

Upholstered Ottoman Bed Frame | Style Beds UK

If you have spent any time browsing bedroom furniture for a UK home, you have almost certainly come across the upholstered ottoman bed frame. It sits at the intersection of two of the most searched for bedroom trends of the past decade, soft, tactile upholstery and clever gaslift storage. For anyone furnishing a flat in a British city or a family home with limited loft space, this single piece of furniture solves two problems at once, comfort and clutter.



This article walks through exactly what an [upholstered ottoman bed frame](#) is, how the mechanism works, what fabrics and sizes are available in the UK market and how to choose the right one for your bedroom. Wherever it helps, we have linked through to real examples from the Style Beds range so you can see the details up close.

What Is an Upholstered Ottoman Bed Frame?

An ottoman bed frame is a bed base that lifts on a gasstrut hinge, either from the foot end or the side, revealing a large storage compartment beneath the mattress platform. When that frame is wrapped in fabric velvet, linenlook weave, chenille, or boucle rather than left as bare wood or metal, it becomes an upholstered ottoman bed frame. You get the soft, hotelstyle headboard and frame silhouette that upholstered beds are known for, plus the practical underbed storage that a divan or standard bedstead simply cannot match. The cloud bed frame is a good example

of how this combination looks in a neutral, softly padded finish that suits almost any UK bedroom scheme.

Why UK Buyers Are Choosing Ottoman Storage

Space is the single biggest driver behind this trend in Britain. Terraced houses, newbuild flats, converted period properties rarely come with generous built in wardrobes; box rooms are often too small for a chest of drawers as well as a bed. An ottoman base reclaims that dead space under the mattress typically enough room for spare bedding, seasonal clothing, or suitcases without adding a single centimetre to the room's footprint. It is also worth noting that because the storage sits under the mattress rather than in a drawer at the side, you keep full access to both sides of the bed for bedside tables, which is a real advantage over traditional divan drawer bases in narrower rooms.

Fabric and Finish Options

Upholstery fabric affects both the look and the daytoday durability of the frame, so it is worth understanding your options before you buy.

- Velvet – the most popular choice in the UK right now, offering a deep, rich colour and a soft handle. Look for a Martindale rub count of at least 25,000 for bedroom use, since beds see less abrasion than sofas but still benefit from a durable weave.
- Linenlook weave – a flatter, more textured fabric that suits Scandinavian or coastalstyle bedrooms and tends to show fewer marks over time.
- Boucle – a looped, textured fabric that has become popular for its tactile, cosy feel, often paired with curved headboard shapes.
- Chenille – a soft, slightly ribbed fabric that sits between velvet and linen in terms of formality and price.

The [ivy frame bed](#) demonstrates a linenweave finish that works particularly well in lighter, Scandi inspired rooms, while richer velvet tones tend to suit period properties with darker wood tones and traditional cornicing.

Sizing for UK Bedrooms

British bed sizing runs in centimetres rather than inches it differs from the US market, so always check dimensions in cm before you order

- Single 90 x 190cm
- Small double 120 x 190cm
- Double 135 x 190cm
- King 150 x 200cm
- Super king 180 x 200cm

An ottoman mechanism adds a small amount of height compared with a standard divan, typically an extra 5–8cm at the foot end to accommodate the gas struts, so measure your room's ceiling height and any sloped roof areas carefully if you are furnishing an attic conversion.

Comparing Ottoman Storage With Other Bed Types

Feature	Upholstered Ottoman Bed	Standard Divan with Drawers	Upholstered Bed (No Storage)
Storage capacity	High – full undermattress space	Medium – 2 or 4 drawers	None
Side access needed	No – lifts from end/side	Yes – drawer runners at sides	N/A
Typical height added	+5–8cm	Minimal	None
Upholstery options	Extensive	Limited	Extensive
Best for	Small bedrooms, flats	Larger rooms with side access	Buyers prioritising style over storage

How the GasLift Mechanism Works

Most UK ottoman frames use either a single hydraulic strut at the centre of the foot end or twin struts at each side, both designed to lift the mattress platform smoothly with minimal effort usually described by manufacturers as a onefinger lift mechanism. Sideopening mechanisms are worth considering if your bed sits against a wall at the foot end, since they let you access storage from the length of the bed rather than needing floor space at the end of the frame. The [cotswold upholstered bed frame](#) uses this kind of footlift design and is a useful reference point if you are comparing mechanisms before you buy.

Headboard Shapes and Styling

Upholstered ottoman frames are available with a range of headboard profiles this is often where the character of the bed really comes through

- Wingback – tall sides that curve forward, useful for reading in bed and for adding a sense of grandeur to a period room.
- Curved or camelback – a softer, rounded top edge that suits contemporary and boucle finished beds.

- Panelled or buttonback – a more tailored, Chesterfield inspired look with structured detailing.
- Low, minimalist headboards – suited to smaller rooms where a tall headboard would feel overpowering.

The cavendish bed frame is a strong example of a panelled headboard design, while the beige ottoman bed with curved headboard shows how a curved profile can soften a bedroom with a lot of straight lines and hard surfaces.

Assembly, Delivery After care in the UK

Most UK retailers deliver ottoman bed frames flatpacked, with twoperson assembly recommended given the weight of the gas struts and the upholstered base panels. Expect delivery windows of 5–14 working days from most UK bed retailers, with January and late summer sale periods often bringing the shortest lead times as stock is refreshed for new ranges.

For care, vacuum upholstered fabric regularly using a soft brush attachment treats spills immediately with a damp cloth rather than rubbing, which can push liquid further into the weave. The [Kensington bed frame](#) ships with manufacturer care instructions specific to its fabric, which is worth checking against your chosen finish before ordering.

Choosing the Right Ottoman Frame for Your Bedroom

Before you commit, walk through a short checklist measure your room and ceiling height, decide whether footlift or sidelift suits your layout, choose a fabric that matches your existing colour palette and durability needs confirm the mattress type you plan to use (most ottoman bases are designed for a standard depth sprung or memory foam mattress, so check maximum depth guidance from the retailer). If you are furnishing a guest room or a smaller flat, the serenity slumber is worth comparing for its balance of a compact profile with full size storage capacity.

Fast Facts

- Ottoman beds lift via gasstrut hinges from the foot end or side.
- UK sizing runs in centimetres single (90cm) through to super king (180cm).
- Popular fabrics include velvet, linenweave, bouclechenille.
- A Martindale rub count of 25,000+ is a good durability benchmark for bedroom upholstery.
- Ottoman frames typically add 5–8cm of height versus a standard divan.
- January and late summer are the strongest UK sale periods for bed frames.



Ottoman Beds and Small Space Living in the UK

The rise of the upholstered ottoman bed frame in Britain is closely tied to how UK housing has changed over the past twenty years. Newbuild flats, in particular, are built to tighter footprints than older housing stock, often with box rooms measuring little more than 2.5 by 3 metres. In these spaces, every centimetre of floor area matters, freestanding wardrobes or chests of drawers can make a small room feel cramped.

An ottoman base effectively adds a hidden cupboard's worth of storage without changing the room's layout at all, which is why estate agents and interior designers increasingly recommend this style of bed to buyers furnishing newbuild or period conversion properties. It is also a popular choice for anyone downsizing from a house to a flat, since it allows a household to keep more of their belongings without needing external storage.

Colour and Palette Considerations

Because the frame itself is upholstered rather than left in bare wood or metal, colour becomes a much bigger design decision than it would be with a simple divan base. Neutral tones – oatmeal, dove grey, soft taupe – remain the most requested colours for UK bedrooms because they sit comfortably alongside existing wardrobes, curtains, flooring without requiring a full redecoration.

Deeper tones such as bottle green, ink blue, or charcoal have grown in popularity for main bedrooms, particularly when paired with brass or matt black hardware on bedside tables. If you

are unsure which direction to take, it is worth ordering a fabric swatch where available, since colours can appear noticeably different under artificial bedroom lighting compared with a bright product photograph.

Maintaining an Upholstered Ottoman Frame LongTerm

Beyond routine vacuuming and prompt spill treatment, a few simple habits will keep an upholstered ottoman bed frame looking good for years. Rotate any scatter cushions or throws regularly to avoid uneven fading on the headboard if the bed sits in direct sunlight from a nearby window. Avoid placing hot drinks or reed diffusers directly on the frame's fabric edges, since both heat and oil based liquids can mark certain weaves permanently.

When lifting the base to access storage, always lift and lower it slowly and evenly rather than dropping it, since this reduces longterm wear on the gas struts and hinges. Most UK manufacturers, including the range built around designs such as the [eton bed frame](#), will specify a maximum recommended storage weight, so it is worth checking this figure if you intend to store heavier items such as folded duvets or winter coats.

Final Thoughts

An upholstered ottoman bed frame is one of the few pieces of bedroom furniture that genuinely earns its price through everyday practicality rather than looks alone. It brings the soft, tailored appearance that UK buyers want from a modern bedroom, while solving a storage problem that affects a large proportion of British homes. Whether you are furnishing a compact flat, a growing family's shared bedroom, or simply want to reduce visible clutter in a period property, this style of bed is worth serious consideration as your next purchase. Browse the full range of upholstered ottoman bed frames and matching bedroom furniture at [Style Beds](#).

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the difference between an ottoman bed and a divan bed?

An ottoman bed lifts as a single unit on gas struts to reveal storage under the entire mattress, while a divan bed typically has drawers built into the sides of a fixed base.

Are upholstered ottoman bed frames good for small bedrooms?

Yes, Because the storage sits beneath the mattress rather than to the side, ottoman frames free up floor space around the bed, which is particularly useful in smaller UK bedrooms and box rooms.

What fabric is best for an upholstered ottoman bed frame?

Velvet and boucle are currently the most popular choices for durability and appearance, though linenweave fabrics suit lighter, more casual bedroom schemes.

Do ottoman beds take a standard UK mattress?

Most ottoman frames are designed to take a standard depth sprung or memory foam mattress in UK sizing, though it is worth checking the maximum mattress depth listed by the retailer before ordering.

How much storage does an upholstered ottoman bed frame offer?

Storage capacity varies by size, but a double or kingsize ottoman base typically offers significantly more usable space than a two or four drawer divan, since the entire area beneath the mattress is accessible.

How long does delivery take for an ottoman bed frame in the UK?

Most UK retailers quote delivery windows of around 5 to 14 working days, though this can vary during peak sale periods.