

Cuddle Close Mei Tai Instructions



CuddleClose™

Cupcakes & Mudpies Babygear

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How to put on your Meï Tai



1. Tie bottom straps around waist like an apron. The wrong side of the carrier will be facing out (The Cuddle Close label facing out)



2. Pick up your baby as if you were going to carry them out the front and wrap his legs around your waist. His bottom should be lower than his knees. (See the Tips section at the end for more hints, and for newborn positioning.) Give your baby a kiss and a smile.



3. Pull body of MT up and place straps over your shoulders. I find it helps to bounce your bub a little to pull the carrier up nice and high and to get a comfy position.



4. Grab straps and cross them across back making sure they are nice and flat. A scrunched up strap or one that is high up on your neck will be uncomfortable.

5. Tighten the straps. A good way to do that is as you pull a strap tighter once again bounce the baby at the same time. Don't be afraid to make the straps fairly tight. The tighter they are the more comfortable the carrier will be. The MT is meant to be a snug fit for you and baby. **TIP. Your baby is meant to be sitting up high on your chest and not hanging down low. The tighter the straps the higher baby will sit and the lighter your baby will seem.**

6. Tie straps in a knot. If you are putting baby's legs into the carrier (newborn) you MUST tie the straps at the middle of his back for security. (first picture) this also closes the gap and creates a more complete pouch for your newborn. I also find this tie is handy if bub is tired and you may wish him to sleep as it brings legs are out as in the second picture you can tie under the bottom by either going under the legs as shown and tie well under the bottom. (this tie adds extra lift and makes the carrier feel even lighter. Or put the ties over the bub's legs (or knees really) and tie under the bottom. Because the Cuddle Close has wide straps that extend down into the sides it creates a more secure side opening with a smaller gap allowing for either tie to feel secure. Experiment with the one that allows the most safety for your bub.

You may have to readjust a bit at first. This is totally normal so don't sweat it. Once you are experienced wearing your baby it will come a lot easier.

Tips and Hints for Your Cuddle Close Meí Tai



Newborn tips: Fold front over if your baby is a newborn (or is still small/shorter in the body.) This also closes the gap on the side. With a young baby, the body might also be rather wide. You can do a few of the following things. Because the Meí Tai is designed to imitate your arms carrying your baby close on your chest, I find wrapping a newborn first in a wrap or muslin as you would to carry in your arms (pic 2) and then popping into the carrier works perfectly as baby usually has his legs naturally in the "froggy" position. (pic 3) With a newborn you can also put the carrier on first and tie on slightly loosely to create the pouch first, then tuck baby's legs into the MT in the "froggy" position as if you were cuddling him to your chest and then tighten the straps to bring him as close as possible to your chest. An alternative that some prefer the half frog with one leg tucked in and one leg out.

The Cuddle Close Meí Tai's is made with wide straps for a reason. With narrow straps, no matter how padded they are, after awhile they tend to dig into your shoulders, even with a very light weigh baby (8kg at 8 months). The look of the narrow straps when the straps are across the chest make anyone look busty in a bad way, to put it politely. The wide straps hug the shoulders better and do not dig in at all and they look very nice spread across a bust when baby is in a back carry.

Baby should have his bottom lower than his legs in a MT. When you have baby in the carrier and it's all tied, pull his knees up a bit (roughly 90 degrees) This is a good position for his posture and his hips and I find it very comfy for you too.

For a sleeping or newborn baby you may find that their head is not as close to your body as you would like. The wider you place the straps on your shoulders the narrower the gap will be. It is ok to roll the outside edges near your shoulder under to get them to go out wider. Make sure the straps are also pulled as tight as you can go without any slack. If need be place a small baby wrap folded or rolled behind your babies head and the carrier to take up the space. Make sure if you do this that your babies face is not obstructed. (Pic 4)

Give a baby time to get used to being worn, especially older babies. Try a MT for the first time when baby is fed and rested and pretty happy. Always kiss your baby before and during handling and placing in the carrier, it tells your baby that it is something you are doing together and not something being done to him. Once baby is in start moving around. Pat his back, talk to him and make it fun. Give it a little time for both of you to get used to it.

Safety

The Cuddle Close Mai Tai has wide top straps that extend down the side of the body. This allows less space for baby to slip through but there is still a gap. For smaller babies it is very important to tie the straps back to the middle of the babies back for added security, or over the legs rather than under the bottom. As the straps extend down and are wider than other brands this will almost enclose your baby completely.

As you get used to using your carrier please get into the habit of placing your hands onto your babies back to add reassurance and to train your mummy brain to baby wear with safety.

Remember safety. Your cuddle close Carrier is made with due care and consideration. Please check all stitching and fabric for any tears or rips and don't use if there are any faults. With constant wear and frequent washing it is important to always check all your straps before tying.

Do not tie bows and only tie knots.

Remember that once you are wearing your baby he becomes an extension of your own body so be careful when bending lifting and moving through doorways etc, so that you don't unintentionally knock your baby into anything.

Please be careful when wearing your baby and do not wear your baby riding a bike, skateboard, ice skating etc (for obvious reasons) or travelling in the car (even more obvious and illegal) Let common sense prevail and if you have to stop and think about it it's probably not a good idea.

Do not wear your baby while cooking, or BBQ in the front carry position. Be mindful of all your straps and tails that may be hanging down and may cause an accident. Please be careful in the back carry position when preparing food. Also be aware of overhanging objects when in the back carry.

Care Instructions

The cuddle Close is made from 100% cotton including the padding. Cold wash/cold rinse. Do not soak or bleach. Gentle machine wash. Do not wring. Do not use a dryer. May be drip dried.

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