



# The Packababy

Carry baby on Front, Back or Hip from birth to 4yo!

[Order the Packababy Here!](#)

The baby carrier that does EVERYTHING - wear your newborn-through-4yo on [your back](#), [your hip](#) or [your front](#).



We have baby carrier conversations on my EC list regularly; they all know how devoted I am to a good baby carrier! I've had 2 very big, very attached babies and a bad back, so I'm in favor of anything that keeps me carrying my boys :) My goal in creating the Packababy was to make THE ONLY CARRIER a mom would ever need at a price most everyone can afford. (slings are also important - even the Packababy can't totally replace the ease of a sling!) We managed to do that AND make the best carrier either of us has ever used!

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The Packababy:

- 1) holds the legs up (to give the spine that healthy "C" curve & promote healthy hip socket development)
- 2) is wearable on the back
- 3) is wearable on the front
- 4) is wearable on the hip
- 5) waist band takes the weight of the baby
- 6) newborn through a 4 YEAR old
- 7) comfortable shoulder straps
- 8) fold up small when not in use
- 9) fits most people
- 10) inexpensive
- 11) no breakable parts
- 12) intuitive and easy to use
- 13) usable by a momma alone without help
- 14) wash & dry in one normal cycle

Sound impossible? :) The Packababy has a very wide base, so baby/toddler's legs are held up all the way out to the knee. This is the optimal position for baby's development and it also keeps swinging baby legs from kicking your knees as you walk :)



It can be worn *back*, *front* and *hip*, and put on very quickly in any of those positions. Needless to say you can nurse in the hip or front position!

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Most of the weight of the baby is supported by the waist band - very important since carrying a heavy baby from straps across your shoulders can really hurt your back.

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The wide shoulder straps mean that the straps don't cut into you and make your arm go numb. If your baby is well over 20 lbs, you plan to do a lot of hiking, or if you have sensitive shoulders, order a set of removable Shoulder Pads as well for superior comfort!

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And most importantly, MOMMA CAN PUT HER BABY ON HER BACK WITHOUT HELP!!

Go [HERE](#) for illustrated Directions on how to use the Packababy!

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http://www.packababy.com/makingof.html Go

JUL 2002

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*The elegance of the Packababy lies not in any tricks cosmetic finish - it lies in the form of the design itself. It has only what it needs - strength, comfort, versatility, high quality materials and handmade love. It will carry your baby through the toddler years and beyond with unencumbered simplicity :)*

### How the Packababy is made

I'm not a seamstress - I don't like detailed sewing projects! One of the design parameters of the Packababy was that it had to be fast & easy to sew (partly for economic reasons, partly because that's how I like to sew, partly because this kind of restriction would ensure the Packababy remained \*simple\* - a functional, elegant design).

Because of this design ethic, the Packababy is not a fancy factory-made-looking product. It is of the "functional and tidy" school of sewing. We can sew them quickly because they are no-frills designs - this allows me to focus on the QUALITY and SAFETY of the design rather than on cosmetic sewing tricks. :D The simple good looks of the Packababy are due to the clean lines of the design and the use of high contrast colors (white straps & white canvas contrasting with colored fabrics on the outer shell).

We usually sew the Packababies about 10 at a time over the course of 2 evenings. We do all of one function before moving onto the next one.

Cedarwolf cuts the canvas or hemp/cotton fabrics 6 at a time with a rotary cutter (like a pizza cutter that can go through many layers of fabric). This gives us a nice uniform pattern that using scissors just can't achieve (and lets Cedar cut a lot in a short period of time - vital, since Zoe wants to dangle from Cedar's arms :P).

I then pin the Packababy bodies together - 7oz sateen unbleached canvas on one side, hemp or hemp/cotton pretty fabric on the other side. I sew these 2 pieces together using my 15yo Bernina 1010 sewing machine (all hail the Bernina - its an amazing machine!). I sew the edges with a 1/2 inch margin and leave one bottom corner open so that I can turn the fabric inside out.

When the body of the Packababy is turned right side out, I sew it a 2nd time with a 1/8 inch margin (so that the stitching goes through not just the 2 layers of fabric, but also the original 1/2 inch margin so that it won't ever unravel). Since this is the "beauty" stitching, I've had to

rapidly become better at becoming an even sewer! Now the body of the Packababy is done.

I cut the webbing into 4 yard lengths and hem the ends. I pin the webbing onto the Packababy body very carefully - the webbing must be slightly longer than the diagonal of the Packababy body (because it will curve around a 3 dimensional baby!) but still short enough to shrink a bit smaller than the Packababy body fabric (because we want the weight of the baby on the \*webbing\* not on the \*stitching\* - webbing strong, stitching can rip!).

Now I sew the webbing onto the Packababy body. Where the webbing attaches to bottom (the waist tie) I oversew the edges of the webbing twice so it will be strong. Where the webbing attaches to the top (the shoulder tie) I oversew the edges of the webbing THREE times to the Packababy body fabric, since this is the area of highest stress on the stitching.

Then the long thread bits are snipped, the Packababy is folded to fit into a Priority envelope and its done! Yea! :D

The shoulder pads are very simple - a rectangle of pill-proof polar fleece is sewn into a pocket, the high density closed cell back-pack-strap foam is tucked inside, and the remaining flap of polar fleece is sewn over to make the strap guide for the Packababy shoulder strap to slide through.

Cedarwolf addresses the envelopes, packages up the Packababies and I drive them to the post office!

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