

Child's Doll Carrier

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/projects/childs-doll-carrier>



I made the pattern for this child-size doll carrier after pondering hard what to give a friend's toddler for his second birthday. I gave the prototype to my daughter (she was 2 at the time), and she loves running around the playground with her baby strapped to her back or front (it can be worn either way). It's a quick and easy

gift for any child ages 2-6 who loves carrying around a baby doll but needs their hands free for all the other exciting stuff they want to do. PLEASE NOTE: This is a toy and not meant to carry an actual baby. ONLY DOLLS, DUH! Check out my blog <http://mybeaubaby.blogspot.com> if you like my design!

Materials

For this carrier, I used two corduroys, one with a print. I've since made more carriers, using printed cottons, denim and broadcloth. If you use lightweight cottons, I recommend adding a fusible to each piece to make it sturdier. You will also need two 1-inch plastic buckles, two 1-inch triglides, and a length of 1-inch nylon strapping, interfacing (if you're using lightweight cotton) and some cotton or poly batting (you could omit the batting if you wanted though)

Step 1 — Cut out your pieces

Lay the pattern pieces on your folded fabric, making sure grain lines are correct.
Cut out the following, marking all notches:

-Main body (1 main fabric, 1 contrasting cotton)

-Belt (2 main fabric, 1 batting) Optional: also cut 2 in fusible interfacing if your main fabric is a lightweight cotton. If you use a denim, corduroy or broadcloth, then you can skip the interfacing.

-Arm straps (4 main fabric, 2 batting) Optional: also cut 4 in fusible interfacing if your main fabric is a lightweight cotton. If you use a denim, corduroy or broadcloth, then you can skip the interfacing.

-Chest strap (2 in contrasting cotton, 2 fusible interfacing)

-Pocket (1 in contrasting cotton)

PLEASE NOTE: You can omit the fabric chest strap and instead use nylon strapping and a buckle to go across the chest.

Step 2 — More preparation

If you're using lightweight cotton for any of your pieces, remember to press the fusible interfacing to the wrong side of each piece using a hot iron before you move on to putting your carrier together. Set aside.

ALSO: take a moment to cut your strapping into the following pieces:

-Three 10" long straps

-Three 4" short straps

Set those aside too. Now everything is ready to sew.

Please note: if you opt to put a strap across the chest (to hold the straps together), cut another 10" strap, and another strap about 6" long

Step 3 — Belt



Lay one belt piece down, with the right side facing up. Lay one long (10") strap along the middle of the right side. Take one short strap and thread it through the “girl” half of the buckle (as pictured: that’s the buckle piece that is not adjustable). Then fold the short strap in half and line up the raw edges with the waistband’s edge at the middle of the left side. Pin in place so the straps don’t move around at all while you are sewing. Then lay the other belt piece on top, sandwiching the strapping in between the two pieces, right sides facing. Pin together and sew from one notch to the other. Turn right side out and press. Stuff your belt-shaped piece of batting into the belt and set aside for a moment.

Step 4 — Sew Shoulder Straps



Lay one shoulder strap piece down, right side facing up at you. Lay one long (10") strap widthwise along the strap, with one end overlapping the curved side of the shoulder strap (see photo please!). Pin the strap down to the shoulder piece. Then lay the other shoulder strap piece down on top, sandwiching the strapping in

between your two pieces, right sides facing. pin around the long edges and the curve, leaving the short end open so you can turn it rightside out after straight stitching. Straightstitch together, then turn right side out and press.

Step 5 — Stuff Shoulder Straps



If you want, you can totally skip stuffing your shoulder straps (and waistband) with batting. The carrier will be great without it, and it's kind of a pain. Plus your child will only be carrying around a doll in their carrier, so it's not like they really need the padding to keep them comfortable. That said, I'm including this step because that's how I did it, and I like the more puffy way it looks and feels.

I used a chopstick to help stuff my batting pieces into the should straps, working them into place as best as I could. Again, don't feel bad if you want to skip this step. Your carrier will still be super cute and fun to play with without it.

Step 6 — Sewing on The Pocket



Before you put this whole thing together, you need to sew your pocket on. (If you're in a major hurry, or just lazy, you can totally skip this step too. I won't judge you.)

Turn under the top edge of the pocket piece 1/2" and press. Pin, then straight-stitch 3/8" from the edge. Go back to your ironing board, and press under the remaining four sides 1/2" all around. Pin to center of the main body piece that will face out (as marked on the pattern piece). Straight-stitch pocket to main body around the four sides, leaving the top edge open so your child can hide Cheerios in there.

Step 7 — Let's Put This Thing Together!



Now everything is ready to assemble! Lay down one of the main body pieces, right side facing up.

Arrange your shoulder straps on the top of one main body piece as pictured, lining up your notches as you marked them from the pattern pieces. Don't worry too much about getting this just right. As long as they match (are at the same angle on both sides), you should be fine. Pin them down to the main body so they won't budge while you are sewing.

Now grab the remaining two short straps (4" in length) and your two triglides. Thread the strap through one opening, over the MIDDLE bar and out the other opening. Fold the strap in half, and pin the open edges to the side of the main body piece about 1" below where the shoulder strap edge overlaps the edge of the main body. Please, study the picture to see what I mean. Once it's all sewn together, the edges of the straps will be hidden inside the carrier. Ditto with the shoulder straps.

Step 8 — Finish Assembling main body and sew



With your straps all in place, lay the other main body piece on top, with right side facing in.

Pin along two side edges as pictured. Straight-stitch those seams shut, reversing to reinforce over the straps. Trim seam allowances, turn rightside out and press.

Step 9 — Attach Main Body to Waistband

Sandwich the bottom edge of the main body piece $\frac{3}{4}$ " into the open edge of the waistband.

Pin the waistband to the main body piece, folding in the seam allowance $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Straight-stitch together all the way across the main body.

Step 10 — Finish the Top Edge of the Carrier

At the top rough edge of the carrier's main body, fold in the $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance. Press and pin. Then top-stitch across the top, closing the final seam on the carrier.

Step 11 — Fold down top edge and add buttons



I love buttons. I think they make everything cuter. But if you have a kid who eats buttons, or simply hate sewing them on, you could skip the buttons and instead fold down the top edge of the carrier and top-stitch it down. I included this little flap in the pattern because I like giving a peek of the cute print that lines the carrier. I think it makes the carrier more interesting to look at, though it adds zero functionality. If you want to eliminate one more step, you could trim the top tapered edge off so it's square and just turn in the seam allowance, top-stitch and be done with it.

But for my carrier, I folded down the top tapered part (as pictured), and sewed on buttons on either side. Follow the instructions in your sewing machine manual, or sew by hand.

Step 12 — Sew on Chest Strap



I've changed my method for the chest strap since I first made this pattern and scanned it (a long while back). Included in the pattern is a pattern piece for a chest strap, which you can sew velcro onto and then sew onto the shoulder straps. You can either do that, or for less work, use nylon strapping and another buckle. I recommend that, because I'm all about less work. For the nylon strap option, sew the piece of 10-inch strapping across one shoulder strap just a few inches from the bottom of the strap (as pictured). I like to sew in a rectangle shape, straight-stitching down the strapping thoroughly. Then thread the "boy" end of the buckle onto the 10-inch strap.

Thread the "girl" end of the buckle onto the other six-inch length of strapping, and fold it, sandwiching the strapping onto the other strap. Pin down, and then sew it on. Again, I like sewing around in a rectangle, so the strapping is firmly attached.

Make sure that you are sewing the strapping and buckles on the inside edge of the of the shoulder straps, so that they come together. If in doubt, pin it all on first and then check the height of of the strap on your kid. This buckle just keeps the shoulder straps from slipping off your kid's shoulders.

Another option, which would be less work (and again: I am all about LESS work, especially for kid stuff, because kids are damn fickle) is to sew a strong ribbon (like grosgrain) on each shoulder strap at the same position. You can tie the ribbons together in a bow to secure the shoulder straps from slipping off your kid's shoulders. The downside is the bow coming undone, though it's easier for the child if she/he wants to take the carrier off him/herself (but harder to put back on, obviously).

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