



HOW TO MAKE A BABY CARE BAG

Sewing Instructions

JANUARY 1, 2023
BACKPACKS 4 VIC KIDS

BABY CARE BAG

REQUIREMENTS

From main fabric cut :	1 x rectangle	38" x 24 ½" (96.5cm x 62.5cm)
	2 x straps	30" x 3 ½" (76.5cm x 9cm)
	2 x zip panel strips	21" x 3 ½" (53.5cm x 9cm)
From contrast fabric cut:	Large pocket	16" x 12" (40.7cm x 30.5)
	Bottle pocket	10" x 8 ½" (25.5cm x 21.5cm)
	Inside pocket	10" x 6 ½" (25.5cm x 16.5cm)

Other accessories

5" (13cm) of narrow elastic

2 x pieces of Velcro 1" (2.5cm) long

9" (23cm) narrow ribbon (if required as zip may not have a long enough pull)

2 x pieces of wadding 30" x 1 ½" (76.5cm x 4cm)

Zip, 40cm or longer

MAKING UP POCKETS



Picture 1

Large Pocket:

Zig-zag or over lock all 4 edges (especially if fabric frays), otherwise top edge will be sufficient.

Fold and press under 1" (2.5cm) with Wrong side of fabric facing, along top edge.

Create two rows of stitching making a sealed hem along top edge of pocket just below the fold and along bottom edge of pocket.

To find middle, fold the pocket in half lengthwise, and with Wrong Sides together, mark centre point of Velcro hem with a pin.

Attach, by stitching around the piece, one side of the Velcro Pieces both 1/3rd and 2/3rds across the width of the hem on the pocket just created. (See picture 1 for reference).

Press under 3/8" (1.5cm) on the three remaining sides of pocket. (As indicated above, zig-zag or over lock fabric edges if fraying occurs).

Press with iron the 3 other sides and hold with pins in preparation for attaching to bag.

Bottle Pocket :

Zig-zag or over lock all 4 edges (especially if fabric frays), otherwise along top edge will be sufficient.

Fold and press under 3/4" (2cm) with Wrong side of fabric facing, to make the elastic casing.

Place elastic underneath this hem and sew a few stitches along one edge to hold in place. A small safety pin can be placed onto the other edge of the elastic.

Stitch along top edge just below fold line and along bottom edge of casing (being careful not to catch the elastic).

By holding safety pin push the end of the elastic to the end of the opening, creating a gathering at the top of the pocket. Stitch elastic in place. (See picture 1 for reference).

Fold and press under 3/8" (1.5cm) on the remaining 3 edges of the pocket and hold with pins.

Inside pocket :

Zig-zag or over lock all 4 edges (especially if fabric frays), otherwise along top edge will be sufficient.

Fold and press under 3/8" (1.5cm) with Wrong sides of fabric facing along the shorter (top) edge.

Stitch along top edge to make a hem.

Fold and press pocket right sides together so that the hemmed edge is 1" (2.5cm) down from the unhemmed edge.

Sew side seams of the pocket with a straight seam and zig-zag or over lock and to neaten along both sides.

Turn pocket inside out so that right side of fabric is facing out.

Fold and press under 3/8" (1.5cm) along top edge (sew a straight seam to neaten). (If desired sew a contrast bias binding along top edge of pocket when sewing to bag).



Picture 2

MAKING UP BAG

Attaching Large Pocket :

Zig-zag or over lock along top and bottom “short” edges of bag rectangle. (As with pockets, if fabric frays continue along long edges of bag rectangle.

Fold rectangle in half lengthwise, and with Wrong sides together, mark centre point with a pin

Measure down 3 ½” (9cm) from the top of bag at centre point for placement of large pocket (See picture 2 for reference).

Pin large pocket to Right side of front of bag 3 ½” (9cm) from top, matching the two centre points.

Mark positions of two remaining Velcro pieces from pocket and pin onto the bag front.

Stitch around the Velcro piece onto the bag so it will meet its other side when pocket is attached.

Join the Velcro pieces together and complete positioning of pocket with pins onto front of bag.

Stitch around pocket along the 3 sides ensuring the top corners are reinforced with backstitching or a triangle at each corner for extra strength.

Attaching Inside Pocket :

Turn bag rectangle upside down so that the bottom is now at the top.

With Right sides together, fold the bag rectangle in half lengthwise and mark the centre point with a pin.

Position the Inside Pocket 3 ½” (9cm) from the top edge and match up centre points. (See picture 3 for reference).

Stitch pocket along the upper single layer of fabric above the pocket entry. Please ensure the Bobbin thread matches the bag fabric, as the stitching will show on the outside. (As previously indicated this is where a contrasting bias binding can be used for a neater look on the inside and a decorative or Zig-zag stitch for reinforcement).



Picture 3

Making up Bag:

With Right Sides together, fold the bag rectangle in half so the two edges are together.

Zig-zag or over lock (or stitch and neaten edge) down the left side seam ONLY.

With Inside pocket facing, press seam to the left.

Open bag out so that the over locked seam is in the middle of the bag fabric and the point forms at the top of the seam. (See picture 4 for reference).



Picture 4

Sew a 5" (12.5cm) seam across the triangle, approximately 2 ½" (6cm) from top of point. This will form the base of the bag.

Cut off corner and trim with Zig-zag or over lock stitch. (See picture 5 for reference).

Turn the bag to Right side out and press the seam open.



Picture 5

Attaching Bottle Pocket :

Arrange Bag open on the end of the ironing board with the base seam at the end of the ironing board.

Pin the mid-line of the Bottle pocket to the side seam line of the bag 3" (7.5cm) up from the base seam

Pin the bottom corners 2 ½" (5cm) out from the side seam. (See picture 6 for reference).

Pin the sides of the bottle pocket from the bottom to the top, 2 ½" (5cm) from the side seam.

Fold the excess fabric at the bottom into 2 pleats facing outwards from the centre line and pin to bag.

Stitch pocket onto bag, along 3 sides with double backstitching at each side of the top for extra strength.



Picture 6

Making up other side of Bag :

Zig-zag or over lock the second side of the bag, with Right sides together.

Open out the bag as you did for the first side and create other corner for the base of the bag.

Over lock or Zig-zag to neaten edge. (See Picture 4 and 5 for reference).

Turn bag inside out and press to create base edge.

Straps :

Zigzag or over lock around all sides of both pieces.

Place a wadding strip along the middle of Wrong side of each strap.

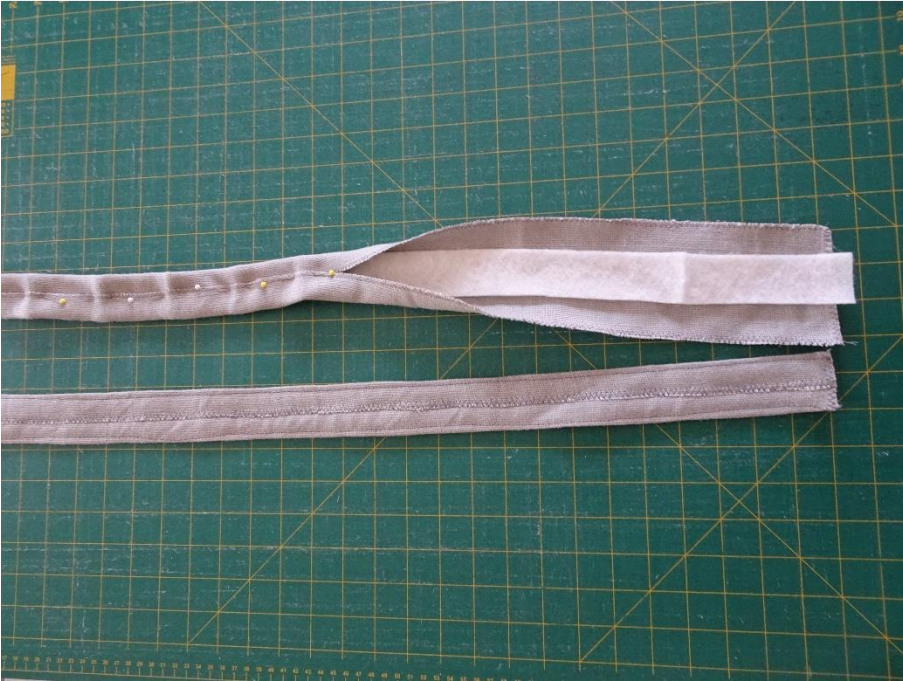
Fold and press one long side over approximately 1/4".

Fold other side towards the middle over the wadding and overlap the folded side to make a neat edge down the middle of the strap. Pin along this seam.

Using a Zig-zag stitch make a seam down the middle catching each side of the fold.

Top stitch along each side of the strap, 1/8" from the edge. (See picture 7 for reference).

Repeat steps above for second strap.



Picture 7

Attaching straps to Bag

With bag right sides out, mark the midpoint at the top edge of the front and back of bag with a pin.

Mark a point 2 ½" (6cm) from each side seam, on each end of the bag with a pin.

Mark a point 7 ½" (19cm) from each side of the mid-point with a pin.

Pin each end of strap on the front of the bag with outer edge of straps at the 7 ½" (19cm) mark.

Make a loop with the strap to ensure strap will be straight over shoulder (See picture 8 for reference).

Sew across each end of strap ¼" (2cm) from top several times, back and forth for strength.

Sew second strap to back of bag exactly by matching positions of the front strap.



Picture 8

Zipper Panel :

Zig-Zag or over lock around all four sides of zip panel fabric pieces.

With both pieces Right Sides together, place pieces on a flat surface.

Use the length measurement of your zip (40cm or longer) mark a place with a pin at both left and right hand sides so the zipper is in the middle of the two panels.

Sew a 5/8" (1.6cm) seam from the marks to the ends of the panels (See picture 9 for reference), leaving a gap for the length of the zipper.

Press open with an iron.

Pin the Zipper into place and using a zipper foot, top stitch left side of zip 1/4" (.5cm) from fold.

Pin or tack the second side of the zipper to match the first. Sew 1/4" (.5cm) out from folded edge.

For extra strength, sew a bar across zipper tapes just above and below zip opening. (See picture 10 for reference).



Picture 9



Picture 10

Attaching Zip Panel to Bag :

Lay bag on a flat surface and with Right sides together, pin one side of zip panel to bag top.

Place one end of the Zipper panel 2 1/2" (6.3 cm) from the side seam of the bag, and pin panel 5/8" (1.6cm) from the end of the zipper panel.



Picture 11

Stitch along this edge with a 3/8" (1cm) seam. When stitching through straps, backstitching can be done for extra strength. Stop stitching at the 2 1/2" (6.3cm) point at the other end of the bag. Do not stitch all the way to the end of the panel. (See picture 11 for reference).

NOTE: Open the zip before proceeding.

Turning the bag inside out with straps on the inside, will enable you to pin the other side of the Zipper panel. Stitch along the second side as above. (See picture 12 for reference)



Picture 12

Using scissors, make a small V in the corner of the bag piece almost to the end of the seam on each side.

Open out corner so that it makes a square where the end of the zip panel meets the corner of the bag. This forms the base of the bag (See picture 13 for reference)



Picture 13

Stitch carefully so that a square corner is made. Using backstitch at each end will ensure strength.

Trim seam if necessary and neaten with another row of Zigzag or over lock to ensure it doesn't fray. (See picture 14 for reference).



Picture 14

Repeat these steps for the other end of the zipper panel.

Turn bag Right side out.

Press all edges for a neat finish.

Attach a ribbon to zipper pull to make it easier to open and close. (See picture 15 for reference).



Picture 15