

CRADLE MAKING

From ancient times the cradle has been used in Central Asia as a specially designed swinging pad for babies to sleep. It is mainly made of mulberry, willow and other woods.

The cradle is made in length about 1 meter and a height from 50 cm to 60 cm for usage of babies since birth till 1–1.5 years of age. On a baby's back side, thin platters are placed (in which a special place for the potty is laid). In the semi-arched legs on both sides of the cradle, a hinge is mounted, a hinged handle is attached. The domes on both sides of the patch are made. In order to protect the head and legs of the baby, the skulls and slopes are placed inside the cradle.

The cradle is decorated with ornaments or painted with colored dyes. For putting the child to the cradle, special yarns made of silk fabric (beds, mattresses, pillows,

saddles, *qolbogs*, bedspreads, etc.) are used. The cradle keeps the body of the baby dry and clean. Singing lullaby while swinging the cradle positively effects on the child, ensuring a peaceful, sleepy and healthy well-being.

The cradle is sold along with all the additional aprons and is usually not traded on its purchase. It is bought for the price asked by the master. If the price asked by one master does not fit the recipient, he will be able to meet the other master and get the cradle from him. As there is no bargaining, masters of the cradles also try to put an affordable price to the cradles.

The tradition of cradle making is transmitted from master to apprentice traditions. Usually this profession passes from father to child. The cradle is constituted to be sacred and people always strive to preserve it.



