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Bedroom

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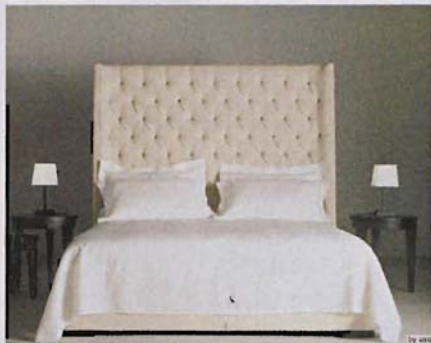
Your headboard is the focal point of any bedroom décor, so choose one that reflects your character and suits your lifestyle

BY NANCY DUNHAM

THE HEADBOARD is the jewel of the bedroom and, like any jewel, it can make a fashion statement about its owner. Ancient Egyptians used the headboard to sit up in bed to converse or eat. Romans built extravagant headboards as a sign of wealth, and headboards shipped to colonial America from Europe were status symbols. Today headboards are both functional and fashionable and generally serve as the focal point of the bedroom, so it's imperative to choose one that fits your lifestyle. "By considering that and narrowing down what your expectations are for space, you can determine the best style for you and your life," says designer Emily LaMarque of West Hollywood, Calif.



Upholstered headboards set the mood. Have one tailor-made to match your design tastes.



LAURI WARD, USE WHAT YOU HAVE INTERIORS; HILDE LEIAGHAT, POM POM INTERIORS; EMILY LAMARQUE DESIGN STUDIOS

○ **LEATHER**

TRADITIONAL, FADDISH
 Although dark leather headboards, which tend to look very masculine, may immediately come to mind, options abound. Light brown, cream and even white leathers are also popular choices. Some designs incorporate wood, fabric or metal, giving headboards a lighter, more romantic feel.
 Overall, leather headboards win points for timeless elegance. "If you're unsure, opt for a cleaner, sleeker style," LaMarque says. That way, you're not locked into a very specific look. Leather also gels with any contemporary decor.

○ **MIRRORS, DOORS**

VINTAGE, FADDISH
 Many DIY fans have made their own headboards, often with stunning success. One popular starting point is to take vintage mirrors or doors—such as those salvaged from an old barn or home—restore them, and hang them behind the bed.
 Old barn doors used as a headboard in an otherwise contemporary room tone down the modern feel and make it seem more livable, says Hilde Leiaghat of Pom Pom Interiors, based in Burbank, Calif. Vintage mirrors used as headboards are trendy and give the illusion of space in otherwise small rooms. "There are so many possibilities," she says.

○ **UPHOLSTERY**

CONTEMPORARY
 An upholstered headboard seems to be the "it" design for the bedroom. There are an array of price points depending on intricacy, tufting, nailhead trim and other factors. The headboards can be purchased from a retailer or custom-made by an upholsterer.
 "In general, upholstered headboards are very affordable," says Laurie Gorelick, Laurie Gorelick Interiors, Natick, Mass., noting some can cost in the \$2,000 range. "It's important to think of them as you think of other home furnishings."
 One downside to upholstery, is that it can stain and trap allergens and dust.

○ **WOOD**

TRADITIONAL AND CONTEMPORARY.
 Wood is easy to clean and maintain and can work in a variety of settings. Wood headboards are also readily available—and retailers from Macy's to Neiman Marcus and beyond generally have a wide selection. "They trend from a heavy Italian look to clean lines and then lighter woods for a beach cottage feel," says LaMarque. One word of caution: Be sure the headboard won't take space you don't have to offer. Sleigh beds, for instance, can easily overwhelm all but the biggest rooms. And if you like to decorate with pillows, choose a higher headboard so it won't be hidden.