

# Woven Wraps

**Also referred to as:** wraps, wovens, non-stretchy wraps

**Good for:** front carries (all ages), hip carries (babies with trunk control), back carries (with experience only, all ages)

**Learning curve:** steep

**Weight limit:** unlimited



**Didymos LISCA Rainbow  
Robins Hip Carry**  
Image sourced from 5mr.com



**Wrapsody Hybrid MEIRA Stretch Wrap  
Double Hammock Back Carry**  
Image sourced from 5mr.com



**Fidella Persian Paisley Smoke Wrap  
Front Wrap Cross Carry**  
Image sourced from 5mr.com

## Description:

A long parallelogram (either rectangular or with parallel tapers) of woven (non-stretchy) fabric.

## How to use:

Wrapped around baby and wearer and tied off with either a double (square) knot or a slip knot. Dozens of different ways to wrap.

## Types:

**Handwoven:** Woven by hand. Higher quality, more “beauty marks”, more expensive.

**Machine woven:** Made to look like a handwoven. Fewer “imperfections,” cheaper.

**Hybrid:** includes stretch from rail to rail (no stretch from end to end.) Still safe for back carries.

**DIY:** Made from store-bought fabric such as cotton duck, osnaburg, or a repurposed tablecloth.

## Sizing:

Available in numerous sizes from a size 1 (2 meters long) up to a size 8 (5.6 meters long) or longer. All sizes are usable with nearly any size wearer or child. Wrap length determines what carries can be done. Most beginners learn with a “base size” wrap - whatever size is needed to wrap a Front Wrap Cross Carry. For an average sized woman, this is a size 6 (4.6 meters.)

# Stretchy Wraps

- Also referred to as:** wraps, stretchies, Moby-style, Boba-style, Ktan
- Good for:** front carries (small babies), hip carries (small babies)
- Learning curve:** easy/moderate
- Weight limit:** rated up to ~35lbs, usually saggy & uncomfortable past 15lbs



**MOBY Wrap Classic  
Front Carry**  
Image sourced from MobyWrap.com



**Baby K'tan ORIGINAL**  
Image sourced from babyktan.com



**MOBY Wrap Classic  
Hip Hold**  
Image sourced from 5mr.com

## Description:

**A long parallelogram (either rectangular or with parallel tapers) of stretchy/knit fabric.  
OR three separate loops/bands that pass around baby.**

## How to use:

**Wrapped around baby and wearer three times and tied off with either a double (square) knot.  
Only a few different ways to wrap since they need three separate passes over baby for safety.**

## Types:

**The most common type is a long strip of fabric such as a Moby, Boba or Solly brand stretchy wrap.**

**Ktans are also stretchy but the three passes are three separate pieces of fabric instead of one continuous one.**

## Sizing:

**A Ktan style must be carefully sized to the parent for proper support.**

**A Moby/Boba style wrap is typically a one-size-fits-all, although some brands offer extra plus-size lengths.**

# Ring Slings

Also referred to as:

slings, RSs

Good for:

front carries (all ages), hip carries (older babies)  
back carries (older toddlers, advanced users only)

Learning curve:

easy/moderate

Weight limit:

rings rated to 250 pounds, slings weighted to +/-60lbs



Beco Ring Sling  
Gathered Shoulder  
Image sourced from becobabycarrier.com



ComfortFit Sling  
Maya ComfortFit Shoulder  
Image sourced from mayawrap.com



Lenny Lamb Blue Princessa Wrap Conversion RS  
Pleated Shoulder  
Image sourced from 5mr.com

## Description:

Typically 2-3 yards of woven (non-stretchy) fabric (or even converted from a purpose-woven baby-wearing woven wrap), folded through 2 metal or nylon rings and secured with 2-3 lines of stitching. The fabric passing through the rings may be gathered, pleated, or folded in a number of different ways.

## How to use:

The rings are worn on the shoulder/collarbone area and the fabric extends over the shoulder, across the back, and under the opposite arm. The fabric is threaded up through both rings, then down over one ring and under the other. The fabric is tightened by simply pulling it through the rings (like an 80s style D-ring belt)

## Types:

The most common shoulder types are gathered shoulders or pleated shoulders, or a hybrid eesti shoulders. Some brands include a padded rail or shoulder.

## Sizing:

Ring slings are sized for the wearer, although sizing is incredibly flexible, depending on how much tail the wearer wants hanging through the rings. 12" of tail is the minimum for safety and what some wearers prefer. Others prefer long hip-length or even knee-length tails that can be used as a breastfeeding cover, burp cloth, or wrapped around the rings to cushion them.

Longer RSs can be used by advanced users for other wrap-style as well, such as a ruck "tied" at the shoulder with the rings.

# Mei Tai

**Also referred to as:**

**MT, WC MT (Wrap Conversion MT), WS MT (Wrap Strap MT)**

**Good for:**

**front carries (all ages), hip carries (older babies)  
back carries (all ages, before sitting recommended for advanced wearers only)**

**Learning curve:**

**easy**

**Weight limit:**

**varies by brand, infant size usually around 30lbs**



**Infantino Sash Mei Tai**  
Padded straps  
Image sourced from [infantino.com](http://infantino.com)



**Half Buckle Wrap Conversion Mei Tai with hood**  
Image sourced from [etsy.com/shop/obimama](http://etsy.com/shop/obimama)



**Fidella Fly Tai Blossom Bubble Gum**  
Padded-to-wrap straps  
Image sourced from [fidella.org](http://fidella.org)

## Description:

A basic traditional mei tai is simply a rectangle of fabric with straps attached to all four corners. Modern MTs often add padding to the straps closest to the panel or some structure/darts to the panel. Wrap Strap MTs have wide, wrap-like straps that offer more support and can be used for fancy finishes. A Ring Waist MT has one of the bottom straps replaced with double sling rings to secure like a RS. A half buckle MT replaces the bottom straps with a buckle waistband.

## How to use:

The bottom two straps are tied around the waist, the baby is placed into the panel, and the top straps come up over the shoulders (sometimes crossing the wearer's body) and tie off.

## Types:

Modern MTs often add padding to the straps closest to the panel or some structure/darts to the panel. Wrap Strap MTs have wide, wrap-like straps that offer more support and can be used for fancy finishes. A Ring Waist MT has one of the bottom straps replaced with double sling rings to secure like a RS. A half buckle MT replaces the bottom straps with a buckle waistband.

## Sizing:

Mei Tais are sized for the baby and come in infant, toddler and preschool sizes. For newborns, an infant MT sometimes still needs the bottom of the panel cinched to make it narrower. Plus-size wearers may prefer a MT with longer straps (such as a Wrap Strap MT) but the panel size is not adjusted based on the wearer's size.

# Onbuhimo (& variations)

Also referred to as:

Onbu (Variations: reverse onbu or ruck-bu, buckle-bu, x-bu)

Good for:

back carries (older sitting babies only)  
front carries (possible but not highly recommended,  
older sitting babies only)

Learning curve:

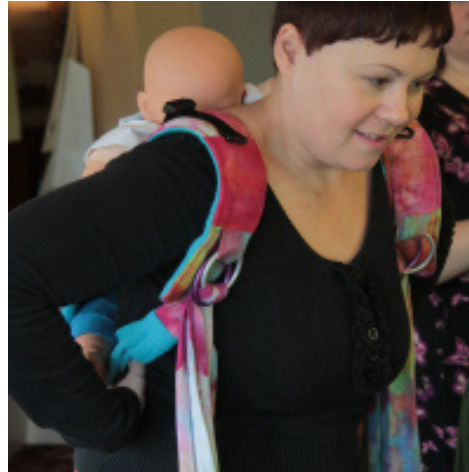
moderate

Weight limit:

varies



Traditional Onbuhimo  
Image sourced from [cherryberrybaby.co.uk](http://cherryberrybaby.co.uk)



Reverse Onbu/RuckBu  
Image sourced from [cherryberrybaby.co.uk](http://cherryberrybaby.co.uk)



SewToot BuckleBu  
Image sourced from [etsy.com/shop/sewtoot](http://etsy.com/shop/sewtoot)

## Description:

A Japanese carrier, an onbuhimo has a vaguely rectangular body panel with straps on the top two corners and loops or rings (single or double) on the bottom corners.

## How to use:

The baby is worn arms out on the back with the top straps going over the wearer's shoulders like backpack straps, threading through the rings/loops at the bottom corners, and tying off in a number of ways.

## Types:

A Reverse Onbu/"Ruck-Bu" is an onbu variation in which the straps are on the bottom and the top corners instead have double rings (sometimes on short padded straps). The long straps come under baby's legs, up in front of the shoulder and thread through the double rings like a ring sling.

A Buckle-Bu/On-buckle is a modified buckle carrier with no waistband. The top and bottom corners of the panel come around like backpack straps and attach with buckles or ladder locks. These often include a chest clip.

An "X-Bu" is an uncommon variation constructed like two narrow ring slings crossing at anywhere from 45 degrees to a right angle near the rings and sewn together. Where the two slings intersect forms the "panel" of the X-bu. It can be worn with double rings on top (like a Ruck-Bu) or with double or single rings on the bottom (like a traditional onbu.)

## Sizing:

Onbu panels are sized for the baby and can be made in infant, toddler, or preschool sizes.

# Soft Structured Carriers

**Also referred to as:** SSC, buckle carrier, full buckle

**Good for:** front carries (all ages), hip carries (some models)  
back carries (sitting babies only, not all models)  
forward facing (not all models)

**Learning curve:** easy

**Weight limit:** varies by brand, infant carriers usually around 30 lbs



Ergobaby Original Baby Carrier Teal  
Ergonomic Carrier, Front Carry  
Image sourced from ergobaby.com



Tula Toddler Carrier - Trendsetter Navy  
Ergonomic Carrier, Back Carry  
Image sourced from tulababy carriers.com



BabyBjorn Miracle Carrier  
Narrow Based Carrier, Forward Facing  
Image sourced from johnlewis.com

## Description:

A structured panel with backpack-style straps with buckles and/or ladder locks, a buckle waist band and usually a chest clip.

## How to use:

Worn with straps around the shoulders and waist belt buckled around the waist.

## Types:

Ergonomic carriers have a wide-bottomed panel that holds the baby's legs in a comfortable "M" position with the weight distributed well. These often cannot be used for forward facing.

Narrow based carriers or NBCs (unfortunately referred to by the derogatory term "Crotch Danglers") have a narrower base to the panel so the baby's legs hang down instead of in an M position. Some NBCs lack the waist belt as well. These tend to be less comfortable long term for baby and wearer, but despite popular belief have never been shown to cause hip dysplasia or any other health issues in otherwise healthy babies. NBCs often fit newborns better without a necessary insert than ergonomic carriers and can forward face. Some carriers can convert from a NBC to an ergonomic setting in order to adapt to different age babies and different carry positions.

## Sizing:

SSCs are sized for the baby. They come in infant, toddler, and preschooler sizes. Newborns and smaller babies may need an insert in order to be properly supported in an infant size.