

# Amy Snell • The Devious Knitter • Classes and Lectures

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Amy Snell is a knitter, instructor, and designer with an eye for the unusual or unusually captivating. Her designs focus on color, contrast, and texture, often exploring unique stitch patterns and clever construction in ways that are interesting but accessible.

Amy loves to help other knitters explore new techniques and expand the way they think about their knitting. Her goal is to make complex concepts approachable for all knitters, while sharing tips that improve your process whether you've been knitting for several weeks or several decades. Amy teaches at private retreats and large national shows such as Vogue Knitting Live, Stitches, Interweave Yarnfest, and Rhinebeck and frequently shares tips and tricks on her website, [www.DeviousKnitter.com](http://www.DeviousKnitter.com).

**Classes** (Two Hours Online/Three Hours In Person):

## **Advanced Knit Fixes: Cables and Lace**

(Intermediate) Mistakes in cables and lace can be intimidating to fix, but when we break down the process, you'll see you already possess most of the requisite skills. In this class, you'll learn how to identify which stitches to drop, how to drop down sections of your work securely and how to keep track of rows while you knit them back up.

## **Adventures in Short Rows**

(Intermediate) Short rows allow us to create shaping and dimensionality in our knitting, giving us the ability to turn a sock heel, raise the back of a sweater neck, or allow for extra room in the bust. Short rows can also be a fun and interesting design element when we play with color in our designs. In this class, you will practice four different methods for creating short rows: wrap and turn, Japanese, German, and shadow wrap short rows. We'll discuss the benefits of each and talk about how to substitute between them.

## **Basic Knit Fixes: Recognize, Avoid, and Fix Your Mistakes**

(Beginner) Uh-oh, there's something wrong with your knitting! Never fear, almost everything in knitting can be fixed. In this class, you'll learn how to "read" your knitting to identify problems, what causes common problems like dropped or twisted stitches and how to fix them. You'll learn how to tink, how to frog, and how to know which one to do when. You'll learn how and when to use lifelines, and a few other tips and tricks along the way!

### **Beyond Basic Brioche: Syncopated Stitches and Knitting Flat Brioche**

(Intermediate – Students should already know how to work the basic brioche stitch) This class will unlock the secrets of knitting brioche back-and-forth in two colors, then we'll delve into syncopated brioche, a technique that allows you to enliven your brioche knitting with fascinating color patterning.

### **Bobblelicious**

(Advanced Beginner and Up) Bobbles are such fun! They can add interest and whimsy to almost any knitting project. In this class, we'll explore four different ways to create bobbles — some traditional, some new and surprising.

### **Brioche Without Breakdowns: How to Recognize and Fix Your Mistakes**

(Intermediate — Students should already know how to work the basic brioche stitch.) Mistakes in brioche can feel overwhelming, but there's no need to give up! In this class we'll work from simple fixes to lifelines to complicated brioche "party tricks," learning the secrets to brioche tinking, frogging, dropping down, and more.

### **Bumping Up Brioche: Adding Colors and Textures**

(Advanced) We'll take brioche stitch way beyond the ordinary in this class! Learn to work the tricolor brioche stitch, stockinette, and textured brioche stitches as we push on to discover the nearly limitless alterations we can make to brioche stitch, and the fun you'll have expanding the possibilities!

### **Cabling Without a Cable Needle**

(Intermediate–Suitable for knitters who are brand-new to cables.) Cables take on a new ease when we free ourselves from dependence on that tricky little needle that's so easy to lose. In this class we'll explore how to work different sizes of cables without a cable needle, from different ways to perform 1/1 twists to larger and more complex cable crosses.

### **Ciao! Italian and Tubular Cast-On and Bind Off**

(Intermediate) In this class you'll learn to work both one and two-color Italian and tubular cast-on and bind off, an excellent choice for brioche knitting or anywhere we want our cast-on or bind-off edges to be virtually invisible.

### **Colorific Cast-Ons**

(Advanced Beginner and Up) Who says we have to wait for the main section of the knitting to begin our color play? In this class you'll learn several different ways to add fun, eye-catching two- and even three-color cast ons to your knitting. We'll also discuss several ways to bind off in multiple colors.

### **Combination Knitting**

(Beginner and Up) Some of us suffer from “Rowing out,” where our purled rows are at a different gauge than our knit rows. Others struggle with loose knit stitches in ribbing. Combination knitting solves these issues and often makes purling easier. This class will teach combination knitting for both English and Continental-style knitters.

### **Cooler Cast-Ons, Better Bind-Offs**

(Advanced Beginner and Up) Different projects benefit from different techniques in casting on and binding off: sometimes you need a firm bind-off, and sometimes a stretchy one. Sometimes you want to cast on provisionally, or using two colors, or in ribbing. In this class we'll explore new ways to cast on and bind off and share tips to improve your technique on your old favorites.

### **A Different Type of Stripe: Helical Knitting**

(Intermediate) Helical knitting makes it possible to work stripes with 2, 3, or even more colors without any joggling or noticeable change at the ends of rounds. This neat trick is particularly striking when used on socks, hats, and small-diameter accessories, but scales to any project knit in the round. In this class you'll learn how to work helically and how to manage your yarn and needles for pleasing results and easy knitting.

### **Exceptional Edges: I-Cord Cast-On, Edging and Bind-Off**

(Intermediate) I-Cord makes a tidy and attractive cast on and bind off for your projects. In this class, you'll learn how to cast on and bind off with a lovely, integrated I-cord edging.

### **Fixing a World of Woes with Duplicate Stitch**

(Intermediate) In this class, we'll learn (or revisit) how to work the handy and versatile duplicate stitch, then practice some of its many useful applications. You'll learn how duplicate stitch can be used to fix mistakes in color, texture, and even missed cables.

### **Getting Started Two at a Time**

(Intermediate) Socks, sleeves, mittens, wristers... anything you need two of, you can make two at a time. If you've struggled with second sock syndrome or petered out on the second half of a pair of *anything*, this class is for you. We'll practice various methods for casting on for two items, including methods suitable for top-down and toe-up socks, and we'll explore methods for yarn and needle management.

### **Intro to Brioché: Two-Color Brioché in the Round**

(Intermediate) Unlock the secrets of squishy, captivating brioché knitting! Working brioché in the round is easier than flat, and two colors are easier to keep track of than one. You'll learn the magic of working this fun and fluffy stitch as you begin to work the *Bri-Licious Cowl* in class (you not finish the cowl during the class time, but will know everything you need to know in order to finish on your own). This class is suitable for first-time brioché knitters and the pattern will be supplied in class.

### **Knitwear Repair: Resurrecting Your Damaged Knits**

(Intermediate) No matter how much care we take with our knitted items, sometimes they develop holes, pulls, snags, or even moth damage. Never fear! With just a bit of effort, you can repair the damage and ready your knits for many more years of use. You'll learn several different methods for repairing damage, and when to use each.

### **Ladderback Jacquard for Stranded Colorwork**

(Intermediate — Students should already be familiar with knitting colorwork.) Once you add this technique to your knitting toolbox, you may never want to go back to any other method of carrying floats. The ladderback jacquard technique will improve the tension of your stranded knitting while allowing you to span much larger areas between stitches. For designers or those who like to tweak their projects, incorporating this technique means you can design without limits on the space between alternating motifs.

### **Latvian Braid and Other Clever Twists**

(Intermediate) Welcome to the world of inventive twists on colorwork! In this class we'll both right- and left-leaning Latvian braid, Vikkel braids, corrugated ribbing, and a few other tricks that will bring life and zest to your colorwork projects.

### **The Magic of Mosaic**

(Advanced Beginner and Up) Learn to make striking color patterns in your knitting while working only one color per row. Mosaic knitting is incredibly popular right now, and with good reason. It is simple to learn, but once you've mastered the concept, the possibilities for play are limitless. We'll cover mosaic knitting both flat and in the round, learn how mosaic charts differ from other knitting charts, and discuss yarn management and color planning.

### **Mi-Tarsia and More: Reiteration Shawl Techniques**

(Intermediate) In this project-based class, you'll work a sample-sized version of the Reiteration Shawl, learning a bevy of fun and interesting techniques along the way. The class will cover the intriguing two-color mitered square

technique — including a pain-free introduction to intarsia — slip-stitch mosaic patterning, modular knitting, twisted slipped edges, the knitted cast-on, and picking up and purling. By the end of class you'll be ready to confidently knit your own beautiful full-sized Reiteration shawl.

### **Mosaic Expanded: Combining Stitches and Creating Your Own Motifs**

(Intermediate, or Advanced Beginners who have taken Magic of Mosaic) In this class you'll gain the knowledge to forge confidently ahead in mosaic knitting! You'll learn how to read more challenging mosaic charts and how to combine knit/purl stitch patterning along with color patterns in your mosaic work. Then we'll take a dive into the rules of mosaic design and you'll learn how to create your own mosaic motifs.

### **Never Kitchener: Alternative Ways to Close Sock Soes**

(Intermediate) Sock toes were being closed with many different methods long before Kitchener stitch was invented. If you don't like doing the Kitchener stitch, can't remember the order of stitches, or just want to try something new, spend some time learning four alternatives to the Kitchener stitch.

### **Next Steps in Brioche: Increases and Decreases**

(Intermediate. Students should already know how to work brioche.) Take the next steps in brioche knitting by learning to add increases and decrease to your knitting. We'll cover multiple options for both increasing and decreasing, including tips for controlling the slant of our stitches and which colors lay on top. We'll be working our sample in two colors in the round to help us more easily and visually approach the lesson.

### **New Directions in Log Cabin Knitting**

(Advanced Beginner and Up) The concept of Log Cabin knitting is straightforward — modular knitting that can grow in all directions — but the execution can range from the simple to the complex. We'll review the best practices in Log Cabinning, including different ways to pick up stitches for varying edge effects, and use the basic building blocks to jump off into fun constructions that explore color and shape in ways that are limited only by your imagination!

### **Secrets of Splicing: Up Your Ends Game**

(Beginner and Up) When joining new yarn, the ideal splice is smooth, strong, and nearly invisible. We'll practice spit splicing, the Russian join, and many other ways to start a new ball of yarn, including special options for color work. We'll talk about the pros and cons of each, plus better ways to weave in ends when you can't or shouldn't splice.

### **Smooth Sailing: Jogless Stripes in the Round**

(Advanced Beginner and Up) Do you get annoyed by the “jog” at the start of each new color when you knit stripes in the round? In this class, we’ll practice several different ways to avoid this jog and discuss the pros and cons of each technique. You’ll also learn techniques that are applicable to any project worked in the round, including how to join without twisting and how to make a smooth, invisible join in your cast-ons and bind-offs.

### **Sock Doc**

(All levels of sock knitters) One of the benefits of hand-knitting socks is to get a custom fit ... so what do you do if you don't? What if your socks pinch in, pooch out, sag, bag, or have holes in the wrong places? What if your socks come out ... (*gasp!*) ugly? In this lecture-based class with plenty of back-and-forth Q&A, Amy will answer your specific questions about the problems you are having with your handknit socks and share solutions you may not have considered. In this class, questions are not just encouraged, they're practically compulsory!

### **Sock Skills 1: Casting On for Toe-Up Socks**

(Advanced Beginner and Up) The right cast-on makes toe-up sock knitting a breeze! This class will cover casting on for toe-up socks in a way that leaves no visible start line, no seam, and flows uninterrupted over the end of the sock. We will examine the cast-on and first two rows in depth, then proceed to explore how to increase for the toe section and how to know when it's time to stop increasing.

### **Sock Skills 2: Better Afterthought Heels**

(Advanced Beginner and Up) In this class you will learn one of the simplest and most adaptable sock heels: the afterthought heel. You will learn how and where to place the heel, how to pick up the stitches, how to decrease through the heel area, and different options for closing the heel.

### **Sock Skills 3: Binding Off**

(Advanced Beginner and Up) Stretchy bind-offs are crucial to sock wearability! In this class, you’ll learn several great options for finishing your sock tops, including Jeny’s Surprisingly Stretchy Bind-Off, Elizabeth Zimmerman’s Sewn Bind-Off, and several others. We’ll also talk about ribbing choices and some tricks to perfect your finished project.

### **Sock Skills 4: Short Row Heels with Mini Gussets**

(Intermediate) Learn to add a miniature gusset that allows for customization of room in the instep and ankle to give your short-row sock heels a better fit. In this class we will learn how to know where to begin the gusset and how to size and knit the mini gusset. You will also learn why shadow-wrap short rows work so well for socks.

### **Straightforward Steps To Self-Publishing Patterns**

(Designers and Aspiring Designers) So you've written a knitting pattern — or you know you want to ... now what? Amy will walk you step-by-step through the process of preparing your pattern for release and launching it into the world, including the roles of tech editors and test knitters (plus how to find them and how to know if they're what you need), and best practices for layout and photography. We'll dive into how to list on Ravelry, options for other sales platforms, and even a bit of marketing guidance.

### **Successful Sock Knitting**

(Any level) A great deal of the success (or lack thereof) of our sock knitting projects depends on the decisions we make before even picking up the needles. In this class, we'll cover the pros and cons of all the major decisions you make when knitting socks. We'll also cover some tips and tricks to make your sock knitting easier. You'll leave the class knowing when and how to ignore parts of a pattern in order to make the socks *you* want in the way you want to make them.

### **Sweater Surgery: Cutting and Grafting**

When is a finished object not finished? Whenever you're unhappy with it! In this class we'll talk about fixes you can make even after binding off your final stitch. Whether it's sleeves that are too long or a hat that is too short, wonky-looking sock cuffs or a garment that is too wide, learning how to cut, graft, and replace or re-knit problem areas opens up a whole new world of adjustments-after-the-fact. In this class we'll practice the basics and explore the rules for different ways to cut, graft, and re-work your projects *without* ripping and reknitting the whole thing.

### **Tips and Tricks for Next-Level Knitting**

(Intermediate) Do you always bind off too tightly? Do your socks have funny points at the toes or holes in the gussets? Ever twisted your cast-on row when you were joining in the round? Does your knitting "row out?" Do your decreases not quite match? In this class, we'll explore solutions for all of these problems and many more of the common issues that plague knitters. Come prepared with your stickiest knitting-related issues and we'll see if I can't find a better way for you to get the results you want.

### **Thrumming Along**

(Intermediate) Learn to make the warmest knitted accessories you've ever met through the use of thrums — pieces of unspun roving — that are knit into your project, creating an extra warm, fluffy layer of insulation. In this class,

you'll learn to thrum as we make a pair of mittens that will get your hands through the coldest days. You'll also learn how to incorporate thrums easily into other projects such as hats, cowls, and socks.

### **Two-Color Woven Slip Stitch Cowl**

(Intermediate) Two-color woven slip stitch is an exciting and attractive stitch that looks much harder than it is. In this class, we'll cast on and make a smaller, cup-cozy version of the Shattered Shale cowl. You'll learn how the two-color woven stitch is created, how to create a seamless, invisible end-of-round, and tips that you'll find useful in all your knitted-in-the-round projects.

### **V-Shaped Shawls**

(Intermediate) Learn several options for to creating compellingly V-shaped shawls and bandanas with mitered corners that sit easily across the shoulders and drape attractively on many body types.

### **Why Can't We All Just Get Elongated?**

(Intermediate) Introduce some whimsy into your knitting by playing with elongated stitches. In this class, we'll explore several fun new stitch patterns including multi-row elongated straight and sloped stitches, dip stitches, and the Indian cross stitch. We'll see how stacking and alternating these stitches takes our knitting in new and inspiring directions.

## **Lectures (One Hour)**

### **Badly Behaved Knitting**

(Any Level) In this lecture we turn our attention to the question of why knitting doesn't always behave the way we want or expect it to, and what knitters can do when that happens. (Hint: putting it in timeout isn't the answer.) You learn why the deck is sometimes stacked against us when it comes to making knits that fit, what to do when swatches are lying liars that lie, and the truth about gauge inflation.

### **Blocking Without Tears**

(Any Level) Don't let overwhelm keep you from taking the final step that gives your handknits their best finish. In this lecture (with props!) Amy explores why all blocking is not the same, and shares best practices for addressing different projects, fiber types, and purposes. When do we block, how do we block, and why do we block? The answers may surprise you.



### **Planning for Perfect Socks**

(Any Level) A great deal of the success (or lack thereof) of our sock knitting projects depends on the decisions we make before even picking up the needles. In this class, we'll cover the pros and cons of all the major decisions you make when knitting socks: toe up vs. top down; one at a time vs. two at a time; varieties of heel construction; choices for casting on and binding off; and yarn selection. We'll also cover some tips and tricks to make your sock knitting easier. You'll leave the class knowing when and how to ignore parts of a pattern in order to make the socks *you* want in the way you want to make them.

### **The Right Yarn for the Job**

(Any Level) Many's the sad knitter who has been lured into an unwise marriage of yarn-to-pattern by the flash of color in a pretty little variegated skein or the come-hither glance of mohair, only to realize too late that *this* pattern and *that* yarn were never meant to be together. In this lecture, Amy shares some of the worst arranged yarn marriages of all time, then dives into common causes of mismatch and shares guidelines for making smarter yarn pairings. You'll learn about tools for yarn substitution, why fiber content matters, the sneakiness of superwash, and best practices for finding your yarny happy-ever-after.

### **Sawier Swatching**

(Any Level) Despite the common adage, gauge swatches don't actually lie. But we often lie to *ourselves* when we knit them. Learn the principles of better swatching so you can believe what your gauge swatch is telling you. This lecture will cover when and how to swatch, what to do with your swatch after it's knit so it will be a useful and accurate representation of your knitting, measuring, and tips for dealing with yarn that "just won't get gauge!"

### **What Makes a Pattern Good for *You***

(Any Level) There's plenty of talk these days about what makes a *good* pattern, but what's more important is identifying what makes a pattern *good for you*. Amy will explore what details to look for that make patterns easier to understand and, therefore, to knit. She will also talk fit, yarn substitution, construction choices, and how to identify potential red flags *before* they push your projects off the rails.

## **Longer Classes/Series**

(3 / 4 Hours)

### **Bumping Up Brioche: Adding Colors, Textures and Cables**

(Advanced) We'll take brioche stitch way beyond the ordinary in this class! Learn to work the tricolor brioche stitch, stockinette, broken rib and other textural patterns and finally, brioche cables as we push on to discover the nearly limitless alterations we can make to brioche stitch, and the fun you'll have expanding the possibilities!

### **Brioche Grafting for a Seamless Finish**

(Advanced) Ready to take your brioche knitting to the next level This class will teach you everything you need to know to work a seamlessly elegant graft in brioche. In the first session, you'll learn the secrets to provisionally casting on in two-color brioche; in the second, we'll work through the two-pass process of grafting our brioche swatches together for a perfect finish that disappears utterly.

### **Plug and Play: Design Your Own Socks**

(Intermediate) In this class Amy will guide you through the planning process to design toe-up socks that are uniquely *you*, from start to finish: *your* gauge, *your* size, *your* patterning, *your* choice of heel, toe, and cuff. Working through the supplied worksheet, you'll plug in your gauge and measurements, learn how to incorporate a stitch pattern of your choosing, learn where and how to place various heel choices, leg increases, ribbing, and cuffs. In the end, you'll have the road map for a new sock pattern — one that is uniquely your own.

### **Visible and Invisible Mending**

(Intermediate) A hole or snag doesn't have to mean the end of your precious handknit items. Learn how to extend the life of your knitwear by mending it, either invisibly or with stitches that are meant to be seen and admired. In this class you'll learn several different methods for repairing damage and when to use each, including duplicate stitch, traditional darning, and re-knitting small sections of fabric row by row.

(5 / 6 Hours)

### **Advanced Knit Fixes: The Whole Shebang**

(Intermediate and Up) This class combines skills taught in three of my Knit Fixes classes: Cables, Lace, and Cutting and Grafting, for an in-depth exploration of fixing and altering many different types of errors in knitting.

### **Exploring Stranded Colorwork**

(Advanced Beginner and Up) Working a sampler, we'll explore the principles of choosing and combining colors, various ways of holding the yarn, tensioning, trapping alternate colors, chart reading, weaving in ends as you go, and working locked floats across larger sections.

### **Socks Unlocked: Knitting Toe-Up Socks Without a Pattern**

(Intermediate — Students must already be familiar with working on dpns, magic loop, or two circular needles)

Learn to knit socks for any foot, at any gauge, without referring to a pattern. In this 6-hour class you'll work a complete sample-sized sock as you learn how to cast on seamlessly, work short-row heels with mini gussets, integrated ribbing, and stretchy bind-offs. We'll also cover tips for measuring the foot, adjustments for leg shaping, and how and when to add patterning.

### **Past Teaching Venues Include:**

- Vogue Knitting Live
- Stitches
- Rhinebeck
- Fiberworld
- Interweave Yarnfest
- Knit City
- Texas Fleece & Fiber Festival
- Oregon Fleece & Fiber Festival
- North Country Fiber Fest
- Fiber Festival of New England
- Orlando Distaff Day
- Knit + Escape
- WEBS Retreat
- Floxie
- Hippy Strings Knitting Retreat
- Bandera Festival
- North Country Fiber Fair
- Morehouse Farm
- Carolina Fiber Fest
- Peacetree Knitting Adventures
- The Yarnover Truck
- KnitWit yarn shop
- Knot Just yarn shop
- Uncommon Threads yarn shop
- Various Knitting Guilds

**Social Media:**

Website/blog: <http://www.deviousknitter.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DeviousKnitter>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DeviousKnitter>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/deviousknitter/>

Ravelry: <https://www.ravelry.com/designers/amy-snell>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/deviousknitter>