Proposal for Emoji: FOLDING HAND FAN

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This proposal was updated on August 31, 2021 based upon feedback from the Unicode Emoji Subcommittee to propose a FOLDING HAND FAN emoji instead of an ELECTRIC FAN.

1. Identification
   A. CLDR Short name: FOLDING HAND FAN
   B. Other keywords: handheld fan, fanatic, groupie, supporter, spread

2. Images
   a. Zip File: See ZIP file included with this submission.
   b. License: The following images are the original works of the authors of this proposal. They have appropriate licenses for use by the UTC. See “Lack of Required Rights” section.
   c. Images

![72px: Open fan with 3 leaves](image)
![18px: Open fan with 3 leaves](image)

![72px: Open red fan with 3 leaves](image)
![18px: Open red fan with 3 leaves](image)

Category: In the “clothing” category, after CLUTCH BAG

Abstract

The authors of this proposal request the addition of the FOLDING HAND FAN emoji. In addition to its function as a handheld object used to cool oneself, the hand fan also has strong historical and cultural significance. In English, *fan* possesses a second meaning as the shortened form of the word *fanatic*\(^1\); this term describes devoted supporters and admirers of specific artists, celebrities, teams, etc.

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Introduction

Fans have existed for thousands of years across many societies, dating as far back as 3000 BC. While the exact origins of the folding fan are unclear, it is believed to have first appeared between the 7th and 10th centuries in Asia. Folding fans were common after the 12th century in Japan and the 15th century in China. From Asia, the fan was exported to Europe; records of the East India Company show fans were being shipped to Europe by 1614. The fan's popularity in Europe grew over time, transitioning from an article of luxury reserved for the wealthy aristocracy to a more approachable, everyday fashion accessory.

Despite its age, the folding hand fan continues to offer a convenient and portable way to cool oneself down, even in the modern era of electric fans and air conditioning. Beyond its affordance to create a cooling air, the folding hand fan has shown remarkable versatility. The Korean dance of buchaechum, the

Buchaechum, a Korean traditional dance for Royal court of Joseon Dynasty

(Korean.Dance-Buchaechum-01 by photoren is licensed under CC BY 2.0.)

Maranao dance of the Singkil, and the classical Japanese dance of nihon-buyō all make use of the folding hand fan. The tessen, or war fan, was used for both military signaling and self-defense in feudal Japan, and the folding hand fan is one of many weapons that appears in Chinese tai chi. More recently, the LGBTQ community has embraced the folding hand fan as a form of expression in both drag performances and dance.

Folding hand fans are frequently works of art in themselves. Many Chinese fans were embellished with birds, flowers, and mythical creatures such as dragons, while others recounted ancient stories through Chinese calligraphy. 17th-century European fans were often lavishly decorated with scenes from mythology, Roman history, or the Bible.

![Pleated Fan](https://www.fancircleinternational.org/history/fans-in-17th-century-europe/)

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8 "Muslim Mindanao". [http://www.seasite.niu.edu/tagalog/cynthia/dances/muslim_mindanao_dances.htm](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/tagalog/cynthia/dances/muslim_mindanao_dances.htm)
11 Comment in r/AskHistorians Reddit by user wotan_weevil. [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskHistorians/comments/cob7xf/a_common_trope_in_japanese_martial_arts_fiction/ewh9te?utm_source=share&utm_medium=web2x&amp;context=3](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskHistorians/comments/cob7xf/a_common_trope_in_japanese_martial_arts_fiction/ewh9te?utm_source=share&utm_medium=web2x&amp;context=3)
12 "Introduction to Tai Chi Flying Fan ( Shan)". Cold Mountain Internal Arts. [https://www.coldmountaininternalarts.com/single-post/2020/03/19/Introduction-to-Tai-Chi-Flying-Fan-Shan](https://www.coldmountaininternalarts.com/single-post/2020/03/19/Introduction-to-Tai-Chi-Flying-Fan-Shan)

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In the English language, the word *fan* also refers to devoted supporters and admirers of specific artists, celebrities, teams, etc. This use of *fan* is widely regarded as a shortened form of the word *fanatic*, which in turn originates from the Latin word *fanum* for “sanctuary, temple”. While *fanatic* first appeared in the English lexicon during the 16th century, the shortened form *fan* assumed its modern meaning in the late 19th century when it began being used to refer to sports enthusiasts. Variations such as *fan boy*, *fan girl*, *fanfiction*, and *fanart* are widely used on the internet at the present, but this kind of modification is not a new invention: the term *fan mail* appeared around 1920, and *fan club* around 1930.

The term *fan* also enjoys idiomatic use in phrases such as “fan the flames” (“To do or say something to make an argument, problem, or bad situation worse”) and “shit hits the fan” (“Things become suddenly very chaotic, disastrous, difficult, or controversial”). This latter example, despite the uncomfortably vivid image it conveys, has been prevalent enough in the English vernacular to inspire more sanitized versions, involving “egg”, “soup”, and “stuff” hitting a fan. Like many idioms, the origin of this phrase is unclear, though some believe it to be inspired by either the agricultural manure spreader or a rather crass

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joke involving a man in a bar. Lexicographer Eric Partridge identifies the phrase as Canadian in origin, circa 1930, in the 1967 edition of A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English. There are multiple examples of the phrase and its variations used as United States military slang during the Second World War, suggesting the phrase began catching on as early as the 1940s.

Selection Factors – Inclusion

Compatibility

N/A

Expected Usage Level

Frequency

Google Search

![Google Search for hand-fan](https://english.stackexchange.com/a/57442)

About 2,460,000,000 results (1.00 seconds)

![Google Search for elephant](https://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/when-the-shit-hits-the-fan.html)

About 586,000,000 results (1.00 seconds)

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22 Answer to “What's the etymology of ‘when the sh*t hits the fan’?” by user Hugo. Stack Exchange. [https://english.stackexchange.com/a/57442](https://english.stackexchange.com/a/57442)


24 Answer to “What's the etymology of ‘when the sh*t hits the fan’?” by user Hugo. Stack Exchange. [https://english.stackexchange.com/a/57442](https://english.stackexchange.com/a/57442)
Proposal for Emoji: FOLDING HAND FAN

Bing Search

Microsoft Bing

hand fan

ALL SHOPPING IMAGES VIDEOS MAPS NEWS

2,360,000 Results Any time

Microsoft Bing

elephant

ALL IMAGES VIDEOS MAPS NEWS SHOPPING

11-24 Of 37,700,000 Results Any time

Google Video Search

hand-fan

About 192,000,000 results (0.47 seconds)

elephant

About 103,000,000 results (0.37 seconds)
Proposal for Emoji: FOLDING HAND FAN

Google Trends: Web Search

Google Trends: Image Search
Multiple Usages

The FOLDING HAND FAN emoji could be used to represent more than just the physical object:

- As a shortened form of the word “fanatic”, FOLDING HAND FAN can be used to represent devoted supporters and admirers of particular musicians, artists, celebrities, team, etc.

  “I’m a big fan of K-pop music. 🎶”

- In fan-related idioms:

  “When the shit hits the fan…”

  “Fan the flames”

- To represent the actions of “fan out” or “spread out”

Use in sequences

The FAN emoji could be used in sequence with other existing emojis. For example:

- POOP 💩 + DIRECT HIT ⚙️ + FOLDING HAND FAN = SHIT HITS THE FAN
- FOLDING HAND FAN + FIRE 🔥 = FAN THE FLAMES
- FOLDING HAND FAN + BOOKS 📚 = FANFICTION
- FOLDING HAND FAN + ENVELOPE 📭 = FANMAIL
- FOLDING HAND FAN + ARTIST PALETTE 🎨 = FAN ART
- FOLDING HAND FAN + BOY 👫 = FANBOY
- FOLDING HAND FAN + GIRL 👒 = FANGIRL
- FOLDING HAND FAN + CLUB SUIT ♠️ = FANCLUB
- HOT FACE 🥵 + FOLDING HAND FAN = OVERWHELMINGLY HOT
- LIGHTNING BOLT ⚡ + FOLDING HAND FAN = ELECTRIC FAN

Breaking new ground.

Yes, the FOLDING HAND FAN emoji would break new ground. There are currently no emojis that represent FOLDING HAND FAN or other similar cooling devices, including “ceiling fan” and “electric fan”.

Image Distinctiveness

The FOLDING HAND FAN emoji would be distinct from other existing emojis. When compared to similarly-shaped emojis such as PEACOCK 🦚 and DRESS 🧚, an emphasis on the opened hand fan’s pleated leaf connected to a single pivot point, as well as depicting the hand fan opened to a sub-180-degree angle, would make the FOLDING HAND FAN emoji’s design visually distinct.

Completeness

N/A
Selection Factors – Exclusion

Petitions or “Frequent Requests”
N/A

Overly Specific
The FOLDING HAND FAN emoji is not overly specific. Even in countries with cool climates, the hand fan is highly recognizable as a tool used to create cooling air. Many countries and cultures have connections to the hand fan, granting the FOLDING HAND FAN emoji strong historical and cultural value. Furthermore, the hand fan is not merely a cooling tool; its versatility is reflected by its presence in fashion, dance, martial arts, etc.

Open-ended
The authors of this proposal do not believe the introduction of an FOLDING HAND FAN emoji would justify the addition of other similar types of emojis. A hand fan is distinct in both form and function from other objects.

Already Representable
Few emojis can represent the concepts covered by the FOLDING HAND FAN emoji. The WIND FACE 🧵 and ICE 🅌 emojis could be used to convey cooling air, and the PEACOCK 🦚 emoji possesses fan-like feathers, but these emojis do not represent an object specifically used to cool oneself. Furthermore, none of these emojis can be used flexibly in sequences, e.g. as a substitute for “fanatic” or as part of an idiom.

Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, specific landmarks, deities
The FOLDING HAND FAN emoji does not depict a logo, brand, UI icon, sign, specific person, specific landmark, or deity. The appearance of a hand fan is generic and commonplace.

Transient
The folding hand fan has appeared in numerous cultures and countries throughout history, but it shows no signs of disappearing. The design of folding hand fans has not changed for centuries. Even in the 21st century, when electricity has made appliances like the electric fan and air conditioner commonplace, the hand fan remains highly recognizable.
Faulty Comparison
N/A

Exact Images
This proposal does not request an exact image for the FOLDING HAND FAN emoji. Variations in the emoji’s design will not affect its recognizability, provided the fan’s unique shape is preserved and the folds are visible.

Region Flags
N/A

Lack of Required Rights
The authors of this proposal affirm that the attached images of the FOLDING HAND FAN emoji are the original works of the authors. The authors own all IP rights in this proposed FOLDING HAND FAN emoji and grants the Unicode Consortium and its licensees “a sub-licensable, irrevocable, perpetual, worldwide, non-exclusive, royaltyfree license in and to the IP Rights” as per the Emoji Proposal Agreement & License.

Variations on Direction
N/A

Includes Text
N/A

Acknowledgements
Thanks to the Emojination community for the suggestions on previous drafts of this proposal.
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