

This is a list of workshops that have been presented at venues in the Southern Ontario in the past two years. They will give an overview of what we can offer. We really like to create workshops that meet the needs of a group. If you see something that interests you please contact us.

Beading workshops

The Basics of Beading

This seminar is a lecture/demonstration format designed to introduce the concepts of the major beading technique. Participants will have the opportunity to see the variety and variation of techniques, materials and equipment required for hand beading. This talk will be illustrated with beaded examples both historic and contemporary. This session will be of interest to anyone who is trying to decide where to begin with beading as well presenting examples of interest to more advanced beader.

The Basics of Bead Weaving

This workshop introduces the technique of bead weaving along with discussion of suitable materials and equipment. Participants will design and begin their own original work.

The Basics of Bead Embroidery

Participants will learn the variety of stitches suitable for bead embellishment on cloth. Techniques on plain and patterned cloth will be discovered as well as an introduction to bead embellishment on lace. An emphasis on basic design techniques will also be covered.

The Basics Beaded Canvas Embroidery

Canvas embroidery with beads has a long history. This is a technique that allows for great variety of personal expression. Along with learning the technique there will be an emphasis on design techniques suitable for beaded canvas embroidery.

The Basics of Peyote Stitch

This workshop will concentrate on two dimensional gourd (peyote) stitch. How to design and get started will be an emphasis. Major objective of this workshop is the understanding of the technique and how to manipulate the technique.

The Basics of Brick Stitch

Brick stitch complements the peyote stitch as these two techniques can work off of each other. Brick stitch is commonly used for jollier but can be easily extended into more extensive art works. Basic design techniques and information on materials and equipment will focus our studies.

The Basics of Bead Netting

Netting is a more open technique, which can be developed as jewelry / wearables, or more free form art pieces. Participants will learn how to design for the technique and get started.

The Basics of Bead Chains

Beaded chains can be simple stand along necklaces or can be used as attachments to projects executed in other techniques. Design, materials and equipment will also be discussed and demonstrated.

Chevron Necklace: A great beginning place for your personal bead exploration. Learn about the history of beads and tips for selecting and managing your personal bead collection while making a simple necklace using seed beads and bugles.

Introduction to Flower Chains These simple chains may be used for necklaces or be used in conjunction with other craft techniques for handles and straps. Create an infinite variety of designs with two simple repeats.

Bead Embroidery for Special Occasions:

This hands-on workshop focuses on the use of bead embroidery for weddings, eveningwear, and costume. Simple techniques for creating dramatic effects on lace, printed and plain fabrics as well as easy design tools will be outlined.

On the edge

An exploration of traditional embroidery stitches with the addition of beads, with an emphasis on decorative edges. These techniques are suitable for any project that has edges, which could use decoration.

Dimensional Bead Embroidery:

This hand-on workshop takes bead embroidery into the third dimension and includes information on low relief and fully three-dimensional works. This is a beginner/intermediate level workshop.

Explorations with Bead Embroidery

This is an intermediate level workshop investigating experimental techniques of bead embroidery to extend design possibilities. This workshop will include the use of anything that can be stitched to the base fabric as well as traditional beads.

All Around the Circle

This workshop begins with learning right-angle stitch. Once each participant is familiar with the basic technique we will move into 3-dimensional work as well as other variations based on different geometric forms. These techniques produce a very flexible beaded cloth suitable for jewellery, beaded handbags or even garment for the truly dedicated.

Intermediate Peyote (Gourd stitch)

In this workshop participants will learn how to work with Gourd stitch (peyote stitch) in a three-dimensional project. Participants will explore the design potentials of this wonderful technique.

Although it is best for participants to have some experience with gourd stitch it is not required. Participants will be working to cover a small wooden needle case.

3 D Peyote and Brick Stitch – Intermediate

Students will learn how to work in the third dimension to create unique wearable pieces. Beaded sculptural works will also be illustrated. This extended seminar assumes the participant has basic knowledge of these techniques.

Intermediate Embroidery and Canvas Embroidery: Create your own designs

The focus will be on the techniques to create original designs directed at work with beads. This session is intended for people who already have basic skills of Bead embroidery or fabric or canvas. This course will also be of interest to people involved with more conventional embroidery.

Intermediate Netting

Participants in this workshop need to understand the basic structures of peyote and brick stitch. This open structure of beading can be developed for works that are either two or three-dimensional works. These works may be wearable or decorative.

Design Workshops

Design for Needle Arts.

This hands-on workshop will have participants using many different techniques to develop original imagery for their needle art. This workshop is suitable for anyone who uses imagery in his or her needlework.

Colour for creative people

Colour surrounds us and affects every aspect of our lives. This workshop is for anyone who wants to work more effectively with colour in creative works. Specific exercises to facilitate the better use of colour will be worked on as well as practical suggestions on how to improve your use of colour. Participants are encouraged to bring examples of their less successful use of colour, for discussion and suggestions as to what could have been a more successful choice.

Design Symmetries - The Keys to Pattern – explorations

This hands-on workshop will explore the use of symmetry concepts for the fibre arts. Techniques of design development will be explored on paper using techniques like, cut and paste, colouring, and sketching. We will also look at the use of contemporary technology to develop original designs. This workshop is suitable for all levels of skill and knowledge for those involved in any form of visual work.

Design Symmetries - The Keys to Pattern – Fabric Collage -workshop

Fabric collage is a technique suitable for creative production from banners and hangings to clothing. Participants will start with a survey study of symmetry concepts and colour studies leading to the creation of original design squares with the fabric collage technique. Works will be embellished with a variety of methods, including embroidery, beading, etc. Basic knowledge on the use of a sewing machine required. No other experience is needed.

Garment Construction

Making that commercial pattern your own.

The problem is always finding a pattern that fits you that you really want to wear. Having adjusted it so that you like the fit, now use it as the basis for many new styles that still maintain the basic fit of the original. Changing darts to style lines, pivoting darts and adding fullness will be demonstrated. Students' will have an opportunity to use half- scale pattern pieces to try the techniques.

Achieving a Better Fit

Utilizing Vogue's "Fitting Shell", we will develop a basic fitting pattern, block or sloper and learn about the keys to achieving a better fit for all your sewing projects. We will make preliminary adjustments; do a "tissue" fitting; create a toile and finish the first fitting while learning the steps to a better fit and the telltale signs of areas that need adjustments.

Achieve a Better Fit – Pants – Intermediate (6 hr) Need machines for about an hour about hour 4 of class to sew the pants together

The key to better fitting pants is an understanding of how pants actually fit. Using the Vogue Pant "Fitting Shell", we will examine the relationship of the seams and how they must related to the body underneath. Learn to make changes for a fuller tummy, or hips; adjusting leg length and width to suit your body and then how to use this basic pattern to alter any other pat pattern to fit or use this basic pattern as a sloper or block to create your won design. **(Supplies list & Kit \$25 includes the pattern)**

Embellishment for Special Occasions Wear

You have taken the classes in embroidery, quilting, beading and you bought that fabulous embroidery machine but you are not sure how to incorporate them into you sewing projects. We'll look at some commercial patterns and see how all those skills can come together in a smashing outfit for your next special occasion.

The Three Principles of Flat Pattern Drafting

Learn about "dart manipulation," "slash and spread," and "contouring", and how they may be used to take a basic fitting pattern into the garment you always wanted to make. Learn these skills that will give you more confidence for changing commercial patterns or expand your understanding of pattern making techniques

The Three Principles of Flat Pattern Drafting – All Levels

It all comes down to three simple rules – *dart manipulation*, *slash and spread*, and *contouring*. If you have an understanding of these concepts you can create an almost infinite number of variations from any pattern that fits WITHOUT changing the fit. Create your own details that truly make that commercial pattern your own. In the process, learn more about how garment elements function and how you can control them.

Handmade, not Homemade. It's all in the details. - Beginner, Intermediate (full day, Machines for half day)

Take your sewing skills to a higher level with this workshop that will show you ways to improve your sewing skills, finishing techniques and simple tricks to make your sewing projects more enjoyable and rewarding. Topics: **Power Sewing** - control your machine; **Understanding materials** – fabric, notions, tools; **Seams and seam finishes** – the “inside” story; **Pressing** – the key to great looking garments; **The Final Details** – hand details that make it FABULOUS