

With the release of the new Beco Gemini many people are wondering how to compare it to the Butterfly II in terms of features and benefits, and why the difference in price?

We found some information online that helps to lay out the main differences between the two and help you decide which carrier would be a better fit for your family.

**Weight Limitations:** The Butterfly weight limit is 45 pounds, but the Gemini is weight tested for up to 35 pounds. If you are looking to carry a larger child, the Butterfly II will last you longer than the Gemini, however both carriers can be used starting with 7 pound newborns.

**Facing Out Position:** The Gemini has the ability for baby to be front carried facing forward. The base of the front panel snaps back making the crotch narrow enough to allow small babies to sit comfortably. Neither Beco Baby Carrier nor The Little Dipper recommends front facing out for extended periods of time, as baby is not able to turn away and cuddle into you for protection and comfort if they are becoming over stimulated. It is also more comfortable and ergonomic to have baby's body naturally curving into the parent's body rather than extending the spine to have baby facing away from the parent.

**Integrated Internal Harness:** The Butterfly II has the removable infant insert and the integrated internal harness for older babies. The infant insert is a nice option for properly supporting a tiny newborn in the carrier, but is usable for a short period of time before it lifts baby up too high and needs to be removed. The internal inserts hold baby within the carrier so one parent can easily take baby off to put on the other parent or to lay a sleeping baby down without disturbing their rest. The Y shaped piece of fabric which is the integrated insert means that putting your baby on your back by yourself is simple and easy with a basic hip scoot or putting the Butterfly on like a back pack! Similar to the ErgoBaby, the Gemini will require a bit more practice to learn alternate methods of getting baby on your back without assistance, but it is not impossible and can be done quite easily with enough practice. It is something to keep in mind though if you plan to frequently use your carrier in the back carry position.

**Buckles:** The Butterfly II has an intense # of buckles and rings present on the carrier – 8 in fact, and while you don't have to buckle each clip every time you put the carrier on or take it off, for the babywearing parent looking for a soft structured carrier with more simplicity, the Gemini is your style! Safety is still top priority so the Gemini features the safety buckles first introduced on the Butterfly I, but it is less complex than the Butterfly!

**Crossing of Straps:** One feature of the Gemini that is really interesting is the crossing of the shoulder straps! Each shoulder strap can be unbuckled and re-buckled across your back, and this X position of the straps is delightfully comfortable especially with a heavier baby! The Butterfly straps can be unthreaded and rethreaded in the same position but because the Butterfly carrier wasn't designed with that in mind, it is not particularly comfortable and not recommended.

**Removable Hood:** Ideal for shade or napping, the Beco Butterfly full hood attaches to the body of the carrier with snaps and can be completely removed when not in use, folded, and stored in the pouch at the front of the waistband. The Gemini features a headrest which can be folded down for when baby is

front facing out, or for better viewing purposes for baby, but it does not come with a hood. The hood completely wraps over baby's head to provide shade or support during a nap, the headrest, depending on the age/size of the baby extends just up behind the baby's head for a bit of support.

In a nutshell:

### **Butterfly II**

- removable infant insert
- integrated insert
- possible to pass baby in carrier to other parent
- breastfeeding is possible
- sun shade/ napping hood
- chest strap for backpack style wearing
- easy back carrying
- carries children up to 45 pounds

### **Beco Gemini**

- no removable infant or integrated insert
- breastfeeding is easy
- possible to cross shoulder straps
- chest strap for backpack style wearing
- foldable headrest
- front panel folds in and secures with snaps for front facing out position
- relatively easy back carrying
- carries children up to 35 pounds
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Both the Gemini and the Butterfly II are beautiful, organic, versatile, comfortable baby carriers. The Beco Butterfly provides all the bells and whistles for all babies up to 45 pounds. The Gemini is a tribute to an old favorite Beco style, the 4th Generation, and is equally comfortable but more basic. You and your baby will be happy in either Beco style.