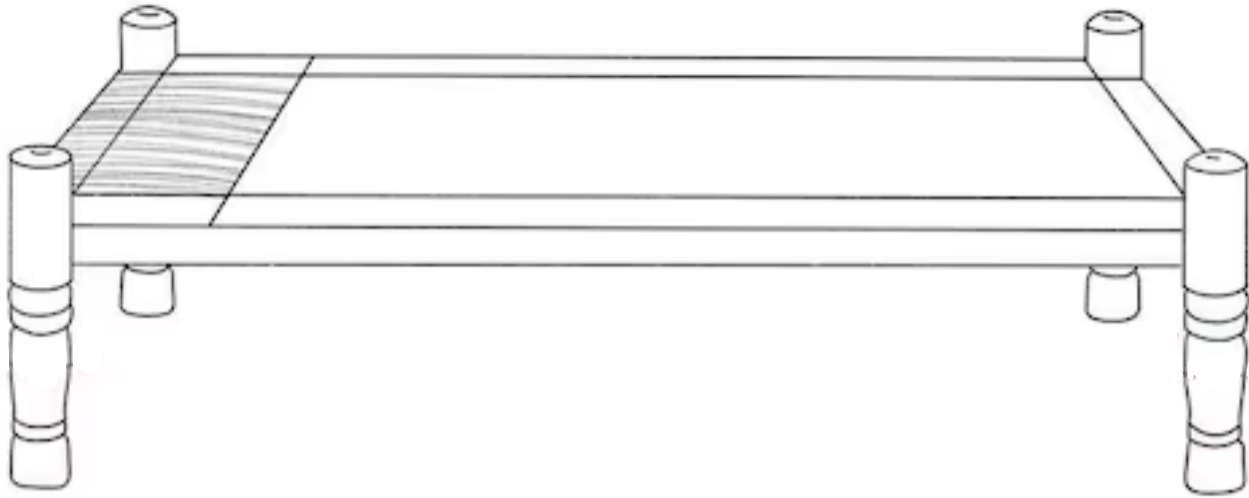


Manji, Charpai, Daybed



What is a Manji?

A manji translates from Punjabi to English as a daybed. It has 4 legs, a frame and a woven section in the middle of the frame. The structure is normally made from a hardwood and the woven section is made from strong textiles such as hemp, cotton or wool.

Where do they come from?

Manjis can be found in many parts of South Asia and Africa. A manji can also be translated into many other South Asian languages. In Hindi it is called a Charpai, which literally means four feet. It is also called a Khat, Khatiyah, Khatloh, Manjha, Charpoy, Charpaya.

What are they used for?

They are used to for sleeping, lounging, dining and resting. They are also used for eating on, drying clothes and vegetables. Sometimes children are born on them and sometimes people take their last breath on them too.

Who are they for?

Manjis are for everyone. They can be compared to a park bench, a bed, or a dining table. They are a very modest and easily accessible object in parts of South Asia. They are made from humble basic materials and are designed to be repaired and restrung easily. Manjis are an object used by all communities and types of people.

How are they made?

The frame is made using a basic wood joint called mortice and tenon and the woven section is handwoven and stretched through a tension cord. The tension cord allows the Manji to be tightened at it gets looser over time and usage.