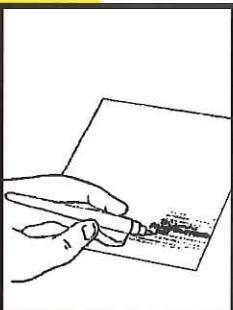
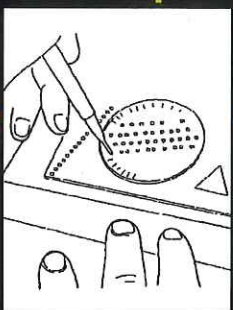




How PRODUCTS Are MADE

*An Illustrated Guide to
Product Manufacturing*



PRODUCTS Are MADE

An Illustrated Guide to

Product Manufacturing

Volume 6

Jacqueline L. Longe, Editor



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Baby Carrier

In 1997 alone, over 8,700 children were brought to the emergency room and treated for falls from carriers.

Background

Family members have carried babies in a variety of carriers since the beginning of human civilization. Baby carriers keep the baby close and provide the infant with comfort and security while allowing the carrier some freedom to work and care for other members of the family. The most basic form of baby carrier is the sling. In South America, woven shawls are used to carry babies in front of their mothers. The shawl is anchored over one shoulder, wrapped under the other arm, and tied around the back. The baby is free to nurse and sleep, and is cooled or warmed by the weave and wool of the shawl. In Asia, the sling is tied over one arm but carried lower on the opposite side so the baby rests on the hip. African cultures use the sling in this fashion or with the sling tied in front around the chest with the baby balanced behind. The front-tied sling is also practical for older babies who need to nurse less often and are more settled in their routine.

Other Asian cultures tie a woven cloth around the infant in a complex series of wraps and ties that isolate the child's legs on the mother's sides and allow the baby to move its arms freely against the mother. In cold climates where mothers wear hooded coats or parkas, the hood doubles as a sling

Side- and hip-balanced carriers are used by fathers and brothers who hunt and harvest with the baby. Other relatives can baby-sit, thanks to the convenience of baby carriers. The closeness of the baby carrier is not only a convenience but a way of nurturing the whole family.

History

The invention of the cloth infant carrier grew out of one woman's service in the Peace Corps. Ann Moore, a pediatric nurse who worked in Togo, Africa, in the 1960s observed the native women carrying their babies in slings. After she returned to the United States, Moore and her mother, Lucy Aukerman, designed a fabric pouch to resemble these slings but also to be rugged and to have adjustable shoulder and waist supports for the parent. Moore and Aukerman patented the Snugli in 1969.

In 1978, a Nigerian child care professional named Toritse Onuwaje moved to the United States. She was dismayed at the amount of crying American babies did compared to their Nigerian counterparts. She patterned a carrier she called the Baby Wrap on the ukpoma, a cloth carrier worn by members of her native Itshekiri tribe. The women of her tribe work all day with their babies wrapped



Different types of baby carriers.

ns for carrying a reclining infant. The e was contoured to support the child's t and seat and incorporated an adjustable lle that could be raised and locked into e while the child is being carried and ered to lift the baby in and out. Various s of fabrics cushion the child; some car- use fabric mesh that is suspended in the e to support the infant, while others are d out with padded cloth inserts that fas- n the plastic carrier securely but can be oved for cleaning.

Materials

gs and cloth carriers are manufactured a fabrics and polyester fiber or foam for fng or padding. The fiber is purchased 00-lb (227-kg) bales. Velcro fasteners, en fabric webbing for straps, and metal clea and fasteners for supports around

flexible, and durable. Manufacturers receive the plastic in pellets. Metal components are made of steel by specialized metal fabrica- tors. These parts may include buckles, lock- ing clips, and hardware for adjusting har- nesses. Rivets and fabric fasteners may be made of other metals but are also supplied by specialty contractors.

Fabrics used to make infant carriers include durable fabric like denim and nylon mesh and webbing for harnesses. All fabrics have to be specially treated to meet standards for flammability, but they also have to be wash- able. Chemical cleaning methods and even strong detergents can break down the treat- ments used to make the material flame-re- sistant, so these fabrics must be cleaned with water and mild soap. The fabrics are also chosen for their appeal, so color and fashion trends are observed by designers in

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