



Ghungroo

A Ghungroo is one of many small metallic bells strung together to form ghungroos, a musical anklet tied to the feet of classical Indian dancers. The sounds produced by ghungroos vary greatly in pitch depending on their metallic composition and size. Ghungroos serve to accentuate the rhythmic aspects of the dance and allow complex footwork to be heard by the audience. They are worn immediately above the ankle, resting on the lateral malleolus and medial malleolus. A string of ghungroos can range from 50 to greater than 200 bells knotted together. A novice child dancer may start with 50 and slowly add more as he or she grows older and advances in his or her technical ability. Ghungroos are worn in traditional performances of the classical Indian dance forms: Bharatnatyam, Kathak, Kuchipudi, Mohiniyattam, Lavani, Odissi etc.

Importance:

Ghungroo holds a vital and important place in Indian Classical Dance and it is the primary instrument and ornament that a dancer must wear before practicing or performing. It emphasizes and intensifies the rhythmic percussion that is produced by the Ghungroo while attempting and performing any footwork or dance. Ghungroos serve to accentuate the rhythmic aspects of the dance and allow complex footwork to be heard by the audience. They are worn immediate above the ankle.

Ghungroos or Noopura are one of the main pieces of jewellery tied to the feet of classical Indian dancers for the purpose of rhythmic accompaniment. The custom of wearing noopura has its own tradition and ritualistic nature in Indian dance and drama.

Qualities:

The Ghungroos on rope are used mainly for Kathak dance. Ghungroo pair made in brass mounted on colourful cloth/velvet pads/Cotton pad are mainly used for Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi and Odissi dance. Depending upon the age of the dancer and the size of ankles, one can choose the size of the ankle bell.

This is a pair of ghungroos tied in thick white cotton string with each pair having (100 + 100) 200 ghungroos (brass bells) of 16 Number ghungroo used in Indian classical dances like Kathak.



Significance of Ghungroo:

Ghungroo has great importance in the main classical dances of India. The main reason for this is that Indian classical dance is dependent on Taal and rhythm. It is through these Ghungroo that the dancer is able to harmonize the sound produced by his stroke with the words and utterances of the tabla. According to the sound emanating from the tabla and pakhawaj, the dancer performs his footsteps and these foot steps are clearly shown with the sound of Ghungroo.

It also helps in maintaining the balance of the dancer. The sound of the Ghungroos is sweet and that is why it is also useful in showing the rasa and emotions. Ghungroo is the eternal companion of Kathak dance.

According to Abhinaya Darpan, there should be at least one hundred Ghungroos in each leg of the dancer. Ghungroo should be made of bronze and threaded in blue thread. Each ghungroo should produce the same sound. Ghungroos should be of the same size and beautiful. Ghungroo should be tied firmly in the feet so that it should not open while dancing.

So we see that Ghungroo is a special part of Indian dance form.

