

# Top weekend courses for domestic goddesses

**Learn a new homemaking skill such as jam-making or flower arranging.**

By Jane Alexander



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## **Learn how to use a sewing machine**

Sales of sewing machines have soared in the recession. But, having bought one, can you use it? This one-day workshop in Oxfordshire demystifies the controls, puts you in charge of your pedals and explores the range of stitches. You go home fully confident, and with a cushion to boot.

[www.sewing-tuition.co.uk](http://www.sewing-tuition.co.uk); 01608 644877 (from £99)

## **Jam-making and chutney**

Home preserving is true domestic goddess territory. If your jam won't set or your jelly goes cloudy, get some help from the Real Jam and Chutney Co, based in Hampshire, which will send you home with some good-looking jars of preserve. Jam-making classes are half-day while chutney making are full-day.

[www.realjam.co.uk](http://www.realjam.co.uk); 01962 861411 (from £40)

## **Flower arranging**

Jane Packer's sophisticated London school teaches the hostess with the mostest how to wow guests. Choose from one-day courses (generally Saturday) in either cool contemporary or classic design. You can even learn how to make the most of a bog-standard bunch of supermarket flowers.

[www.jane-packer.co.uk](http://www.jane-packer.co.uk); 020 7486 1300 (from £195)

## **Knitting**

"Homemaking is the new going out," says domestic goddess Nicki Trench, author of piles of luscious "how to" books. "Forget booking a holiday, come and learn a skill." Her workshops in knitting (from absolute beginners to fancy Fair Isle), crochet and patchwork are hugely fashionable, madly popular and held in her cosy barn in East Sussex.

[www.nickitrench.com](http://www.nickitrench.com); 01435 863374 (from £50)