

## FIESTA FLAMENCO

### SKIRTS

A flamenco practice skirt, which is a little shorter than those used for stage appearances, should fulfil the following requirements:

- It must be comfortable; this will depend on the quality of the fabric, which should be light weight.
- It should glide well; this will depend on the metres of fabric and the quillas (seams) that the skirt has. Quilla is the name for each of the vertical seams that unite each of the pieces of fabric that make up the skirt. The more quillas, the better the skirt will glide.
- It should hang well; this can be achieved through the material, gores and ruffles that are used. The gores are pleats made of material cut into layers that are added to the lower part of the skirt to make it heavier.
- Choosing a skirt with or without ruffles depends on ones own taste. If you like ruffles, one or two will be enough.

El Mundo Flamenco has a wide variety of skirts from Spain so you would be advised to visit the store.

Capezio now offers a practice skirt at a reasonable price

Alternatively; a circular skirt may be a cheaper option.

### SHOES

Authentic flamenco shoes (boots for men) are strongly reinforced and have nails in the toes and heels. These are generally only available, in this country, at El Mundo Flamenco in London. The shop does, however, stock semi professional shoes at a mid price option.

Cheaper options for beginners are character shoes or stage shoes which have a Cuban heel and a bar but no nails. Both Capezio and So Danca offer a range of flamenco and stage shoes.

### CASTANETS AND PERICONE

Castanets come in all shapes and sizes from those awful plastic ones you buy at the ferias to concert level quality. In my opinion the black fibre glass castanets are a good buy as they are durable and offer good sound quality for dancers.

The Spanish fan or Pericone is usually made of wood and textile. The kind most regularly used for dance measures 32 cm when closed, 60 cm diameter when open.

Again you will find a good selection at El Mundo Flamenco.

### SUPPLIERS

- El Mundo Flamenco (best contact is Steph)  
62 Duke Street, London, W1K 6JT  
Telephone 020 7493 0033  
Email [info@elmundoflamenco.co.uk](mailto:info@elmundoflamenco.co.uk)  
Web [www.elmundoflamenco.co.uk](http://www.elmundoflamenco.co.uk)
- Capezio  
[www.capeziodance.com](http://www.capeziodance.com)
- Flamenco Shop  
[www.flamencoshop.com](http://www.flamencoshop.com)
- So Danca  
[www.sodanca.com](http://www.sodanca.com)
- Flamenco World  
[www.flamenco-world.com](http://www.flamenco-world.com)

The above is for information only as I am frequently asked about skirts, shoes etc. Don't forget that a search on line will offer much greater variety. Whilst I have no issue recommending El Mundo Flamenco, I would advise against buying anything from ebay. Most flamenco items are aimed at the tourist and those that are authentic may be over priced. I do not recommend that you pay large sums for any items unless, of course, you are treating yourself!