

STITCHIN' for KIDS

FROM OUR HEARTS & HANDS TO YOURS

Car Carrier

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The car carrier is a fun way for young children to store new small cars such as Hot Wheels and Matchbox. The carrier unfolds to show parking spaces for cars, a highway, a country road and a local road with driveways.

These instructions are written for volunteers of the Stitchin' for Kids project to make the carriers as gifts for youngsters in hospitals.

Requirements:

Fabric:

- **Outside** (car or road related prints work well) – 3/4 yard
- **Inside**
 - **Roads and Highway** (black denim) – 1/4 yard
 - **Pocket Garages (coordinates with outside fabric)** – 1/4 yard
 - **Pocket Garage Background (coordinates with outside fabric and garage)** – 1/4 yard
 - **Park and Driveway Sides (green fabric)** – 1/8" yard
 - **Highway (striped black and white fabric)** – 1/8 yard
- **For Closure** Elastic - 20 inches

Scissors, regular

Thread – black and white

Pins

Rotary cutter and mat

Double Needle – if you have one; see note at Step 6

Assumptions:

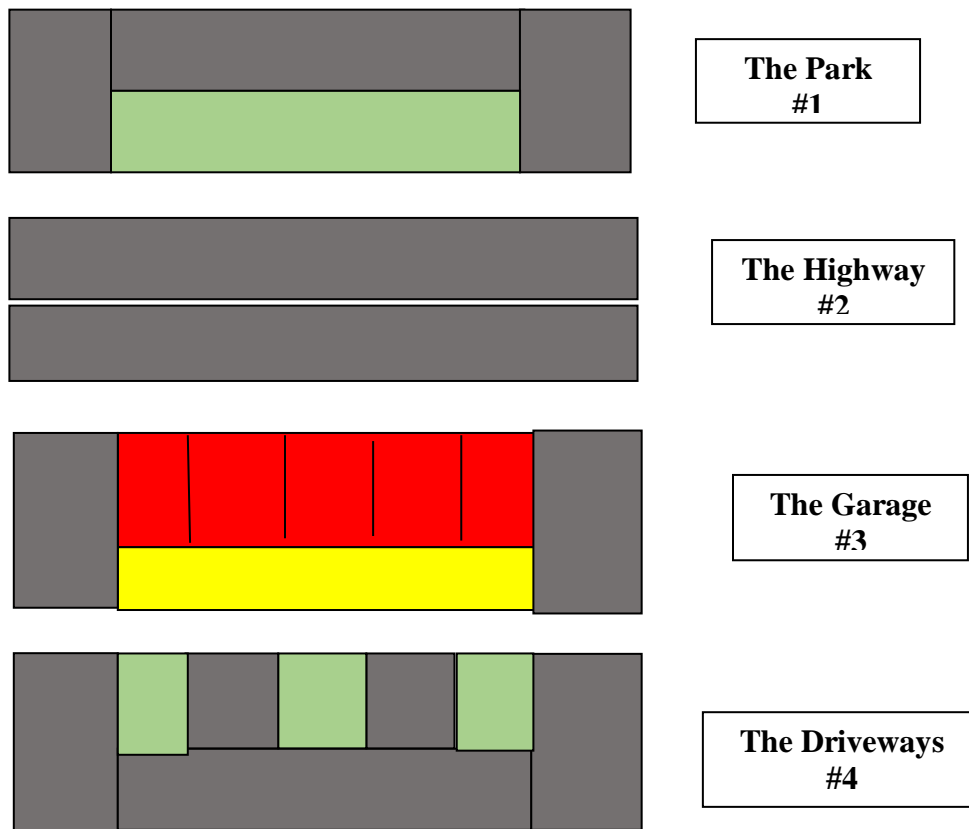
All seams are 1/4 inch.

Preparation: (PRE-WASH ALL FABRIC – Denim will shrink)

- Cut **outside** piece (car fabric): 24 1/2" high by 19" wide
- Cut **road** pieces from denim
 - Highway: 6 1/2" high by 19" wide
 - Driveways: 3 1/2" square (cut two)
 - Road edges: 6 1/2" by 3 1/2" (cut six)
 - Top and bottom road edges: 13" by 3 1/2"
- Cut **garage pockets** piece: 9" high by 13" wide
- Cut **garage pocket background**: 6 1/2" high by 13" wide
- Cut **park piece (green fabric)**: 3 1/2" high by 13" wide
- Cut **driveway surrounds (green fabric)**
 - 3 1/2" square (1 piece)
 - 3 1/2" high by 2 1/4" wide (2 pieces)
- Cut **middle strip of highway (striped fabric)** 19" by 1"

Construction:

The car carrier is constructed by creating four pieced strips which are then sewn together. The pieces are, from the top to the bottom, the Park, the Highway, the Garage and the Driveways.



Important Notes:

- The rougher, diagonal side of the denim is considered the 'right side' of the fabric to create a more tactile road.
- Use black thread throughout except where noted for the road markings.

1. Creating the Park

- Pin the green **park** piece to the **road** piece lengthwise; stitch and press seam towards the park. Top stitch along park side.
- Pin one of the road edge pieces to each of the two ends; stitch and press towards the central park piece. Top stitch along the park side.

2. Creating the Highway

- Split the **highway** piece evenly into two strips lengthwise
- Sew the **striped fabric** in between. Press to the center.

3. Creating the Garages

- Fold **garage pocket** piece in half lengthwise and press. Aligning the raw edges, pin to right side of **garage pocket background** piece. Stay-stitch along edge to hold in place.
- Pin one of the **road edge** pieces to each of the two ends of the garage/garage pocket background segment; stitch and press towards the road. Top Stitch.
- Mark center of **garage pocket** piece with vertical pin. Measure 1 ½" from marker on each side and mark stitching lines. Remove center pin marker. Stitch from raw edge to the garage fold, and backstitch securing the end of stitching.
- Create two more garage slots on each side by measuring another 3" from each row of stitching for the central garage slot. Stitch these slots, securing the end stitches at the fold. There should be three garage slots 3" wide and 2 end slots 1 ¾".

4. Creating the Driveways

- Pin and stitch the **driveway** pieces as follows
 - The driveway surround 3 ½" by 2 ¼ "
 - The road piece (driveway) 3 ½" by 3 ½"
 - The driveway surround 3 ½" by 3 ½"
 - The road piece (driveway) 3 ½" by 3 ½"
 - The drive way surround 3 ½" by 2 ¼ "
- Press towards driveway surround (the green fabric). Top stitch.
- Pin the pieced driveway strip to the bottom road piece and stitch. Press towards the pieced driveway strip and top stitch along the pieced strip.
- Pin one of the road edge pieces to each of the two ends, stitch and press towards the pieced driveway strip. Top stitch.

5. Assemble the Carrier

- Pin and stitch the **Park** strip to the **Highway** strip; stitch and press towards the Park. Top stitch.
- Pin the **Highway** strip to the **Garage** strip, stitch and press towards the Garage. Top stitch.
- Pin the **Garage** strip to the **Driveway** strip, stitch and press towards the Garage. Top stitch.

6. Creating the Road Markings

- Mark 1 ½ inches from the edge of the Parkway and the Garage/Driveway sections.
- Using a double needle and heavy white thread (30 or 40 weight), stitch the center lines for the road.

Note: if you don't have a double needle, use a machine stitch that might look like a road marking, or as an alternative make two rows of stitching close together.

7. Final Assembly

- Fold elastic in half. Place ends of two loops of elastic midway between seams for **Highway** and the **Striped Roadway**. Pin or baste in place.
- Press the completed **Inside** and align with the **Outside** piece, right sides together. Ensure the two pieces are smooth and pin. Trim if necessary.
- Starting at the bottom outside edge of the **Park**, stitch around the edge of the **Park**, the side edge of the **Highway**, the side edge of the **Garage**, completely around the edge of the **Driveway** and then the edge of the **Garage** -- **In other words leave one side open along the Highway to turn right side-out.**
- Clip corners and turn right sides out.
- Press and pin along edge and middle to hold the two pieces together.
- Top stitch along the outer edge, closing the opening and securing the elastic loops (handles) and continuing around carrier.
- Top stitch along **Highway** edges with **Park** and **Garage**.
- Top stitch around inside edge of road of **Park** segment.
- Top stitch around inside edge of road of **Garage** segment continuing around **Driveway** segment.
- Top Stitch along edges of **driveways**.

8. Preparing for Hospital Gift

- Wash and thoroughly dry in dryer.
- Press.
- If available, add cars (must be new Hot Wheels or new Matchbox cars).
- Store the carrier in a plastic bag.

Note: If you have any questions, please contact moreinfo@stitchinforkids.org