

Middle Eastern Dance Props

Depending on your class level, there are several Middle Eastern dance props you should consider purchasing. Talk to Nisaa for advice on where to purchase these items.

- Level 2: You will need finger cymbals and a veil.
- Level 3: You will need finger cymbals, a veil, and a cane.

Finger Cymbals (Sagat or Zills)

Finger cymbals should come in sets of four. For your first set of finger cymbals, choose small cymbals (no more than about 2 ¼ inches in diameter). Choose finger cymbals with two slots for the elastic (like the cymbal on the left), rather than finger cymbals with a single hole (like the cymbal on the right), because cymbals with slots are easier to control. A popular manufacturer of finger cymbals for dancers is Saroyan Mastercrafts (<http://www.saroyanzills.com>). You can order finger cymbals directly from Saroyan Mastercrafts, or you can purchase them from most vendors of belly dance costumes and accessories.



Veil

There are two types of dance veils: rectangular and semi-circular. You will be working primarily with a rectangular veil. A rectangular veil consists of a lightweight, “fluid” fabric (e.g., silk, georgette) about 1 yard wide by about 2 ½ yards long (depending on the dancer’s height). If you or someone you know has sewing skills, you can just purchase 2 ¼ or 2 ½ yards of fabric and use a serger to finish the ends. To figure out how much fabric you need, stand up, extend your arm parallel to the floor, and drape the fabric over your arm. The ends of the fabric should reach almost to your ankles. In other words, the veil will be twice as long as the distance from your shoulder to your ankles. Ready-made veils can be purchased from most vendors of belly dance costumes and accessories.

Cane

Choose a wooden or bamboo cane that is a good height and weight for you. If you stand up and hold the cane with the walking end of the cane resting on the floor, the crook of the cane should be no lower than your hip and no higher than your navel. For your first cane, choose a lightweight one because it will be easier to maneuver until you get more experience.

