

Mahbuba

the flat Omani

Amongst the many types of traditional costumes for Omani females, is the most common form known as Omaniya, worn here by Mahbuba. There are many variations to this costume around Oman, which has been worn for as long as we know. The short dress, *dishdasha*, has the same name given for the male dress. Underneath they wear *sarwal*, a kind of pants, and on their heads a *waqaya* which usually has a fringe or decoration on its short edges and is wrapped around their faces. Today, all pieces are cut from the same cloth but traditionally, each piece was made from a completely different piece of fabric. *Nahl* is traditionally a leather sandal worn on the feet.

The Kit contains:

- An instruction sheet
- Flat Omani sheet
- Paper *sarwal* (trousers)
- Paper *dishdasha* (dress)
- Paper *sejaf* (placed at hem of dress)
- Paper *waqayah* (head scarf)
- Ribbons, glitter glue and sequins

You will need:

- A pair of scissors
- Craft/PVC glue (clear dry)
- Pens, markers and any other art supplies you wish to use.

STEP

1

Begin with the clothes: glue the *sarwal*, then overlap with the *dishdasha*. The *sejaf* is placed at the lower edge of the *dishdasha*.

STEP

2

Using the long, narrow, multi-coloured lace (18cm long) you need to measure, cut and glue a piece for the hem and each wrist.

STEP

3

Use the long, wide lace (16cm long) and measure, cut and glue a piece for the *shaq* (center neck opening) and hem. Next, glue on the *waqayah*.

STEP

4

Glue the shortest piece of ribbon to the *waqayah*. Now take the only piece of ribbon left: measure, cut and glue it to the hem of the *sarwal*. Now finish off decorating and don't forget the *nahls*!



Share your finished Flat Omani with us!
e-mail your artwork to: flatomani@omanidress.com

Tips for assembling your Flat Omani:

- Adult supervision is recommended.
- Read the directions in full before you begin.
- Try the clothes on the Flat Omani before you glue. Sometimes you will find using the reverse side gives a better fit.
- Refer to the finished sample in the instructions as you proceed.
- If you have trouble getting the laces to stick it may simply require more glue. Using white craft glue means you can apply a generous amount but do not wipe off the excess as the glue should dry clear. Also, if you hold the lace down for a moment, you will find that it stays in position.
- Before decorating the clothes with glitter glue, sequins and other art supplies of your choosing, finish off the face of your Flat Omani.
- Once your Flat Omani has completely dried, use the bag the kit came in to protect your finished art work.





