn, Japanese
- Fibre properties and choosing yarns
- All needle management techniques: dpns, circular, 2 circulars, Magic Loop
- converting written instructions to charts
- Mittens and gloves
- Decorative stitches like Latvian braids
- Choosing Cast Ons: German Twisted, Knitted, Cable, Long Tail, Long Tail in pattern, Invisible, Backwards Loop, 2-colour Long Tail, Muhu, I-Cord variations, Kihnu Troi, Estonian, Tubular, etc.
- Choosing Bind Offs: Standard, Jeny's Surprisingly Stretchy, Lace, EZ's Sewn, Kitchener, 3-needle, Invisible, Tubular, I-Cord, applied lace edging, Picot variations, etc.
- Shawl constructions and shaping
- Healthy body habits for life-long, comfortable knitting
- Faster knitting -- I can knit a pair of socks in 14 hours, and I finished in the top 5 of my team (the fast team) in Sock Madness the last 2 years. (Sock Madness is an annual international sock knitting race on Ravelry)
- Custom fitting weird things and yarn bombing: I yarn bombed a horse statue as a commissioned art piece for the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa in 2015.

TEACHING TECHNIQUES

- Visual, Auditory, and Kinesthetic instruction for all learning styles
- Help and understanding for ADHD and other learning differences
- Patience, optimism, encouragement. These classes should be fun!
- Mnemonic devices
- Illustrations and photos
- YouTube videos
- I'm always learning more techniques and constructions, working on other designers' patterns to stay current on trends and techniques. If I don't know the answer to a question, I'll admit it freely and then go research.
- Multidisciplinary teaching and learning style: I read a lot about neuroscience, how people learn and grow, mental health, art, and teaching.