

## Moroccan Goddess Embroidery Squares: Designs and Colours



**Who does it benefit?** Made by hand using traditional skills and natural materials by Moroccan women who are keeping alive and reviving traditional skills and tradition in the face of “competition” from cheap machine made items. We supply these items direct from the women who receive 100% of the sale price. Additional benefits include: the positive aspects of the living wage, fair trade, female company and solidarity, giving women an independent income, increasing the women's self-esteem and status in the family and the community, offering the younger generations a chance to learn traditional craftwork and consequently to appreciate the value of their culture more. The younger women are being taught in Riad, a village where all the potters are men so it gives women an opportunity to be more self sufficient.

**What are the Symbols?** The patterns contain symbols which date back nearly 10,000 years transmit the ancient vibration of the Great Goddess here and all through the European, Asian and North African world. They may also be found on pottery, carpets, leather and henna tattoos. Tree of Life or Mountain Goddess (**Ikabab**) pattern is a common embroidery motif. In Morocco it is said to bring health, wealth, fertility, prosperity and all good things. **Lbrouj** is similar motif but smaller.

**How might you use the cloths be used?** They may be used as decoration of a table or an altar, framed to hang, held by the leader of a dance or used as a centre piece in dance.

### Further reading

We have these 2 books as well as much other information at the Guest House

*Embroidered Textiles: A World Guide to Traditional Patterns* Sheila Paine 2010

*“The Fabric of Moroccan Life”* by Indianapolis Museum of Art (Author), Niloo Imami Paydar (Editor), Ivo Grammet (Editor) 2002

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**SQUARES** 5 colours and 6 designs to choose from. Prices may vary but usually about 250 Dh each.

The more traditional **colours** are: dark red, rich green or navy blue; also fuschia or bright red.  
6 designs (named A- F) & 4 colours (bright red omitted) are illustrated below:



Above: **Square A** in fuschia. Also possible in dark red; bright red; rich green or navy blue.



Above: **Square B** in dark red

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Above: **Square C** in navy blue



Above: **Square D** in dark (brownish) red

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Above: **Square E** in green



Above: **Square F** in navy blue