

I've seen quite a few people say that they're intimidated by the thought of making diapers. I had DH snap pictures as I made a diaper last night hoping that seeing the steps of the process might be helpful for someone...

First, I have to thank Erin (ekortering) for her diaper draft-along. I made this pattern for a friend's daughter using Erin's very clear instructions.

Getting ready to sew: I trace my pattern onto a thick piece of paper and punch holes all along the elastic placement lines and where the snaps will go. Here you can see me tracing the perimeter of the diaper pattern with a water-soluble marker. I also stick my marker in the punched holes to note elastic and snap placement.



I cut approximately 1/4 - 3/8" outside of the outline. Not shown are the hidden middle layer (I prefer interlock for this) and the inner (velour). On the hidden layer, I don't make any marks, on the inner layer I trace the outline and sometimes note soaker placement as well.



Cutting the soaker pad. This is a thin-ish sherpa and I used 4 layers.



Sewing ~ My photographer got distracted watching the OC and didn't get pics of me serging the soaker together. I find it faster and easier to round the corners of the soaker. Here I am sewing the two long sides to the inner layer of the diaper.



Now the soaker is sewn in and here the three diaper pieces are stacked together. Outer print on top, hidden middle in the middle and inner layer right-side down on the bottom (i.e. the way you want them in the finished diaper).



Elastic ~ I'm using lastin (I can only recommend the 3/8" heavyweight lastin, the other widths and thicknesses I've used have all broken) so I've got the machine set up for a 3-step zigzag. It's at the shortest stitch length so I can tack down the beginning of the elastic.



Now that it's tacked, I adjust the machine to the longest 3-step zigzag, pull the elastic and sew. Experiment with your elastic to see how much you need to pull to get the desired amount of gathering. Here's where having traced the outline is helpful, I use the marks on the outer and inner to make sure the pieces are all lined up properly as I'm sewing the elastic in.



When you get to the end, tack the elastic at that side and then (and only then) cut your elastic.



Once all the elastic is in, it's time to serge. I start in an unobtrusive area in the middle of a leg curve. Aim the blade at the outline and begin serging.



When you're serging next to elastic, pull the elastic so the diaper's flat not gathered. You don't want to stretch the fabric out, just pull it to it's pre-gathered size.



Continue to readjust your layers as necessary to make sure they're lining up properly as you serge.



Sometimes going around the curves can be tricky. If you're having trouble making a turn, you can stop with your needles down in the fabric, lift the presser foot and slightly reposition the fabric.



The serged diaper.



Applying snaps.



The finished product.

