

ONE OF SUSANNA'S

Knitting patterns & workshops



Atlantic City, NJ, October, 2004

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BRIEF BIO:



Growing up in Sweden in the late 1950s and early 1960s, I learned to knit in the fifth grade like all other Swedish girls. What we learned didn't inspire. Brown garter stitch slippers with our teacher focusing on mistakes and errors rather than effort and creativity.

After my initial introduction to knitting, I took up needles a few times in my college years but I didn't begin knitting again in earnest until after I had moved to America, and then to Australia in 1986. After I returned to America in 1989, I was introduced to the Seattle Knitters Guild, began working at a yarn shop, and started teaching knitting classes. I have never looked back. Since that inauspicious beginning I have come a long way and now, with almost 20 years of teaching experience, what I enjoy more than anything else is teaching and mentoring others.

All my workshops are grounded in my love of color, technique, and attention to detail. Over the years, I have built a reputation as an instructor attentive to student learning and sensitive to student needs. My classes and workshops are popular and I take great care in presenting my material in ways that should make it easy to understand. My handouts are comprehensive and well researched so attendees have something to refer back to after a workshop or class. Often, I am struck by the fact that the best teachers are not necessarily the well-known, creative designers and authors who inspire all of us, but rather those with an interest in knitting as well as an aptitude for pedagogy. I strive to be one of those teachers.

NOTE about the workshop descriptions:

What follows on the next many pages are detailed descriptions of the workshops, listed alphabetically. Many of the workshops can be adapted in length, or combined in different ways, to suit different groups of knitters. Contact me so we can talk about putting together a week or weekend of workshops that will be perfect for you.

You can also check out the class descriptions on my website, www.oneofsusannas.com, for more details and photos.

TWO AND THREE DAY WORKSHOPS

Bohus Stickning

Hand knitting, haute couture, and social justice

Danish Domino workshop

Modular knitting à la Vivian Høxbro

Focus on Color

Learn to make informed color decisions to create balance and harmony in your color work using mitered squares and stripes.

Lapland hand garments

The mittens from Rovaniemi

ONE DAY WORKSHOPS:

Color Techniques

Hands-on practice of techniques and tips to create colorful stitches

Danish Domino workshop

Modular knitting à la Vivian Høxbro

Finishing for the Finicky

What you need to improve your finishing life

Great Beginnings and Perfect Joins

Add polish and variety to the start of your knitting

Stripes, stripes, stripes

Add interest to your knitting the easy way

SHORTER CLASSES:

Great Beginnings

Add polish and variety to the start of your knitting

Japanese Shortrows

For perfect shoulders and great looking collars

Jogless Stripes

Stripes in the round without the dreaded 'jog' – your projects will be striped to perfection!

Lovers and Runders, *under development*

Single and multi-color braids for mitten and sock cuffs

Off the Cuff

Beaded wristlets for style and warmth

The S words, *under development*

Seam allowances and selvages

Two-thirds Sachet

A beaded scented treasure to protect your woolens

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS:

Bohus Stickning

Hand knitting, haute couture, and social justice



Length

Two days

Level

Suitable for intermediate/advanced knitters (and adventurous beginners) who have an interest in history and culture and patience for working with fine yarns on small needles.

Fee

Yes. The fee will pay for the three different yarn kits I supply. The first kit is for a pair of wrist warmers in the Blue Shimmer Bohus pattern with hand dyed yarns that have been specially imported from Sweden. Some of those yarns - the same as those used in the Swedish Bohus museum kits - are also part of the second and third kit.

Equipment needs

Part of this workshop is a power point presentation so I need a screen, an AV cart, and an extension cord (I bring my own projector and laptop). I also need several extra tables in order to display the garments securely. Technology permitting, I will show the wonderful Swedish documentary film about Bohus Stickning during the second day.

Sociology, women's history and a cultural legacy - the Bohus story contains elements of all. What began as a relief work organization in the mid-1930's developed into a couture hand knitting industry over the course of thirty years. I have spent much time talking with people who were involved with the organization while it still existed, I have visited museums and seen much of their Bohus collections, and I have built a personal collection of genuine museum quality garments.

This workshop includes a power point presentation and discussion of the Bohus Stickning industry; its origins, development and eventual demise thirty years after it began. For the hands on portion of the workshop, we will be working with fine yarns and small needles so patience is required. While the actual knitting is not terribly difficult, the use of color and purl stitches on the right side of the fabric, can make Bohus patterns challenging for knitters, even experienced ones. Attendees will also have an opportunity to examine up close some of the genuine vintage Bohus garments from my collection.

Color Techniques

Hands-on practice of techniques to create colorful stitches

Length

6 hours (can easily be combined with the **Stripes** workshop for a multi-day affair focusing on color).

Level

Adventurous beginners and intermediate knitters with an interest in the technical aspects of knitting with color.

Ever wonder what intarsia means? How can you knit with one color per row but make it look like you are using two colors? When do you use a bobbin and what is it anyway? Come and learn techniques that are certain to create colorful knitting. And for those who have done some color knitting already but haven't been happy with the results, this technique-oriented workshop will likely help you achieve more professional looking results.



We will cover three methods for adding color to knitting: intarsia, slip stitch knitting, and stranded knitting and you will come away with swatch examples of each of the techniques. You will also have an

opportunity to play informally with color as you explore these three techniques.

Danish Domino workshop

Modular knitting à la Vivian Høxbro

Length

Two days (a one day version is available)

Level

Suitable for advanced beginners and beyond

Modular knitting is nothing new, but I particularly like Vivian Høxbro's take on this technique and I find her mitered square, or domino, projects very appealing. The knitting itself is addictive and offers a fun, easy way to knit small pieces and assemble them as you go. For multicolor projects you knit with one color at a time, weaving in the ends when you add new colors so finishing work is minimal.

You will learn to understand the directional aspects of domino knitting and you will also gain an understanding of the importance of color selection and placement. There are many small details that help make your dominos look polished and we will discuss and practice all of them.



We will focus on creating a beautiful feather light mohair and silk scarf as seen in Vivian's Japanese book domino book. The scarf offers many opportunities for lessons about color and balance, and it will show participants a way of swatching efficiently and accurately without knitting a single stitch!

By the end of the workshop, you should be ready to launch into your own domino project and feel comfortable that you have mastered the construction techniques.

Finishing for the Finicky

What you need to improve your finishing life

Length

6 hours

Level

Suitable for advanced beginners and up. It is helpful if participants have knitted and assembled at least one garment before taking this class.

NOTE

One segment of this workshop is devoted to **Japanese shortrows**.

Good finishing requires patience and attention to detail. However, commercial knitting patterns are often sadly lacking in detailed instructions when it comes to finishing and beautifully knit pieces can end up as a ratty-looking sweater even when you try your hardest to do a good job. So, what's a knitter to do?

I have developed three golden rules when it comes to finishing – they are simple enough to understand but can sometimes be difficult to live by. We will go over them in some detail so participants can return home and put them into practice immediately. In addition to the three golden rules, we will discuss the importance of creating large swatches; seaming; shoulder treatments, in particular the use of shortrows; how to pick up stitches after determining how many are needed; how to handle necklines, and what to do with buttonholes. You will practice each of these elements using the homework swatches. Finally, we will discuss in what order garment pieces should be assembled (you might be surprised), and when and how to block.

You will learn that small changes can have a significant impact on finishing and this workshop, the first I developed, just may change the way you feel about finishing!

Focus on Color

How to make informed color decisions to create balance and harmony in your colorwork

Length

Three or two days

Level

Suitable for advanced beginners and beyond

NOTE

This workshop combines the content of two of my workshops – **Danish Dominos** and **Stripes** - into one integrated workshop focusing on using color both in modular designs and in stripes.

See the individual descriptions for Danish Dominos (page 6) and Stripes (page 12) for details.

Great Beginnings

Add polish and variety to the start of your knitting

Length

3 hours

Level

Suitable for advanced beginners and intermediate knitters with an interest in technique and detail.

Knitters often learn one way of casting on and then use that for all their knitting. The fact is that different ways of casting on produces different edges and having several options at your fingertips will enhance your finished pieces.

We will start with the classic long-tail cast-on, including a special spinner's version, and move on to a crochet chain cast-on that works very nicely when used as a provisional cast-on. A tubular cast-on is ideal for a 1x1 rib and you will learn an easy way to create that. We move on to the cabled cast-on and conclude with a very pretty picot cast-on that could be the perfect edge for a baby garment.

Great Beginnings and Perfect Joins

Add polish and variety to the start of your knitting

Length

6 hours

Level

Suitable for advanced beginners and intermediate knitters with a strong interest in technique and detail.

This is an expanded version of the previous workshop for the true 'techno-geek' knitter!!

In addition to the techniques listed above for the 3-hour Great Beginnings, we will add in a few more cast-ons, including a decorative multi-color cast-on especially suited for circular knitting (think mitten or sock cuff).

And how about joining a cast-on edge when you are working in the round? I have several suggestions and you'll get to practice all of them.

Japanese Shortrows

For perfect shoulders and great looking collars

Length

3 hours

Level

Suitable for advanced beginners and up. It is helpful if participants have completed one garment before taking this class.

Homework

Yes.

NOTE

The content of this class is also part of the **Finishing for the Finicky** workshop.

Shortrows are an elegant way of building shaping into your knitting and it is the perfect way to finish shoulders and collars. This particular Japanese shortrow (there are several) is not entirely easy to learn but in my opinion it is by far the most polished of the shortrows I know.

We will discuss how to apply this technique to shoulder shaping (including re-writing pattern directions) so that, once you master it, you will never again be faced with having to assemble "stair step" shoulder bind-offs. Other applications include collar and garment shaping which we will discuss, time permitting.

Jogless Stripes

How to knit stripes in the round without the dreaded 'jog'

Length

3 hours

Level

Anyone with an interest in technique and detail (must be familiar with working in the round)

NOTE

The content of this class is also part of the **Stripes** workshop.

Creating perfect jogless stripes when you are working in the round, is a four-step process. This class will offer you hands-on practice so you can replicate the technique for any project. The class swatch becomes a baby hat - striped to perfection!

Lapland hand garments

The mittens from Rovaniemi

Length

Three days (also available as a two day workshop).

Level

Knitters with experience making mittens and doing color work who are interested in working with fine yarns on small needles.

Fee

Yes. I will supply a kit for a pair of wrist warmers using the Finnish yarn Satakieli and I will also provide patterns for a standard mitten, and a pair of fingerless mitts, both featuring the zig-zag pattern. By prior arrangement, I am able to supply yarn for participants to purchase during the class so everyone can get started on an actual mitten/fingerless mitt.

Equipment needs

Part of this workshop is a power point presentation so I need a screen and table/stand for my projector as well as a room that can be sufficiently darkened for slide viewing. In addition, I need several extra tables in order to display my samples securely.

Originally, these mittens were done in bright blue, yellow, red and green to mirror the



colors used in traditional Sámi dress. They feature an unusual zigzag-like pattern that appears only on the top part of the mitten while the palm-side is plain. More recent examples have retained the use of bright colors, sometimes only for the patterning, sometimes the entire mitten is very colorful.

These beautiful mittens are not for the faint of heart. Done circularly on size 1.5 –1.75 needles, the intarsia-in-the-round patterning is done in a manner I have never seen described anywhere before. There is little written about the mittens and only the sketchiest information on how to execute this challenging intarsia technique. In this workshop, you will learn to create the patterns in the traditional manner while keeping track of 11 small balls of pattern colors!

We will also cover embellishments; braids, cords, and tassels and we will discuss (and practice, time permitting) thumb gussets and top decreases.

Lovers and Runders, *under development*

Single and multi-color braids for mitten and sock cuffs

Length

3 hours.

Level

Anyone who knows how to knit in the round.

Off the Cuff

Beaded wristlets for style and warmth

Length

3 hours.

Level

Anyone

Are they accessories or jewelry? That's hard to say. Either way, these cuffs knit up quickly, make great gifts, and are a fun addition to a winter wardrobe. If you tend to get chilly, nothing is more effective than keeping the pulse points warm so you may want to keep a pair on hand at the office as well.

There is nothing complicated about this type of bead knitting so cuffs are an ideal project for newer knitters. Learn a clever cast-on and how to count beads without actually counting them!

The knitting is quick and easy garter stitch and the cuff is assembled with a three-needle bind-off so finishing is a breeze!

Under development

The S words, *under development*

Seam allowances and selvages

Length

3 hours.

Level

Anyone with an interest in detail and technique

Stripes, stripes, stripes

Add interest to your knitting the easy way

Length

6 hours

Level

Anyone

NOTE

One segment of this workshop is devoted to **Jogless stripes**.



Think you know everything there is to know about stripes?

You just might change your mind after a day of playing with stripes and the concepts that can make them successful

every time.

Work with colored paper and pencils to create stripe swatches and learning about what actually constitutes a stripe. See how foregrounds and backgrounds can change your stripes and discover how medieval Italian mathematics can create an internal sense of rhythm resulting in visually pleasing fabrics. Utilizing these strategies can go a long way toward making your scrap yarn projects look elegant!

During the hands-on portion of the day you will learn to carry colors not in use along the side of your knitting instead of cutting the yarn and re-attaching it. This will help you avoid having lots of ends to weave in but, for the few ends remaining, you will practice weaving them in as you go, making finishing a breeze.

You will also learn how to avoid the dreaded “jog” when you are knitting stripes in the round. Your final swatch of the day can be turned into a baby hat - striped to perfection!

Two-thirds Sachet

A beaded scented treasure to protect your woolens

Length

3 hours

Level

Anyone

Why two-thirds? The answer is proportion (besides, “Scented Sachet” seemed too predictable). This original design makes an ideal gift; for bridesmaids, as a mother’s day treat, or an elegant hostess gift – if you can bear to give it away!

Learn to knit with beads without becoming overwhelmed and complete this small, portable project in just a few hours. You will learn a clever cast-on and a decorative picot edging. A special stitch creates a fold line so your knitted piece folds over into a small bag shape. The sachet is assembled with a three-needle bind-off so the



only finishing you have to do is darn in two yarn ends. It doesn't get much easier than that!

Fill the sachet with dried lavender and tuck it into your lingerie or sweater drawer. Or, if sachets are not your thing, use the sachet as a small gift bag and tuck a gift card inside!

CLASS LENGTHS AND CLASS SIZE LIMITS

I don't have set class size limits. In my experience, most yarn shops usually seat between 8 and 12 comfortably, while a retreat or conference facility may have rooms that easily hold 20 or more. In addition to class size, the level of experience of the participants is also an important consideration. Newer knitters typically need more hands-on assistance than a group of experienced knitters and some classes are by nature more hands-on than others. Thus, class size, level of experience of class participants, and room layouts are all important factors in planning successful classes and workshops. I am always open to discussing the particulars with each individual shop or guild that is sponsoring me.

EQUIPMENT, HOMEWORK AND SUPPLY LISTS

I appreciate venues with good lighting, a flip chart with colored markers and several (in some cases many) extra tables so I can display samples and books easily. Student nametags are very helpful.

Once a class or workshop has been scheduled, I will provide a detailed supply list and give explicit instructions for any homework that needs to be completed prior to the class.

If participants have questions about the supplies or homework, they should feel free to contact me directly for clarification. It is important that everyone shows up to class with their homework completed and whatever supplies are necessary for a given class.

EXHIBITS:

American Swedish Institute (ASI), Minneapolis, MN.

January 23 – April 5, 2009

My collection of vintage Bohus Stickning garments created the core of the exhibit and I worked with ASI staff to develop the programming

which included presentations by master dyer Solveig Gustafsson, Bohus designer Kerstin Olsson, and documentary film maker Kjell Andersson; all from Sweden.

LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS:

8th Annual Membership Meeting, September 2009

Helen Louise Allen Textile Collection

University of Wisconsin-Madison

BOHUS STICKNING: Hand knitting, haute couture, and social justice

Nordic Knitting Day, July 2009

Nihon Vogue, Tokyo Japan

BOHUS STICKNING: Hand knitting, haute couture, and social justice

West Coast Knitters Guild, Vancouver, BC. September 2008

KNITTING IN NORWAY, PAST AND PRESENT: Or what did Napoleon have to do with the Fana cardigan?

Windy City Knitting Guild, Chicago, IL. April 2007

LAPLAND HAND GARMENTS: The mittens from Rovaniemi

A SELECTION OF PRIOR TEACHING ENGAGEMENTS:

Yarnover, Minneapolis, MN. April 2010, 2009, 2008, and 2007

Stitches West, Santa Clara, CA. February 2010 and earlier

CONK (formerly Sidna Farley's retreat), CO. October 2009

Stitches Midwest, Schaumburg, IL. August 2009 and earlier

Madrona Fiber Arts, Preston WA. August 2009 and 2008

Teoriya, Osaka Japan. July 2009

Nordic Knitting Symposium, Tokyo Japan. July 2009

Nordic Knitting Event, Nihon Vogue, Tokyo Japan. June 2009

Harrisville, Harrisville, NH. June 2009

Stitches South, Atlanta, GA. April 2009

Nordic Knitting Conference, Nordic Heritage Museum, Seattle, WA.
March 2009 and October 2007

Stitches West, Santa Clara, CA. February 2009 and earlier

American Swedish Institute (ASI), Minneapolis, MN. January 2009

Stitches East, Baltimore, MD. October, 2008 and earlier

West Coast Knitters Guild, Vancouver, BC. September 2008

Nordic Knitting Symposium, Trondheim, Norway. July 2008

The Austin Knitter's and Crocheter's Guild, Austin, TX. March 2008

Madrona Fiber Arts Winter Retreat, Gig Harbor, WA. February 2008
and earlier

WEBS, Northampton, MA. September 2007

Windy City Knitting Guild, Chicago, IL. April, 2007

Tigard Knitting Guild, Tigard, OR. Annual fall retreat 2003, 1998 and
1997

Northwest Knitters' Conference 1995, Seattle, WA

I also teach regularly at two Seattle area yarn shops; CHURCHMOUSE
YARNS & TEAS and SO MUCH YARN.