

Velvet Ottoman Bed Frame | Ottoman vs Divan | Style Beds

Anyone shopping for a new bed base eventually lands on the same fork in the road a velvet ottoman bed frame or a standard divan with drawers. Both are UK bedroom staples, both come in velvet finishes, and both promise extra storage but they solve the storage problem in genuinely different ways, and the right choice depends on your room layout, your budget and how you actually plan to use the space underneath your mattress. This comparison breaks down exactly where an [velvet ottoman bed](#) pulls ahead of a traditional storage divan, where a divan still makes sense, and how to decide between the two before you commit.



The Core Difference Mechanism, Not Just Fabric

The velvet upholstery is often what draws people to search for either bed type, but the real difference between an ottoman bed and a divan is mechanical, not aesthetic.

A standard divan has a fixed base, usually with two or four drawers built into the sides. You access storage by sliding drawers out horizontally, which means you need clear floor space beside the bed to open them fully.

An ottoman bed frame, by contrast, uses a gaslift hinge so the entire mattress and base lift together as one panel, opening a single, continuous storage void underneath. There's no need

for floor clearance at the sides only at the end or along the length, depending on whether it's an endlift or sidelift model. You can see this mechanism in action across the full ottoman bed range, where every model uses the liftup base as standard rather than as an upgrade option.

Storage Capacity Ottoman Beds Generally Win

This is the single biggest reason people search specifically for a velvet ottoman storage bed frame rather than a plain divan. Because drawer divans lose usable space to the drawer frames, runners and dividing panels, a same size ottoman base typically holds noticeably more.

As a rough guide

- A 4 drawer divan in a double size offers four separate, moderate depth storage sections.
- A velvet ottoman bed in the same double size offers one continuous compartment that's usually deeper and easier to fill with larger, bulkier items like spare duvets or seasonal coats.

If your priority is fitting a small wardrobe's worth of bedding, luggage or out of season clothing under the bed, the single void ottoman design is generally the more space efficient option, especially in smaller UK bedrooms where every inch counts.

Access and Everyday Use

Divans win on quick, partial access. If you just need to grab a spare pillow or a single folded blanket, sliding open one drawer is faster than lifting an entire mattress and base. Ottoman beds win on bulk access and organisation. Because everything sits in one open compartment, they suit people who store things in boxes or vacuum bags rather than loose items, and who don't need to get in and out of storage multiple times a day. Worth noting side opening ottoman models, like the [trimmed ottoman divan bed](#), tend to offer a good middle ground, since opening along the length rather than the foot of the bed can make it easier to reach items near the headboard end.

Room Layout Which Suits Small Bedrooms Better?

For box rooms and smaller UK bedrooms, layout matters as much as storage volume.

- Endlift ottoman beds need clearance at the foot of the bed to lift the base ideal if the bed isn't pushed hard against a wall at that end.
- Sidelift ottoman beds need clearance down one long edge, which suits beds positioned with one side against a wall.
- Drawer divans need clearance at whichever side the drawers are fitted, and enough space in front of the drawers to actually pull them fully open.

In practice, ottoman beds tend to be slightly more forgiving in tight layouts because you only need clearance in one direction rather than planning for drawer access on a specific side.

Weight and Practicality

A fair criticism of ottoman beds is that lifting the base even with a gaslift strut doing most of the work does require moving the mattress each time. Divans avoid this entirely, since drawers open independently of the mattress. That said, modern gaslift mechanisms are engineered specifically to counterbalance mattress weight, so in daytoday use this is far less physically demanding than it sounds.

Most people who store items less frequently (seasonal changes, spare bedding, luggage) find this a nonissue, while people who need multiple times a day access to underbed storage may prefer a divan. For anyone still weighing this tradeoff, comparing a specific model like the [Sydney storage divan bed](#) against an equivalent ottoman frame side by side is a useful way to see the practical difference in showroom conditions rather than in theory.



Price What Typically Costs More?

Ottoman beds are generally priced slightly higher than an equivalent drawer divan in the same fabric and size, largely due to the cost of the gaslift mechanism and reinforced hinge frame. However, because a single ottoman base often replaces the storage capacity of a small chest of

drawers or underbed boxes, many buyers find the higher upfront cost offsets the need for separate storage furniture elsewhere in the room.

Final Thoughts

If your main goal is maximising storage in a room that's tight on space, a velvet ottoman bed frame is generally the stronger choice. If you need frequent, quick access to what's stored underneath and have the floor space to accommodate drawers, a divan may suit your routine better. Either way, choosing a genuine [Style Beds](#) velvet upholstery over a cheaper synthetic weave will make the biggest difference to how the bed looks and feels once it's in your bedroom day to day.

Frequently Asked Questions(FAQs)

Is an ottoman bed better than a divan for storage?

For total storage volume, yes an ottoman bed's single continuous compartment usually holds more than a comparable drawer divan of the same size.

Are ottoman beds harder to use than divans daytoday?

Not significantly. Gaslift mechanisms are designed to make lifting the base straightforward even with a mattress on top, though divans do offer faster access for single items.

Do velvet ottoman bed frames cost more than divans?

Typically, yes, ottoman beds cost somewhat more than an equivalent drawer divan due to the gas lift mechanism, though many buyers offset this against not needing extra bedroom storage furniture.

Which is better for a small bedroom, an ottoman bed or a divan?

Ottoman beds are often better suited to small bedrooms because they only need floor clearance in one direction to open, compared with drawer divans which need side access.

Can I get a velvet finish on both ottoman beds and divans?

Yes, velvet upholstery is available across both bed types, so the choice between them should be based on mechanism and storage needs rather than fabric availability.