

Personal Protective Equipment: Stylish Sunhats

Take inspiration from JANM's collection to create useful and fashionable pieces to face the outdoors.

Collection Connection

In the late 1800s, as the early immigrant men from Japan made Hawai'i their home, picture brides began to follow and join their husbands in the colonial economy. These women brought beautiful kimono across the Pacific Ocean, but as they faced the harsh working and living conditions of the sugar plantations, the kimono fabric was often repurposed as personal protective equipment for field work.

Throughout time, fashion has evolved to correspond to human needs, like this sunhat from JANM's Barbara Kawakami Collection. The style of hat shown in the image is referred to as *konpan papale / dongorosu* which linguistically reflects the melding of Japanese, Chinese, and Portuguese culture and style.



Japanese American National Museum, Gift of Barbara Kawakami, 2004.1.22



(example)

Now it's your turn!

Take inspiration from the Kawakami Collection sunbonnets to create a wide brimmed hat. It might be helpful to have some extra hands for this project. Materials you'll need are a large piece of newspaper, some packing tape, and lots of things to decorate your hat with (we recommend markers, stickers, and whatever lightweight items you can attach!).

- Start by placing the newspaper over your head.
- While holding it down around your head above your eyebrows, have a friend wrap the packing tape all the way around your head 2-3 times.
- Remove the paper from your head and curl up the edges to create the base of your hat.
- Now decorate!

Share your creations with us on social media using the hashtag **#JANMinspired**.