



Mahendrabhai Ishwarlal Chauhan
Ishwarlal Chotalal Tabla Maker
Dadar, next to Antonio D'Silva School

Forty-five year old Mahendrabhai Chauhan is a sixth-generation tabla maker occupying the same shop in Dadar. His family originates from Morvi in Gujarat.

"I have been working here since the last 35 years and cannot count the number of tablas or sitars I have made. But I have worked for around 25 alternative projects, that have involved distorting a musical instrument into an art object. When people come to me with such projects, I am amused but also inquisitive to learn and experience how it may be created. My young sons also help give ideas now. These projects relieve some of the monotony of my regular work. Bombay helps me sustain a craft not many are willing to do today."

Credit: Photograph by Caecilia Tripp