

Hat in the Cat: Hat-making classes

1-day and 3-day classes

Hat in the Cat offers hat-making classes led by master milliner Jeanette Sendler:

- **One-day classes** are perfect for anyone wanting to try hat-making for the first time, or who would like to make their own personally designed hat for a special occasion.
- **Three-day millinery schools** allow more time for exploration and experimentation before you move on to make more than one model.

All abilities are welcome to both types of class, but basic hand-sewing skills are essential.

We guarantee a small class size with lots of individual tuition to help you realise your design ideas. Jeanette will guide you step-by-step through the making process and you will be shown how to finish your hat to a high standard, including linings and trims.

Materials are provided for most classes. There is a wide range of fabrics and notions to choose from in the studio. Whichever class you attend, you will leave with at least one completed hat, finished to a high quality, and a new set of skills.

FEBRUARY: Saturday 10th

Everyday Soft Hats

£65, includes all materials

On this one-day class you can elect to make:

- a 1920s cloche worked in three pieces with an added brim
- a panelled baker boy that consists of six to eight panels with added peak or brim
- a stylish pillbox hat made of a crown which includes three pleats to give the hat extra volume.

Choose from a range of tweeds, other woollen fabrics, and cotton velvets with matching or complementary linings.

APRIL: Friday 13th to Sunday 15th

Spring millinery school: Buckram, Lace and Blossom

£295 (basic materials included)

This masterclass will give you a comprehensive introduction to traditional millinery tools and techniques, but with a contemporary, freeform approach to design. You will study some original pieces from the 1940s and 1950s and look at the traditional techniques used to make them. You will develop skills required for blocking and shaping buckram, wiring, draping, lining and trimming, and develop skills to make hats such as models made from buckram and fabric, or cocktail hats made from sinamay.

MARCH: Friday 9th

Spring Sinamay Headpiece

£65, includes all materials

With spring not too far away, you will be sculpting with sinamay, creating your own freeform shape, which you will then wire, edge and trim with a choice of flowers, organic sinamay shapes, pieces of jewellery or feathers. The finished piece can be fixed onto a headband, comb or clips depending on your hairstyle or individual preference.

MAY: Saturday 12th

Great Gatsby Flapper Headpiece

£65, includes all materials

Learn how to fashion a period wire frame which you will then soften with domette and cover with a sequinned lace or velvet fabric. As a trim, you will create your own feather corsage, cockade or fan to achieve the true Gatsby effect. Other trims include strings of pearls or a sparkly jewel to reflect the glamour of the time. Feel free to bring your own pieces of family or fashion jewellery to add that personal touch!

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JUNE: Thursday 21st to Saturday 23rd

Summer millinery school: Straw, feathers and flowers

£295 excluding materials

This masterclass will give you a comprehensive introduction to traditional millinery tools and techniques, but with a contemporary, freeform approach to design. You will sample a range of media, and will learn how to block sinamay and buckram, and how to wire, cover and trim your hats, focusing especially on traditional trimming, using petersham, feathers and straw. You will then choose to make an everyday day hat, a hat for a special occasion or a theatrical hat. You will make two finished hats.

JULY: Saturday 28th

Stitch Straw Headpiece

£65, includes all materials

Working on the sewing machine, you will be shown how to create a shape using stitched straw strands. You will see how to produce either a regular disc or a more organic shape. Wire can be incorporated to add height and rigidity thus extending your design choices. Trims can be made from straw and sinamay in the shape of fans, cockades and flowers.

AUGUST: Saturday 18th

1940s and 1950s Hats

£65, includes all materials

This one-day class will provide an opportunity to explore vintage millinery from the 1940s and 50s. You will look at hats and headpieces using traditional styles and techniques and then make a headpiece according to your own design. During the day you will gain skills required for blocking and shaping buckram, wiring, draping, lining and trimming.

SEPTEMBER: Saturday 8th

Everyday Soft Hats

£65, includes all materials

On this one-day Autumn-themed class you can elect to make one of the following:

- a 1920s cloche worked in three pieces with an added brim
- a soft velvet turban formed from velvet in a choice of patterns
- a stylish pillbox hat made up of a crown with three pleats to give extra volume.

You can choose from the range of fabrics on offer in the studio, including tweeds, other woollen fabrics, and cotton velvets.

OCTOBER: Friday 12th to Sunday 14th

Autumn millinery school: Fur and felt £295 (basic materials included)

This masterclass will give you a comprehensive introduction to traditional millinery tools and techniques, but with a contemporary, freeform approach to design. On this three-day masterclass, you will experiment with constructed fabric hats with industrial felt or luxury fur elements incorporated into the design. Using flat pattern techniques, you will learn to construct hats suitable for cold wintry days. These could range in shape from a simple pillbox or cloche to a baker boy or wide-brimmed hat.

NOVEMBER: Saturday 3rd

Everyday Winter Hats

£65, includes all materials

On this one-day class you will focus on everyday wear for those cold winter days, working with fabrics such as pure wool tweeds, quality velvets and luxury artificial fur. You can choose to make:

- a 1920s cloche
- a fitted luxury fur hat designed for warmth and comfort
- a duckbilled cap with an industrially formed peak - a stylish variation on the traditional man's flat cap.