

# Textiles

## Carol Colburn

### October 13-19, 2019

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

##### ***Work Shirt for Artisans***

Sew your own work shirt, perfect for fishing, farming, forestry, hiking, sailing, and for the daily work of every artisan. The current interest in reviving hands-on sustainable skills has created an interest in sewing and wearing these comfortable, adaptable, and natural fiber shirts. Individuals who choose their own fabric and create their own work shirt understand the satisfaction of a custom made garment.

A hand made work shirt is remarkably durable, and over time the classic style has proven to be the best choice for easy movement and comfort. Used in rural life throughout Scandinavia since the 1700s, today this work shirt is still a favorite shirt as it is easily worn by men, women and children for work and for outdoor activities. The shape of the work shirt is based on squares and rectangles, which fit together following logical geometry. You will create your distinctive artisan shirt with expert step-by-step guidance, first adjusting your pattern to your own proportions, then cutting, marking, machine and hand sewing, and adding finishing touches. Finally, you will add pockets designed and placed for your own tools and tasks.

Choosing natural fiber, striped fabric available in a variety of colors and textures will make your shirt unique. Carol has drafted ten sizes of patterns fitting adults from XS to XXXL. There are also three sizes for growing children. You will leave class with a personalized, re-useable pattern, with printed instructions, ready to begin your next custom shirt. A five-day class allows time to finish a shirt and plan your second shirt for yourself or for another. Learn a life-long skill while creating an all-season shirt you will love to wear.

All skill levels are welcome. Beginners with a basic knowledge of machine sewing will advance their proficiency, and experienced stitchers will learn advanced shirtmaking techniques.

To read a short history of the work shirt based on the Norwegian example of Busserull - see Carol's articles in the online publication [Norwegian Textile Letter](http://norwegiantextileletter.com/article/the-busserull-norwegian-work-shirt-tradition/).  
<http://norwegiantextileletter.com/article/the-busserull-norwegian-work-shirt-tradition/>  
<http://norwegiantextileletter.com/article/the-busserull-tradition-continues-opportunities-to-make-your-own/>

#### **MATERIALS LIST**

- **Sewing Machines-** Please bring a personal sewing machine in good working order plus bobbins, extra needles, any attachments you have, and owner's manual (if you have it). The school has some machines, but you might be more comfortable using your own, if you can transport it. If you cannot bring a sewing machine, contact your instructor to make sure there is a machine available for your use. A machine that does straight stitch and/or zig zag is fine for making the Work Shirt.
- Sergers are also used as an optional way to finish seam allowances after cutting and before sewing. You can bring your own serger if you have one, or use the one provided in the classroom. Other traditional and contemporary ways of finishing seams will be discussed in class.
- **Optional Tools:** Some sewers have preferences for sewing room aids such as task lights with magnifying lenses, rotary cutters to use instead of scissors, cutting mats, etc. All these are welcome if you wish to bring them.
- **Sewing Kit-** Each student should prepare a sewing kit including items on the attached list. If you have favorite sewing tools not on the list, bring them along.
  - **SEWING KIT:**
  - Needles-Sewing machine needles to fit your machine-medium weight
  - \*Pins
  - Needles-\*Handsewing needles

- \*Thimble that fits your middle finger, if you use one for handsewing
  - Seamstress or Tailor's Awl-an example is Clover® Straight Tailor's Awl
  - For measuring: C-Thru plastic ruler – The 18" x 2" size ruler is very useful when marking and adjusting patterns, but other similar rulers used by quilters are useful. Also bring a flexible measuring tape.
  - Scissors - Sturdy sharp scissors for cutting fabric
  - Scissors - Smaller sharp scissors for trimming fabric
  - Scissors - \*Paper scissors for cutting paper patterns
  - \*Lead pencil and \*eraser for pattern-making
  - \*Paper and \*pencil/pen for taking notes
  - \*Seam ripper
  - \*Marking materials you can bring - Fabric marking pencils and sharpener, or other marking system that will show up for marking on your color of fabric
- **SHIRT MATERIALS** (Bring your own choice for Buttons, Fabric, Thread **OR** use materials provided by Carol, to be paid to Carol in class – Discuss your choice with Carol via email):
- **Buttons** – Students can choose from a selection of metal, stone, or antler buttons brought by the instructor, or they can bring their own (usually 6 shirt buttons)
  - **Shirt Fabric** - – Striped pattern in a 100% cotton or cotton/linen blend. Carol will provide a cotton fabric, in three color choices, or students can purchase their own fabric to bring to class. Students will need different amounts, depending on their size. Carol will email with each registered student about their fabric requirements (ideally 1 month prior to class). Because each student's needs are different, this is not included in the materials fee.
  - **Thread** – Thread will match each student's fabric. Carol will provide thread for those who purchase fabric through her. If you purchase your own fabric, please choose your own machine sewing thread.
- \*Padlock for your studio locker, if desired (For rent in the Supply Store for the week)
- \*Flash drive (to protect and save data to from Library computers)

***All Items marked with an "\*" are available for purchase in the Supply Store***

**MATERIALS FEES: \$40.00-\$125.00**

**Materials fees** will be charged for materials used in the studio and/or provided by instructors for use in the studio by the entire class. Classroom materials split between students will cost between \$40-\$60. An additional fee will be collected on an individual basis for fabric and button purchase. Please contact instructor regarding fabric and button choice at [carol.ann.colburn@gmail.com](mailto:carol.ann.colburn@gmail.com). In order to keep these fees as low as possible, fees are assessed on an individual class basis and may vary from class to class depending on the amount of materials used and the number of students in the class. Materials fees are paid to the instructor by the last day of class.

**Please be advised that above course description and materials list is written and approved by the instructor**

If you have any additional questions about this class, below is the contact info for your instructor:

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