

## Making a Baby Car Seat Cover

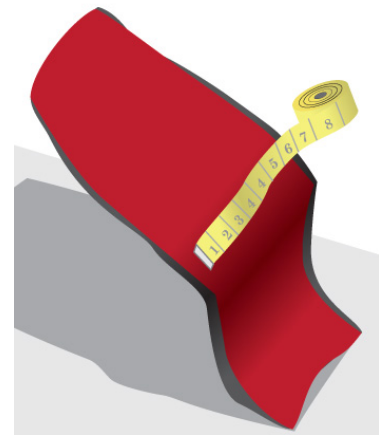
### Things You'll Need

- One and a half yards of fabric
- Two packages of matching double-fold hem binding
- Two yards of ¼-inch elastic
- Measuring tape
- Dressmaker's pencil
- Sewing machine and thread
- Pins
- Safety pin
- Scissors
- Craft knife



### What to Do

1. Remove the existing cover from the car seat. You'll be using this as a pattern for making your cover. The existing cover will have three main pieces: a center strip that the baby sits on and two side pieces that wrap around the outside of the seat.
2. Turn the existing cover inside out and fold it in half. Tuck the side pieces into the center strip so only the center strip is showing.
3. Measure this strip at its widest point, and fold your fabric over to create a double layer of the same size. Place the original cover on top of your fabric, lining up the folded edges of both.
4. Cut around the original cover, leaving about an inch of extra space on all sides. Don't worry; this doesn't have to be exact. You just need the general shape.
5. Measure the width and length of the side pieces of the original cover. This can be tricky, since they are often held on with elastic, but once again, you don't need to be exact. You'll be fitting the cover to the car seat in a few minutes. Add two inches to your measurements.
6. Create a double layer of your fabric in the same size as the side pieces. Place your center piece on top to use as a guide for the adjoining seams. Cut a double-layered piece that has the appropriate dimensions. This will give you the two side pieces.



7. Place the original cover back on the car seat. Lay the center piece on top of it, face down. Pin each side piece to the center piece and smooth the cover down. Adjust the pins to make both seams lie flat.
8. Check to see if you need to go around a carrying bar. If you do, carefully trim the fabric to the appropriate shape around the bar. You'll be adding elastic later, so don't worry about the rest of the outer edges.
9. Sew the two seams you pinned. Trim the excess fabric to about half an inch.
10. Turn the cover right side out and place it on top of the seat. Use the dressmaker's pencil to mark the location of the slots for the straps. Remove the cover and make sure the spots are even on both sides.
11. Use a craft knife to cut the slots to the appropriate width.
12. Pin the hem binding around the raw edges of the slots and sew in place. Be sure to turn over the ends of the binding so there aren't any raw edges.
13. Place the cover face-down and trim the outside edges to even them up. Don't remove much of the fabric. You just need an even line to work with.
14. Pin hem binding all around the outer edges and sew in place.
15. Roll the bound edges toward the back about an inch and pin in place all the way around. Starting at the center bottom, sew all the way around to create a channel for your elastic. Stop about an inch before you reach the place you started sewing.
16. Place a safety pin through the end of the elastic. Using the safety pin as a guide, thread the elastic through the channel you created. Use care not to lose the end of the elastic in the channel.
17. Put the cover on the seat over the existing cover. Adjust the elastic to give it a good fit. Pin the elastic in place and remove the cover.
18. Sew the two ends of the elastic together and trim the excess. Sew up the open area of the channel.
19. Put the cover on the seat for a final check.

