



NGALA
TRADING

JUJU HAT

Unwrapping and Care Instructions

ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE AT NGALA TRADING, THANK YOU FOR YOUR PURCHASE OF THIS AUTHENTIC JUJU HAT.

AUTHENTIC & UNIQUELY YOURS

Juju Hats, or Tyn hats as they are traditionally known, are ceremonial crowns of cultural significance to the Bamileke people of Cameroon in West Africa. Traditionally, these intricately created pieces are worn by village chiefs during celebrations and serve as a status symbol for the wearer.

Juju Hats are created by tying bundles of hand-dyed chicken feathers to raffia sticks, and then sewing the raffia sticks together in a circular pattern to create the round shape. The outer layers of raffia are covered with dark fabric to protect the Juju Hat and create a clean, beautiful appearance.

Juju Hats are made by talented craftspeople, often taking two to three days to make. As with any handcrafted piece made with unique materials, there can be slight differences in size, shape, color, and texture. *See figure 01*



Figure 01

UNWRAPPING AND HANGING

Juju Hats are designed with the ability to fold inward into a drum shape, which protects the feathers. Your Juju Hat will arrive folded inward, wrapped tightly with string, and encased in protective wrapping.

When your Juju Hat arrives, untie the outer strings - but do not cut them! (The string maintains the structure of the hat and should be folded away behind the hat once open.) Once the strings have been untied, the Juju Hat will loosen, and it can be gently opened outwards by placing one hand on the back of the hat and pressing the center until the drum has unfolded.

Once the Juju Hat is open, it will need to have its outer edges straightened and made even. Gently use your fingers to reposition the feather bundles on the outer edges, and finger comb the interior feathers until they are even and in place.

The Juju easily hangs on any nail or small screw with the thread loop already tied to the raffia support ring. If you have purchased a stand, hang the hat by the thread loop on the u-shaped metal hook. *See figure 02*



Figure 02

CLEANING AND CARE

Feathers that are colored should not be placed in direct sunlight as the dye may fade over time. Feathers are natural materials that will constantly "change." As a natural result, Juju Hats may become slightly uneven and obtain minor cracks or unevenness, thus adding to its unique qualities.

Though the Juju Hat is initially fumigated and pre-treated with insect repellent, treating your Juju Hats periodically against moths or other bugs that may be naturally attracted is recommended. You can do this by placing the headdress in a plastic bag and putting it in a freezer overnight; alternatively, attaching a small satchel of lavender, cedar wood or moth balls on the back of the headdress will naturally repel moths and other flying insects. *See figure 03*



Figure 03