



# Bespoke Quilted Sneakers

**Instructor:** Dena Mehling

**Location:** Treelotta (In-person attendance is assumed. Please let us know if you plan to join us via Zoom instead. For this class, you would need to provide your own notions and tools if you are joining us virtually.)

## Class Description:

Learn how to make your very own bespoke sneakers! In this class, we will sew the quilted uppers of the sneaker, punch holes for laces, and attach those uppers to the soles. Shoe-making tools and some notions will be provided and shared during class.

In order to do this class, students must purchase a [Sneaker Starter Kit from Tandy Leather](#) or [New SneakerKit Version from Chicago School of Shoemaking](#). It does not matter which supplier you choose. Please purchase the kit at least 2 weeks in advance of the class to allow for shipping.

## Skill level:

Intermediate Sewist. You should be familiar with your sewing machine and able to sew without much instruction. You **do not** need to be familiar with shoe-making.

## Please complete before first class:

- **Important:** Please order your Sneaker Kit ahead of class. It may only take a few days for your kit to arrive, but we recommend **ordering it a couple of weeks in advance** to make sure that you have it in time. If your kit does not arrive in time, it will still be worth attending class because building the upper takes more than half of the class time, and you only need the soles for the very last part of the class (when you sew the upper to the sole).
- We will be making the “Classic 3 in 1” sneaker which includes 3 different styles of sneaker (low rise, mid rise, or high rise) and you’ll need to print out your pattern. If you ordered your kit from Tandy Leather, they include a large pattern sheet included in your sneaker kit, but for class we will use the printed patterns that you can find [HERE](#). Choose your size and print it out. Make sure to print at 100% scale/default scale. Do not let your printer “fit to page.” The gauge is very important, and you may need to fiddle with printer settings to achieve it.

- You will need to have quilted your fabric choices before class. For this class, you will be quilting the interfaced exterior fabrics to a piece of batting. Please note that you are NOT quilting it to the lining fabric. It's counterintuitive to what we do as quilters but please, interfaced exterior and batting ONLY. If you are doing any patchwork or embroidery for your shoes, please have that done and quilted before class.

## Supplies:

- 1 pair SneakerKit - please order this from [Tandy Leather](#) or [Chicago School of Shoemaking](#) at least one week before class, but preferably 2 weeks or more to allow for any delays in shipping.
- Fat Quarter - upper shoe and tongue\* (For shoe sizes over an 11US, you will need 1/2 yard of fabric). Cotton fabric, canvas, waxed canvas, linen are all fun fabric choices. If you would like a patchwork shoe, please have your patchwork completed before class. A *note about directional fabrics*: You are certainly welcome to use directional fabrics. Please increase your fabric size to a 1/2 yard if the direction of the fabric requires it and please also note, that the pattern is built on an angle. That may have an impact on your final product's look.
- Fat Quarter - lining for shoe and tongue\* (For shoe sizes over an 11US, you will need 1/2 yard of fabric).
- \*Contrast fabric for tongue if you prefer - at least a 12" square of upper and lining fabrics.
- A scrap, roughly 4" square for a shoelace strap.
- Fat Quarter - batting.
- Woven Interfacing (SF101) -  $\frac{3}{4}$  yard (20" wide)
- Thread for quilting uppers (I have used Aurifil 50wt cotton thread for quilting and used a triple stitch to help the quilting show up better. You could use almost anything for this part - maybe even a fun metallic thread? A heavier weight thread? Or just use the same thread that you are using for construction.)
- Thread for constructing the uppers - I recommend using our HomeDec threads for durability.
- Sewing machine (remember your power cord, foot pedal, bobbins, needles [80/12 or 90/14] presser foot you like for quilting, etc.)
- Sewing tools: thread snips, fabric scissors, rotary cutter, ruler, pins/clips, etc.
- A marking tool. I use an Ultra Fine Sharpie marker in black or Frixion pen (unless your fabric is dark, then have a white or silver marking pen) This needs to show up on your fabric choices, so choose accordingly. It can be a permanent marker as we will not see the markings.

Treelotta will provide an assortment of grommets, heel tabs, shoelaces, waxed nylons, and the tools needed but if you have personal preferences and want to provide your own, please feel free to do so.

**Optional:**

Finger protectors/grippers for pulling the needle through the soles  
Your own shoe-building tools (but, we will have tools to share)

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# Treelotta Class Policies

**We are a fragrance-free shop:** As a courtesy to individuals who are sensitive to fragrances, we would ask that you refrain from wearing any perfumes, scented lotions or body sprays, or strong scents in general. Thank you.

**Class cancellation:** Classes fill up quickly and we often have a waiting list. If you cannot make it to class, please let us know at least three days in advance to receive store credit. Out of consideration for our instructors, cancellations less than three days before class (or no-shows) will be charged full price. If you are experiencing any fever, cough, shortness of breath, or any other flu/Covid-like symptoms please do not come to class. Please contact us to let us know by phone at 303-997-4372.

Classes with registration of fewer than three participants three days prior to class date may be canceled by the instructor. In the event of inclement weather, the instructor will have the discretion to cancel class.

**Classes start on time.** Please arrive 10-15 minutes early to get set up.

**Parking:** Parking is available on the street in front of the shop as well as in our parking lot behind the shop. For after-hours or weekend parking, you may also park in the Malley Recreation Center lot (which is across the alley from the parking lot behind our building). Please do not park in their lot on weekdays from 9-5 as you will likely be ticketed.