

The Pea Pod baby carrier



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This baby carrier is designed to be worn on the hip. The adjustable two buckle closure allows for easy on and off. Carries babies from approximately 5 months (or when baby can hold head upright with good neck control) up to 35 pounds. This carrier will quickly become your “go to” carrier for quick trips into stores. It takes less than one minute to put on and carry baby... considerably less time than most front/back carriers. The wide shoulder strap is meant to be worn on the ball of your shoulder taking the strain off your neck. The child’s weight is distributed evenly and this carrier can be worn with great comfort leaving your hands free. This pattern is for personal use only.



Supplies

- One 2” single adjust side release buckle (can be found online)
- One 2” double adjust side release buckle (commonly found in craft/fabric chain stores). If you cannot find the single adjust side release buckle, use two of these buckles instead.
- Optional “D” ring or swivel hook for toy attachment (swivel hook pictured in orange and green carrier on cover. “D” ring shown on red geometric print carrier).
- Heavy duty/denim sewing machine needle. If using heavy weight canvas you may need two needles to complete this project.
- 5/8 yard of medium weight fusible fleece interfacing.
- 1 3/8 yard heavy weight fabric for lining and straps (denim, duck, canvas, cotton twill, heavy corduroy).
- 5/8 yard outer fabric for body. The body of the carrier can be made in the same weight fabric as the lining or you can use linen, quilting weight cotton, pieced patchwork, or home dec. fabric. If you would like to use a vintage piece or scrap for the body the pattern piece is approximately 18” X 21”.

(Pictured above black scooter carrier lined with heavy weight canvas. Red print carrier lined with medium weight black denim. Orange and green carrier lined with medium weight cotton twill).

Assembling Pattern Pieces

The pattern is designed to be printed at 100%. Make sure scaling on printer is set to "none". Test print first page of pattern pieces. Check to make sure the box printed measures one inch. I recommend printing the pattern on regular printing paper. This will help when matching dots when piecing together. After pattern is taped together, cut out and trace onto preferred material (freezer paper, pattern paper, tracing paper, or thin poster board).

To assemble the pattern pieces match letter to letter (example A : A). The pattern has six pages with letters from A - F. There are also dots that need to be matched. Before taping pieces together make sure the dots match on top of one another. To see if they match hold the pages up to a light.

Pre-wash and press all fabric. Cut one carrier body piece from outer fabric and one from lining fabric following pattern piece. Do not transfer strap placement markings yet. Cut straps according to chart below. Read through the instructions once before starting.

Carrier Body Outer Fabric (cut one)	Pattern Piece
Carrier Body Lining (cut one)	Pattern Piece
Fusible Interfacing (cut one)	½" smaller than pattern piece
Fusible interfacing (cut one)	3 ½" X 15 ¾"
Short Shoulder strap (cut two)	4" X 13"
Long Shoulder Strap (cut one)	6 ½" X 45"
Waist Strap (cut four)	4" X 22" (If using heavy weight canvas 3 ¾" X 22")



If you cannot find a 2" single adjust side release buckle you can use two 2" double adjust side release buckles for this carrier.

I have made this carrier in a heavy weight canvas and did not have to reduce the long shoulder strap to fit through the buckle. If your fabric is very heavy weight and you cannot feed the completed strap through the buckle you may need to make the shoulder strap narrower.

Do not transfer strap placement markings from pattern onto fabric yet. The pattern is labeled for left hip carrying. The instructions will explain how to make this carrier for carrying a baby on your right hip.

Sewing Instructions



All seams are $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Right sides together stitch short shoulder strap pieces together stitching on long sides. Turn right side out and press.



Feed strap through non-adjustable side of buckle. If using a buckle with two adjustable sides, feed strap through the opening closest to the buckle closure of the female end of the buckle.



Baste stitch raw edges. Set aside.



Press long shoulder strap sides $\frac{1}{4}$ " toward wrong side of fabric on each side lengthwise. Fold over another $\frac{1}{4}$ " and stitch in place.

Turn end of strap $\frac{1}{4}$ " toward wrong side of fabric and press. Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ " and stitch. Finish only one end of strap this way.



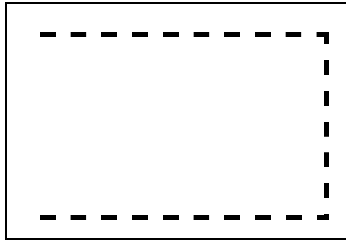
An optional finish is to cut the strap at an angle and finish like the photo on the left.



Feed long shoulder strap through the male buckle piece from the short shoulder strap. Prongs should be facing the finished end of the strap.



On finished side of long shoulder strap create a box pleat. The finished width of the strap with box pleat stitched in place should be about $2\frac{3}{4}$ " wide. This does not have to be exact. Baste stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " in from raw edge. Press box pleat creases about 4" down shoulder strap. Set shoulder strap aside.



Right sides together stitch two waist strap pieces (4" X 22") together leaving one short end open for turning. Repeat on other two pieces. Turn waist strap right side out and press. Feed waist straps into second buckle. It may be easier to feed with raw edges leading into the openings.



Attach interfacing to wrong side of carrier body main fabric according to manufacturer instructions. Next attach rectangle piece of interfacing onto first layer of interfacing (at waistline) as shown in photo. This piece acts as an additional stabilizer at waist of carrier. If you chose a lighter weight (cotton quilting) outer fabric and a medium weight (twill) lining you can add an additional piece (3 1/2" X 15 3/4") of interfacing on top of the first.



(photo shows my sample pattern piece. Yours will look different)

Shoulder strap placements on the pattern piece is for left hip carry position. Although slight, the strap placement angle is designed for each shoulder separately. To transfer the strap placement markings to the carrier for a left hip position (most commonly used position), place pattern piece with writing facing up at you on top of the right side of fabric. The short shoulder strap placement marks will be on your left when looking at the pattern.

To make this carrier for a right hip placement, flip pattern piece so the writing faces the right side of carrier body main fabric. The short shoulder strap will be on the right side.



- Place short shoulder strap on markings with right side of buckle face down on right side of fabric. Extend raw edge of fabric over raw edge of body by 2". Pin in place.
- Place long shoulder strap right side facing right side of body fabric. Extend raw edge of fabric over raw edge of body by 2". Pin in place. When pinning shoulder strap into place make sure to keep the box pleat together.
- Place waist straps with buckle right side down at waist strap placement marks extending raw edges of straps by 2" on each side. Pin in place. Lay long shoulder and waist straps down on the middle of the carrier body as pictured.



Place right side of carrier body lining on to carrier body main fabric sandwiching the straps. Pin in place. The more pins the merrier! The bottom straight edge where the straps are will be left open 6" for turning the carrier right side out.



(photo shows opening without straps hanging down as pictured in the next photo)

With $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam, stitch around entire carrier leaving a 6" opening along center bottom carrier. When leaving this opening in the seam, turn stitch line with a 90 degree angle to raw edge on each side of opening . This will help the seam allowance to fold in when turning the carrier right side out. When stitching along bottom straight edge of carrier make sure waist straps are not in the way. You only want to be stitching on two layers of fabric (the main body and the body lining fabric).

Do not trim excess strap length. The 2" strap that is over the seam allowance will be anchored in the following steps.



Clip corners of carrier at left and right bottom edge of carrier. Turn carrier right side out removing pins from straps as you go. Use preferred point turner (I like a chopstick or sharpened pencil) to make bottom waist corners sharp.



Press entire carrier. Fold seam of opening left for turning in as you press. Topstitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{3}{8}$ " in from edge around entire carrier.

On each strap you need to topstitch a reinforcing stitch on the 2" of strap that is now enclosed in the carrier. I like the "barn door" stitch. Backstitch at all start and stop points. Mark the pattern with a water soluble pen or tailors chalk to make an even stitch pattern.

Optional toy/key attachment. Making a tab with matching fabric you can stitch a swivel clip or "D" ring to the bottom of the short shoulder strap as shown above.



Another option is to stitch attachment during shoulder strap placement. Since the seam can get bulky is using heavy weight fabric you may want to use twill tape as shown in the photo above.

Using Your Carrier

You will need to adjust straps to your size prior to using for the first time. Typically the waist strap will stay the same setting over time. The shoulder strap will be adjusted as your baby grows. First, clip the waist straps around your high hip. This should be snug. Make sure buckle clicks into place. Body outer fabric will be facing your leg and hanging toward the ground.

Next place on your hip with legs straddling your waist as you would a normal carry. Bring carrier body up around baby's back. Holding carrier on baby's back as you hold baby with left hand adjust baby's bottom to sit comfortably and evenly in the carrier. With right hand reach behind you and grab long shoulder strap (you can also rest shoulder strap on shoulder prior to settling baby on your hip). Bring shoulder strap around right shoulder making sure the strap is not twisted and clip into short shoulder strap of carrier. Make sure buckle is clicked closed before letting go of baby. The shoulder strap should "cup" shoulder and not be riding on your neck.



Depending on the weight of the fabric used you may need to tie a knot in the strap at the shoulder buckle. For the black carrier with scooters I used a heavy weight canvas and do not need to do this. For the green and orange carrier the strap may slip through the buckle so I made a knot at the buckle. This knot still allows for easy on/off of carrier. Carrier can be washed on gentle cycle and laid flat to dry.

..... *Enjoy!* ...