



## Theme— Travelling with Craft



This time of the year, many of us are getting ready to travel - to visit family and friends across the Holiday season or just to take a break. For me that's a good chunk of time I hope I get to crochet. The decision I agonise over the most is which crochet project(s) will I take, and what items from my toolkit should I (can I) take - particularly when I'm travelling on a plane. (When I travel by car I just take everything!).

Good projects to make when travelling are small things, such as socks, gloves, hats, tops, baby clothes, motifs or bags and accessories and small items for the home - eg coasters. It is best to take something that is easy to do, as you are likely to be interrupted often. If the pattern is in a book, take a copy of it so it is easy to pack and take out in small spaces. I often take a copy on my iPad, and I can then store several patterns there (because I always need more than one project for the whole trip). For onboard flights it is also best to work on projects that don't need colour changes.



Yes you can currently take crochet hooks and knitting needles in your carry-on luggage (But always check with the airline before you travel to confirm the rules haven't changed). It is also a good idea to print out the airline rules for discussion with the security officers if needed. And you can take the good ones. I always take my good clover hooks - but only take the hook size(s) needed for the project you are doing. I have a small crochet hook holder for this purpose - about the size of a toothbrush holder. Avoid taking the finer pointed steel hooks used for finer thread work, as these can be considered dangerous. Crochet lite hooks are also good to give you the extra light.

Even tatting shuttles can be taken on board. But avoid taking the metal shuttles, and those with the fine steel hooks. I've read many an article of tatters having to explain to security and attendants what the shuttles are and what tatting is - so be prepared to get your work out and display it.

Don't take your full toolkit on board. I cut it back to take the essentials. Instead of scissors I use cutters - clover pendant or the handy hands threader/cutter are good options. If you have blunt scissors with the blade no longer than 6cm they can be taken on board. Stitchmarkers are also very handy to have to help count when you are interrupted, ball holders to stop your yarn escaping down the aisles and a small project bag to keep it all together.

I avoid taking yarn needles on boards and leave sewing in ends to later. Although you can take them on board the needles are too easy to lose when you are on the move, and some security officers and attendants get concerned with the steel needles. Plastic finishing needles are best if you did wish to take them on board.



All the extra projects and other tools you may need later pack into your checked luggage in a separate (usually larger) project bag. See the next pages for some pattern ideas for travelling and tools to make crafting on holiday hassle free. Looking for a good travelling project—try these [coffee coasters](#). Great stocking stuffers!

