

Sew and Go

Edited from an article by Tricia Wadell

You'd be surprised how much sewing can be "done on the run." All it takes is a little planning. Save up routine hand-sewing tasks that can easily be done while spending time with friends and family, and prepare more involved hand-embellishment projects for long trips. For example, you can completely hand embroider and bead a top during a 9-hour flight to Spain!

Working by Hand

Even if you have no patience for handwork, give it a try. To avoid being driven mad with boredom by repetition, do handwork that is entirely improvisational rather than carefully planned out in advance. Let yourself be inspired by the beauty of the materials you use. Regardless of whether you are a meticulous planner or a free-spirited improviser, you can grow to love working with your hands.

Preparing Small Projects

Preparation is the key to making art on the go. Have a project that you can quickly grab on your way out the door to greatly increase your productivity. Have a variety of take-along projects available at any one time, each suited to a particular situation or working space.

Portable projects can be stashed in even the most compact of purses/totes and ready to work on at a moment's notice. The secret is to have a coordinated set of lovely materials to work with. Put them into a small travel tin or ziplock bag, along with needles and thread. Leave enough room for folding travel scissors, a thimble, and a needle threader.

Tips for Working in the Air or on the Road

- Take a needle threader that has a thread cutter attached if flying with scissors is a concern.
- Use shorter lengths of thread and pull your needles with the point facing you. Your seat mate will appreciate it.
- Thread a bunch of needles ahead of time if you have trouble threading in a bouncy car or plane.