



## Headrest

**Date**

20th Century

**Primary Maker**

Karamojong

**Medium**

Wood, metal and leather

**Description**

A member of the Karamojong culture, a Nilotic group living in northeast Uganda, made this headrest sometime in the 20th Century. Headrests are commonly used throughout Africa to help protect intricate coiffures while resting, though in many cases they carry with them a certain degree of spiritual meaning or prestige. At least in certain instances, it was noted that Karamojong headrests hold special magical powers of guidance and the ability to commune with the community’s ancestors. This headrest has a particularly interesting trident design on its cradle inlaid with casings from small caliber munitions. The significance of this design is unknown.

**Dimensions**

5 3/4 × 9 1/2 × 5 3/4 in. (14.6 × 24.1 × 14.6 cm)