

Slipcovers and Hoods

How to make a slipcover
for your SSC or Mei Tai

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Add a hood to your Soft Structured Carrier (SSC) or mei tai

Some mei tai's and SSC's don't come with a hood but you can add your own. You can attach a hood directly to your carrier. Follow the hood directions (hoodie or flat) in this pattern to make your hood. To attach the hood to your carrier Velcro is probably the easiest method for a removable hood. (Follow the directions in the SSC slipcover pattern below). If you want a permanent hood you can just slipstitch it directly onto your carrier instead.

Slipcover for a SSC with removable hoodie style hood



Slipcover

Slipcover

12mm seam allowance for body 6mm for hood

Please note: If your SSC has an internal harness or infant insert a slipcover may not work as this feature will be covered. If you would like a permanent change of look make a pattern from a single piece of printed fabric by tracing your carrier (see below) press the seam allowance underneath and slip stitch on – takes forever but looks great!

Slipcover Directions

1/ Trace around your SSC, put dotted lines around the strap holes and the bottom of the carrier. If your top straps don't unbuckle fully you will have to leave a hole between the shoulder straps and the place where the webbing attaches. I just left this gap open but if you feel the hole gapes too much you could sew some press studs, Velcro or snaps on after the slipcover is finished.

2/ Add seat darts, if applicable, in the same place as your SSC and about the same length – don't skip this or you will lose the nice pocket for your baby's bum that darts create. You will need to add the dimensions of the darts to the side of your pattern otherwise the cover will be narrower than the carrier once you sew in the darts. I just worked out the darts on a separate piece of paper and stuck it onto the bottom of my paper pattern. Here are the dimensions of my darts – 10cm x 10.5cm x 2.5cm. The line closest to the fold line is straight and the second is at a slight angle. If you want to match your darts more exactly there will be a wedge of fabric inside the carrier where the darts are - feel the edges with your fingers, put some pins in for reference, and measure this.

3/ Add a seam allowance to your carrier outline and you now have a pattern to work from. I like to cut the pattern in half so both sides are exactly even - cut on the fold.



Slipcover pattern with added darts

4/ Cut out 2 pieces of fabric using your pattern. If using two prints make sure they coordinate –if you have a curved top that folds down the opposite side will show.

5/ Mark and sew darts – fold and pin so you have a triangle of fabrics, then sew along your marked line. Press the triangles to the centre.



An example of darts from another project - toddler not included!

6/ Add Velcro to one side of the slipcover to attach your detachable hood to later. Place around the level of the top of shoulder straps and perhaps slightly lower if you don't want Velcro to show it you have a curved top that folds down.



Placement of Velcro (plus another photo of my toddler's foot - it's hard to take photos when she is awake!)

7/ Hem strap holes and the open bottom edges.



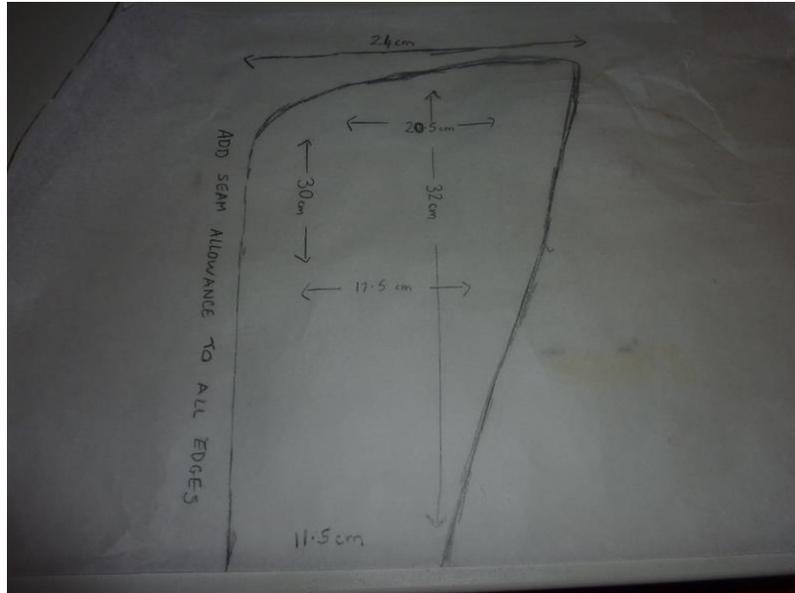
Iron and pin hems



Hemming is finished with the area between strap and buckle left open

Detachable hoodie style hood

1/ Make a pattern – the easiest way is to trace a hoodie top. The dimensions of my hoodie (folded in half) were roughly – 19.5cm (width) x 32cm (height) at widest and tallest points and 11.5cm at the narrowest point –excludes seam allowance. Contour the sides of the hood if desired.



Hood pattern

2/ Also cut 2 hood straps 5cm x 46cm and four hood ties 5cm x 7.5cm. Hood ties are optional. You can just wind the hood straps around the straps of your carrier instead.

3/ Cut four hood shapes in a plain fabric to match your straps or carrier panel or cut 2 in a print and 2 from a solid colour.

4/ Pin two of the hoodie shapes together right sides together. Repeat with the other two pieces. Sew around the sides leaving the front and bottom open.



Pinned and ready to sew

5/ Make hood straps. Press one end under 12mm, then iron the hood straps in half lengthwise so both raw edges meet in the middle. Fold again so there is a fold on one side and the open edge on the other. Topstitch to close the open edge. Assemble the hood ties in the same way but press both ends under by 12mm before folding.

6/ Fit one hoodie shape inside the other right sides together. Place the hood ties then pin around the edge. Most of the tie will be hidden inside the hood with about 12mm sticking out.



Fit one shape inside the other



Pin the hood tie in place

7/ Sew around all edges leaving turning hole on the bottom edge.

8/ Turn right side out and press.

9/ Topstitch around the hood to close the turning hole.

10/ Add Velcro on the bottom edge of the hood.

11/ Add Velcro to the carrier. Place the Velcro around the level of the top of the shoulder straps - perhaps slightly lower. Otherwise, the Velcro will show if you have a curved top that folds down. Slipstitch in place.

12/ Stitch the hood ties in place around 18cm from where the shoulder strap meets the body.



Placement of Velcro



Velcro sewn just below the top of the shoulder straps.

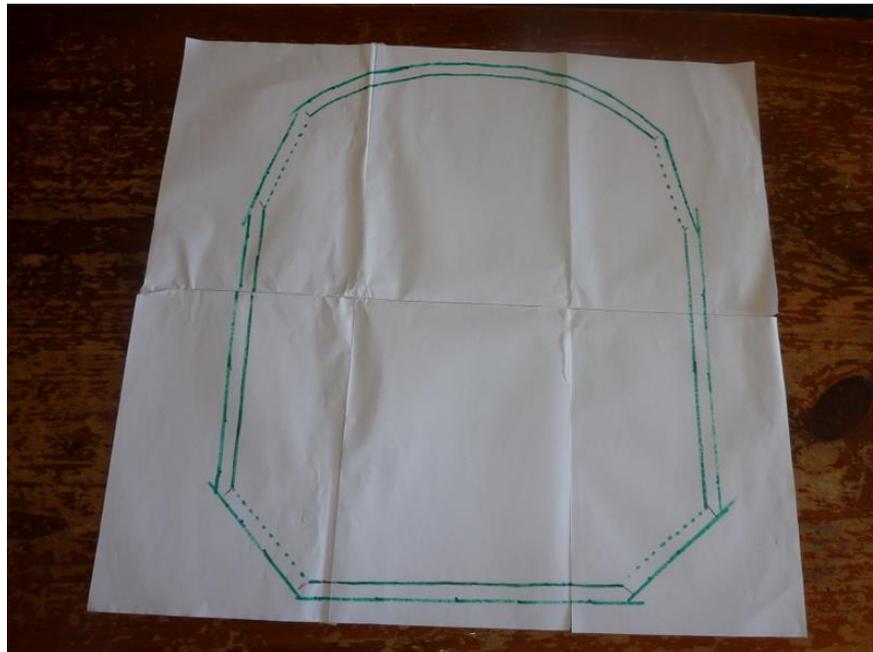
Mei tai slipcover with flat hood

12mm seam allowance for body and 6mm for hood



Slipcover

1/ Trace around your carrier, noting where the straps holes are then add a seam allowance all around. If you mei tai has a hood you could include a hole for the slipcover to go over it (depending on placement) or you can ignore it and make a new hood. If you mei tai has seat darts see the above section about SSC slipcovers for more information. You will also need to leave a hole large enough on the bottom to thread your mei tai into the slipcover (not shown).



Pattern including seam allowance

2/ Cut the sides of your slipcover in coordinating fabrics.

3/ Add Velcro to one side of the hood (if you would like a detachable hood). Place Velcro just below the level of the top of the shoulder straps. Alternatively you can sew the hood onto the slipcover before you sew the two pieces together. If your carrier has a curved top sew it to one side of the slipcover. If you have a flat top edge you can sew the hood directly into the top seam. If you would like a hoodie style hood see the SSC slipcover pattern for details. Details of the flat hood are given below. For a flat hood cut two pieces of fabric. I used the dimensions given below but check the width of the hood against your mei tai width to make sure it fits neatly between the shoulder straps.

4/Details of the flat hood.



- a- Dimension cut two pieces of fabric (two plain or one plain, one patterned) 25.2cm x 33cm. You can leave the hood square or taper the short side and slightly curve the top edge. Sew the two pieces right side together with a 6mm seam allowance. Leave the base open or leave a hole for turning if you want to make a hood to fit a curved top mei tai or detachable hood. After turning the hood right side out iron the seam allowance inwards on your turning hole. Choose one side of slipcover and sew the hood just below the level of the top of the shoulder straps.
- b- If you mei tai has a flat top edge continue to step 5, and after hemming the strap holes lay one slipcover side right side up and place the bottom open edge of the hood against the top edge of your slipcover, place the second slipcover piece right side down on top of the stack and pin all edges together.

5/ Hem the strap holes and leave a hole on the bottom large enough to insert your mei tai. You can hem the holes as a last step but hemming first gives a neater finish

6/ /Right sides together sew the cover together to complete your slipcover.

Enjoy your mei tai's new look!