

The Swift

Nov.-Dec.
2016

Knerdy Knitters / SFV

Calendar

December 2016

- 3 Holiday Party & Fashion Show, 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, at the Holliday Inn, 150 E. Angeleno Ave., in Burbank.
- 12 TGIFiber, 7-9 p.m. Monday at TGIFridays, 19855 Rinaldi St., Porter Ranch
- 19 Yarn Club, 7- 9 p.m. Monday at Panera, 132 E. Palm Ave., Burbank
- 26 Holiday Yarn Club (in lieu of a guild meeting), 7-9 p.m. at Panera, Burbank
- 31 Saturday Stitches, 10 a.m. to noon at Starbucks, 1520 W. Olive Ave., Burbank

24 holiday gift ideas for knitters and crocheters

The gift-giving elves have asked us for some ideas for what to give knitters and crocheters this holiday season. The list below covers a range of prices, sizes and levels of sophistication. You can combine ideas – or just keep it simple.

1. **Earrings made from recycled knitting needles** – These fun pieces are available from Needlepoints West. One earring is the point, the other the button end of a knitting needle. They come in the same gem-like colors as metal knitting needles. You can also get stitch markers made from old knitting needles.



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Traveling with knitting needles and crochet hooks

Traveling during the holidays presents knitters and crocheters with a dilemma: can I bring my needles (or hooks)? And if I do and someone tells me I can't, what happens?

The answer is both easy and crazy-making depending on where you're going.

If you're traveling inside the United States, the answer is easy: The Transportation Security Administration says that in general you can take "knitting needles and needlepoint tools" (no reference to crochet hooks) in carry on luggage. You can also carry scissors that are smaller than four-inches but anything that has a blade -- such as circular or pendant cutter -- must be in checked luggage.

U.S. transportation rules apply on flights leaving the United States for foreign countries, but once you've landed in Europe, South America, Asia or Australia, it gets a lot more complicated.

Some countries specifically state that knitting needles are allowed (the United States and the United Kingdom, for example); some countries specifically prohibit them (Greece and some EU countries); and some countries says "sharp objects are prohibited" and it's up to the security officer to allow them or not.

While you can knit on a flight from Los Angeles to South America, you aren't allowed to have the knitting needles on the return flight from South America. In Australia, the rules say that knitting needles and blunt or round-tipped scissors shorter than 2.5 inches "may be taken on board in your carry-on bags *at the discretion of the security screening officer at the airport.*"

Here are some tips for traveling with fiber projects:

- Contact the airlines for every leg of your flight to confirm that you will be able to carry knitting needles or crochet hooks.
- Knerdy Knitter **Karen Frazer** said that she has taken sharpened pencils on flights in lieu of knitting needles. She coats the leads with clear nail polish to keep the yarn clean. This work-around also means that you have to work on narrow projects. Another option is to use chopsticks. You don't have much choice of gauge with these options.

Talk to Us

Knerdy Knitters of the San Fernando Valley publishes The Swift monthly.

Knerdy Knitters is a fiber arts guild serving the greater San Fernando Valley.

Our mission is to promote and support the craft and practice of knitting and other fiber arts. People of all experience levels, ages and fiber persuasions are welcome.


We are an active guild with charity knitting, knit- and crochet-alongs, workshops, retreats, social events, casual knitting/crocheting and more. Membership is \$24 a year and includes a newsletter subscription, event discounts and a complimentary Knerdy Knitters project bag (in 2017).

To submit items, e-mail them to editor Jeannette Hartman at News4KnerdyKnitters@gmail.com, or bring them to a guild meeting.

You can learn more about us on our [website](#); our [Facebook page](#), or our [Ravelry group](#).

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- Some travellers disconnect interchangeable needles from the cord and put the tips in a pencil bag where they are less noticeable.
 - Pack a self-addressed, stamped envelope big enough to hold your needles and a needle threaded with waste yarn in case a security officer won't let you board the plane with them. (Or you could step out of line and do a quick bind off.)
 - Some travelers have suggested that wooden, bamboo or plastic needles are less of a problem than metal ones. (And also cheaper to replace.)
 - In place of scissors or a pendant cutter, you can use nail clippers or the cutter on a dental floss container.

Holiday giving ideas

2. **Stitch markers and holders** – Can a knitter ever have too many of these?
3. **Notions boxes or pouches** – Orderly notions make life so much easier! You can get this at office, beauty and art supply stores as well as travel stores and Amazon.com.
4. **Pendant cutter** – This circular device looks like a tiny Ninja weapon.
5. **Yarn bowl** – These hold a ball of yarn that feeds through a hole in the side. The ball rolls in the bowl, not on the floor. They range from hand-thrown pottery to turned wood to plastic.
6. **Yarn buddy** – This is a spike on a lazy Susan on a weighted base. You stab a yarn cake on the spike and start knitting. The yarn cake spins in place as the yarn unwinds. Like the bowls, it keeps your cake from going AWOL. This only works with yarn cakes, not balls.
 
7. **Project bags** – If you sew, you can even make drawstring bags to give to your knitting and crocheting friends; patterns abound online.
8. **Cedar balls and blocks** – After you cast off, you still have to protect your work from moths. Cedar balls or blocks (or organic insect traps) can be put in drawers or stash bins.
9. **Woolite or other delicate fabric cleaner** – Lovely projects worked in luxe yarns deserve the best of care. Anyone who works in fibers can use this.
10. **HOLDERS for needles and hooks** – It's such a pleasure to pull a needle or a hook out of a lovely

holder. Not only does it protect your tools, it keeps you organized and is a joy to use.

11. **Gift cards from local yarn stores** – This is a double gift. It lets the recipient get just what he or she wants or needs, AND it supports a local business.
12. **Books for entertainment** – A cosy mystery with a detective who knits or crochets is lovely for holiday travel. LA author Betty Hechtman has written a knitting series featuring desert chef Casey Feldstein who inherits her aunt's yarn retreat business. This series begins with *Yarn to Go*. A second series features Molly Pink, a crocheter who runs the Tarzana Hookers' Yarn University, beginning with *Hooking for Trouble*. Former newspaper editor Brooks Mencher, whose wife is a knitter, has written a fascinating series featuring the Yarn Woman, a forensic fiber expert who lives in an Art Deco former movie theater in San Francisco and helps the police solve murders using her arcane knowledge.
13. **Books for patterns and technique** – The nearly limitless books on knitting, crocheting, spinning and dyeing make fabulous gifts – everything from stitch dictionaries to stash-busting patterns to books that focus on facets of knitting like casting on and binding off or increasing and decreasing.
14. **Blocking pins and lace wires** – Blocking transforms a wad of worked yarn into something beautiful. Having enough pins or tools like lace blocking wires makes the process ever so much more professional and easier.
15. **Blocking mats** – Interlocking mats with a printed grid are another essential aid to the perfectly blocked piece. The interlocking kind allow you to layout the mats to fit the piece and are easy to store.
16. **Sock blockers** – For sock knitters, these are the

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Gift ideas

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cat's whiskers for blocking socks.

17. Knit-patterned storage bins – The Container

Store has a delightful series of baskets, totes, bowls, poufs, pet beds and round storage tables in a knit pattern. They come in sand, brown and white and range in price from \$6 for a round bowl to \$49 for a pouf – although there are sales on some of these items. Look for the Curver Knit Collection on containerstore.com.



18. Rubber stamps –

So many of us knit or crochet gifts, but so few of us have special gift tags. Etsy offers a wonderful array of knitting or crocheting themed rubber stamps – including ones that can be customized with your name. It's a perfect way to make gift tags. Look under the "Crafting Supplies and Tools" section. The stamp above is by [twigandlinen](#).



knit with love by Laura

19. Notecards with a knitting / crocheting theme

– Zazzle.com has a wide array of cards for all occasions with knitting, crocheting, fiber, spinning,

November, December Membership Renewals

If you see your name below, your membership is up for renewal this month. Give your check for \$24 to Treasurer **Sarah Smith**, President **Tamala Takahashi** or Vice President **Stacie Rasmussen**.

November: **Chris Bahls, Tabitha Davis, Catherine Fabre, Ginny Mateen, and Debra Mobley.**

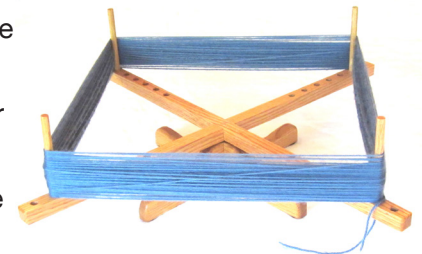
December: **Debra Cooper-Jaffe, Lydia Cowger, Michelle Lockhart, VaJezatha Payne, Stacie Rasmussen, Tim Rasmussen, Andrea Smith, and Rita Smith.**

and sheep themes. The perfect thing for thank yous, birthdays or general "just thinking about you" occasions.

20. Subscription to a knitting / crocheting / spinning magazine

21. Ball winder – Sooner or later, any serious fiber worker needs one of these. You can find them for a wide range of prices.

22. Swift – This is always convenient to have if you buy a lot of skeins of yarn. You can get the umbrella style that clamps on a table or an Amish style swift that sits on the table and uses pegs on a cross bar to hold the yarn out. Prices of these vary widely depending on quality and materials.



23. Shawl pins – Shawls, shawlettes and big scarves are fun to knit, but not so easy to wear. A shawl pin is a perfect way to wear these items while saving yourself the constant worry about whether they are slipping and sliding around. **A Major Knitworks** has a wonderful selection of shawl pins.

24. I-cord machine – This is basically a knitting machine that produces i-cord, which can be tedious to handknit, especially if you need a lot of it.

25. Luxe yarn – What knitter or crocheter hasn't lustfully fingered a cashmere, silk or mohair yarn then sadly left it on the shelf? Surprise someone with a single ball of something luscious.