

Wool diaper cover

Size 0-8 months and 10-24 months



Background:

In the old days, when there were no disposable diapers, moms used wool diaper covers, which were warm, soft and gentle on the baby's skin. The wool diaper cover was worn over a cloth diaper to keep the baby's clothes dry. The concept of wool diaper covers is old and well-known in various cultures all over the world. Wool diaper covers are still a perfectly feasible option in this day and age!

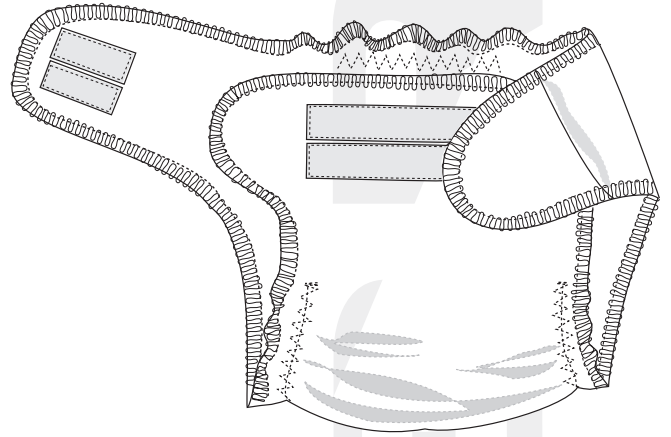
The performance of wool diaper covers is based on the unique properties of untreated 100%

wool: it is highly absorbent, breathable, greasy and dirt-repellent, and it keeps temperatures fairly constant. Wool can absorb liquid up to **40% of its weight** without feeling wet. Wool is breathable even when damp, allowing air to circulate and preventing the baby's bum from getting damp. Thanks to the wool diaper cover, a damp diaper stays at the same temperature as the body, and the baby won't feel cold even out of doors in winter.

The diaper cover is made from wool roving, which is chemically untreated, unspun pre-yarn. Roving is made from the wool of Finnish sheep that are grazed on clean pastures. Roving contains large quantities of natural **wool grease, i.e. lanolin**. Lanolin is removed in the regular wool-making process and used in cosmetics to produce for example skin creams. The greasiness of the yarn is essential for the performance of the diaper cover and for it being gentle on the skin.

Wool contains keratin – the same protein that is present in the human skin. Therefore wool is a natural choice for a material to be worn close to the baby's sensitive skin. Wool roving is soft and long-fibered, and it has not undergone unnecessary chemical treatments. Natural-white roving has not been dyed or moth-proofed. It is advisable to wash the finished garment lightly before use in order to remove the spinning oil that has been added during the spinning process.

Natural diapering



Natural diapering is an ecological alternative. A single diaper-age child produces nearly 1,000 kilos of disposable-diaper waste that ends up in landfills, and therefore by choosing reusable diapers you will protect the environment for your child's future.

It's easy!

A wool diaper cover is worn over a reusable fitted cloth diaper or over a flat cloth diaper and panties. It is advisable to have enough diapers for three days' use, bearing in mind that you will change the diaper on a newborn baby on average eight times and on an older child five to six times a day.

A reusable cotton cloth diaper is easy to make. Print out a free pattern and instructions from our website:

www.ottobredesign.com

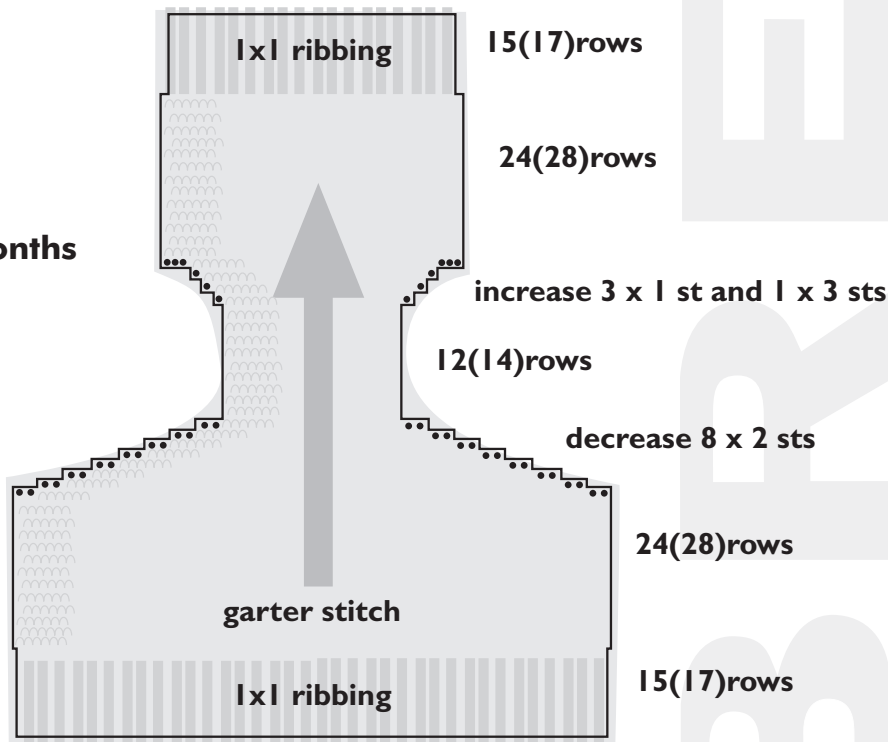
**Order
WOOL ROVING !**

**Email your order to:
ottobre@ottobre.fi**

**In U.S.A.
www.genopalette.com**

Knitting instructions

Size 0-8 months and 10-24 months



MATERIALS:

- 70-90 g wool roving**
- pair of long knitting needles, 5-6 mm (US8-US10)
- thin wool yarn for sewing seams
- 100 cm colored polyester or cotton ribbon for waist
- large tapestry needle (blunt-point darning needle)

Tip! The knitting should be **loose and soft** because wool felts up with wear, causing the diaper cover to shrink slightly. Before starting to knit the actual garment, knit a swatch and adjust your knitting gauge to correspond to that of the pattern.

**If wool roving is not available, you can use some other untreated 100% wool yarn, making sure that the gauge corresponds to the gauge given in the pattern.

Knitting with roving: One puck of roving makes two diaper covers. When casting on, you can carry regular cotton sewing thread with the roving if the roving tends to break. Do not tie the broken ends of yarn in knots but twist them together between moistened fingers. While knitting, roving comes off the center of the puck in two strands.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Pattern stitch:

- ribbing: knit 1, purl 1 (k1, p1) rib
- panty section: loose-knit garter stitch

Gauge over garter stitch pattern:

- 12-13 stitches = 10 cm
- 22-24 rows = 10 cm

Knit also the first stitch of each row, in order to produce edges that are easy to join with seams.

Start knitting at the back waist. Cast on 42(46) stitches. Work 15 (17) rows in k1, p1 rib. Work 24(28) rows in garter stitch. You have now knitted the back until the decreases for the crotch. See illustration.

Bind off 2 stitches at the beginning of the next 8 rows, i.e. at both edges of the work. Bind off loosely, so that the leg openings will not be too tight.

After decreases, you are left with 10(14) **stitches on the needle**. On these stitches, continue working 12(14) rows in garter stitch for the crotch area.

Start increasing for the front. At both edges of the work, increase 1 stitch at the beginning of the next 3 rows. Then, also at both edges of the work, cast on 3 stitches once at the end of the row, using a loop cast on. You have now added 6 stitches at each edge of the work and have 22(26) stitches on the needle.

On these stitches, work 24(28) rows in garter stitch. Work 15(17) rows in k1, p1 rib and bind off loosely.

Pick up 32(36) stitches along the leg openings and work 6 rows in k1, p1 rib. Bind off loosely.

Sew the front seams with a mattress stitch using regular wool yarn. Thread ribbon to the waist using a tapestry needle.

Care instructions for a wool diaper cover:

A damp diaper cover is **air-dried** in a well-ventilated area after use. Poop stains are washed off in water using a detergent that doesn't remove grease.

The best detergent for wool is **Marseille soap or wool-washing liquid**. Rub the detergent gently on a damp garment and leave on for a short while before washing. Wash the garment by squeezing it in tepid water. You can add a drop of white vinegar in the final rinse water in

order to soften the garment.

Roll the diaper cover in a towel to remove excess water and dry it flat on a well-ventilated surface. **Do not use regular washing powder because it will remove the wool grease, making the diaper cover hard.**

The wool diaper cover needs to be washed about once in three weeks, in addition to regular airing after use. When the diaper cover has been in use for a long time, it may need to

be treated with natural lanolin in order to recover the greasiness of the wool.

For regular use, the baby needs 3-4 diaper covers. A wool diaper cover is worn over a fitted cotton cloth diaper or over a flat cloth diaper and panties.

You will find a pattern and instructions for a fitted flannel cloth diaper on our website.

www.ottobredesign.com