

Chakan

Chakan refers to a form of embroidery that includes variety of imaginative floral and abstract designs and patterns. *Chakan* embroidery similarly to *suzani* and *gulduzi* has silk or cotton base fabric and for stitching cotton, silk and synthetic threads are used.

Chakan is distinct in its colorful patterns and it is used to decor home and other decorative textiles, including clothing.

Chakan is the traditional form of embroidery of the Southern Tajikistan, Khatlon province and

has a wide areal in major cities such as Vose', Muminabad, Danghara and etc.

In Kulob city *chakan* dress is considered as a form of bridal dress. In addition every girl getting married would have a special *chakan chodar* (a curtain divider used during the wedding behind which a new bride will stay for few days). Young men also would wear special commissioned *chakan* hat for the wedding. Although, in Kulob men usually would wear various types of the *toqii chakan* – traditional hats distinct with



its colorful patterns. The big size *chakan* wall hangers are prepared by the women to decorate their houses.

Chakan dresses are worn by women in Tajikistan for both regular days and special events. Sometimes specifically for certain occasion masters make *chakan* dresses. The *chakan* dress and hat is not however bound to the Khatlon province but it is these days widespread in many parts of Tajikistan. *Chakan* embroidery is also used to make pillows and cushions.

Chakan dresses are also popular costume worn by the dancers and it is one of the most festive forms of dress. Being considered as a national heritage the promotion of *chakan* embroidery lately has highly developed. There are national contests such as «Taronai chakan», «Jilvai chakan» and concentrating on creativity and innovation in *chakan* embroidery and also transmission this form of traditional craft to the new generation and introducing it to the world.

