



Date: 29 May, 2025

To:

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2

C/O Unicode Consortium

Subject: Proposal for the Inclusion of the UAE Dirham Currency Sign in ISO/IEC 10646 in the Currency Symbol Block ₪

Dear Members of ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2,

On behalf of the **Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates (CBUAE)**, we respectfully submit a formal proposal for the inclusion of the United Arab Emirates' national currency symbol representing the **UAE Dirham, the UAE's official currency** (for digital and physical applications) in the **Universal Character Set (UCS), ISO/IEC 10646**, and by extension, the Unicode Standard.

The symbol was unveiled by the CBUAE on the 27th March 2025.

Purpose and Scope

The proposed character represents the official currency symbol for the **UAE Dirham** ₪ and has been developed part of the Central Bank's digital financial infrastructure transformation programme. It has been developed as a distinct graphical symbol to serve as an important identifier of the UAE Dirham both domestically and internationally and will be used across the UAE's financial and payments ecosystems, shops, businesses and government entities.

The symbol is intended for the general public, businesses and government in everyday life for transactions and represents the countries national currency. As such, we are requesting this character's encoding as a **currency symbol** in the **Unicode Standard**,

Technical Considerations

The enclosed proposal form **(N4502-F)** provides the technical details, character properties, and glyph design. We have also included:

- Example usages of the symbol with European digits (e.g., 1,234.56).
- Examples showing digit grouping and decimal representation.
- Real-world usage of the symbol on all platforms, mobile, PC, websites, and physical applications like the \$ and other currency symbols.

We confirm that the proposed glyph is original, it does not use a specific font and as such does not require any licensing to allow its inclusion in the official Unicode charts.





Summary

We respectfully request the working group to review and approve the proposed encoding of the UAE Dirham Symbol, ensuring its recognition in global digital systems as a legitimate and identifiable representation of our national currency.

Should further clarifications or revisions be needed, please do not hesitate to contact us directly. We appreciate your consideration and support of this submission.

The enclosed proposal includes:

- [1] A completed PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM (ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2)
- [2] Description, justification, compatibility and the proposed properties of the currency symbol, including examples and references.
- [3] Currency Symbol Guidelines including links to files
https://centralbank.ae/media/w3ansspi/dirham_currency_symbol_guidelines_en_21-may.pdf

We remain at your disposal and for any additional information please feel free to reach out to Ms. May Bumajeed - Head of Communications at may.bumajeed@cbuae.gov.ae, or at +971506417673.

Yours Faithfully,

Ibraheem Al Sayed Mohamed Al Hashemi
Assistant Governor - Executive Office Affairs
Secretary General of the Board of Directors

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646 ¹

Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.

Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from <http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html> for guidelines and details before filling this form.

Please ensure you are using the latest Form from <http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html>.

See also <http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html> for latest Roadmaps.

A. Administrative

1. Title: UNITED ARAB EMIRATES CURRENCY SYMBOL (DIRHAM)
2. Requester's name: CENTRAL BANK OF THE U.A.E (CBUAE)
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution): INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION
4. Submission date: 26 MAY 2025
5. Requester's reference (if applicable): N/A
6. Choose one of the following:
This is a complete proposal: YES
(or) More information will be provided later:

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:
 - a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters): SINGLE CHARACTER
Proposed name of script: N/A
 - b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block: YES
Name of the existing block: CURRENCY SYMBOLS
2. Number of characters in proposal: ONE
3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):

A-Contemporary	YES	B.1-Specialized (small collection)		B.2-Specialized (large collection)	
C-Major extinct		D-Attested extinct		E-Minor extinct	
F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic		G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols			
4. Is a repertoire including character names provided?
 - a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document? YES
 - b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review? YES
5. Fonts related:
 - a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard? UNICODE
 - b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.): N/A
6. References:
 - a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided? YES
 - b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached? YES
7. Special encoding issues:

Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)? YES

AS A CURRENCY SYMBOL WE RECOMMEND THIS IS ADDED TO HOW CURRENCY AND NUMBERS GET FORMATTED

8. Additional Information:

Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at <http://www.unicode.org> for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database (<http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr44/>) and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

¹ Form number: N4502-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 2003-11, 2005-01, 2005-09, 2005-10, 2007-03, 2008-05, 2009-11, 2011-03, 2012-01)

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before?	NO
If YES explain	N/A
2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?	Yes
If YES, with whom?	FEDERAL UAE GOVERNMENT
If YES, available relevant documents:	N/A
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?	YES
Reference:	CURRENCY SYMBOLS
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)	COMMON
Reference:	CURRENCY SYMBOLS
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?	YES
If YES, where? Reference:	PLEASE SEE ATTACHED EXAMPLES
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?	
If YES, is a rationale provided?	
If YES, reference:	
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?	N/A
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?	NO
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference:	
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?	NO
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference:	
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to, or could be confused with, an existing character?	NO
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference:	
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences?	NO
If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?	
If YES, reference:	
Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?	NO
If YES, reference:	
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?	NO
If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)	
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters?	NO
If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified?	
If YES, reference:	

1. Character Name and Glyph

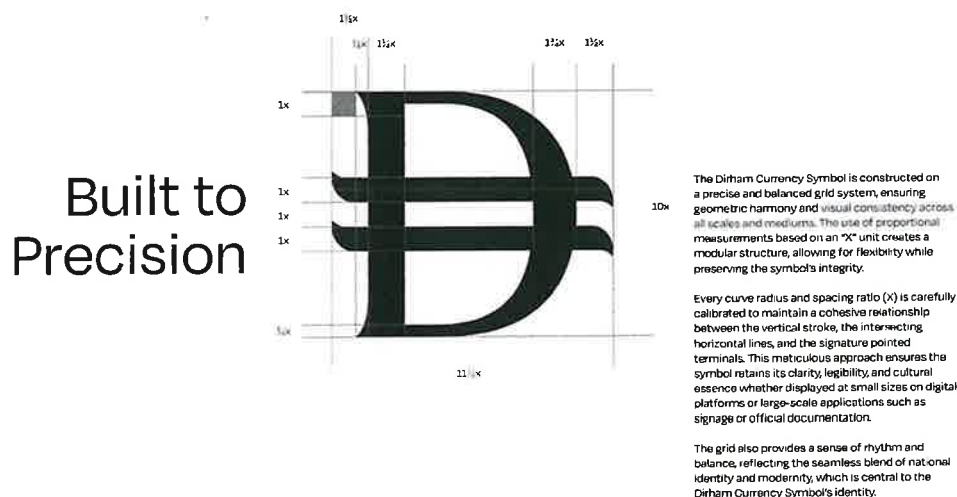
The proposed character is named **UAE DIRHAM SIGN** and is intended to represent the national currency of the United Arab Emirates (AED).

A representative glyph for the symbol is shown below.



Dirham Currency Symbol

Metrics



For further details on proportions please refer to the guidelines:

http://centralbank.ae/media/w3ansspi/dirham_currency_symbol_guidelines_en_21-may.pdf

2. General Character Properties

The following are the recommended properties for the UAE DIRHAM SIGN, modeled after similar currency symbols such as the Dollar Sign (\$), Euro Sign (€), and Indian Rupee Sign (₹):

- **General Category:** Sc (Symbol, Currency)
- **Bidirectional Class:** ET (European Terminator)
- **Script:** Common
- **Combining Class:** 0
- **Directionality:** Left-to-Right (LTR)

- **Line Break Class:** PO (Postfix Numeric)
- **East Asian Width:** N (Neutral)
- **Indic Syllabic Category:** NA (Not Applicable)
- **Numeric Type:** None
-

3. Description of the Character

The UAE DIRHAM SIGN is a proposed currency symbol representing the official currency of the United Arab Emirates (AED).

The symbol is designed to be visually distinct, readable at small sizes, and suitable for use across digital and print media.

It is intended to appear adjacent to monetary values in financial transactions, mobile payment applications, e-commerce platforms, accounting systems, and government publications, in a similar way to other globally recognized currency signs such as \$, €, and ₹.

4. Justification for Encoding

The UAE Dirham is the national currency of the United Arab Emirates, a major financial and economic hub in the Middle East and globally.

Despite its wide usage in banking, trade, and e-commerce, the Dirham currently lacks a dedicated currency symbol within the Unicode Standard.

In practice, the currency has been inconsistently represented using the Latin abbreviation “AED” or the Arabic abbreviation “إ.د.ا”. These methods do not provide the typographic consistency or standardization that a recognized currency symbol ensures.

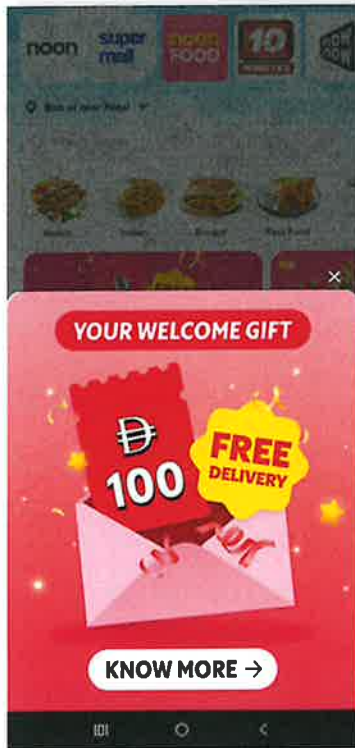
The introduction of the UAE DIRHAM SIGN will address this gap by providing a unified, standardized, and internationally recognized symbol for the Dirham.

Encoding this character will enhance financial communications, support digital and mobile payment platforms, and align the UAE Dirham with other major global currencies that already have dedicated Unicode characters.

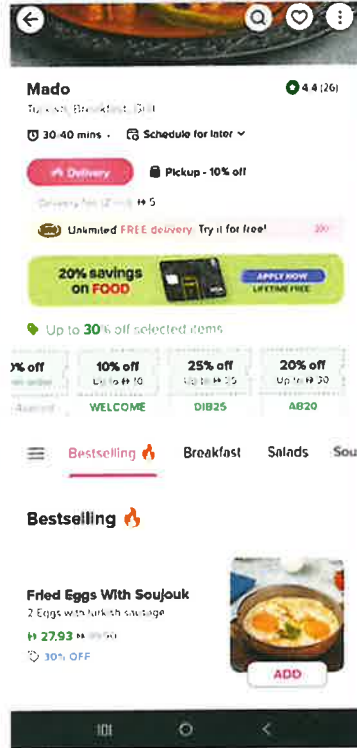
5. Evidence of Usage

The UAE DIRHAM SIGN has been officially announced by the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates (CBUAE) as the new currency symbol for the UAE Dirham. Please see examples of real world use below, along with the press release.

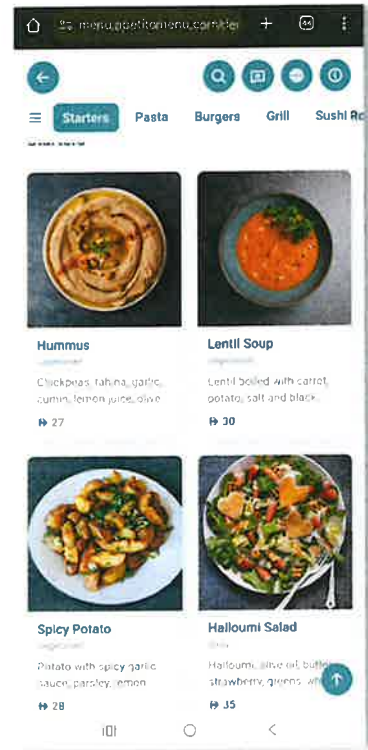
<https://www.centralbank.ae/media/ckkp3s3f/cbuae-unveils-new-dirham-symbol-en.pdf>



Noon Food



Eros.ae



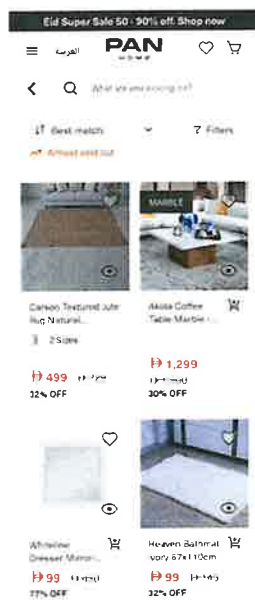
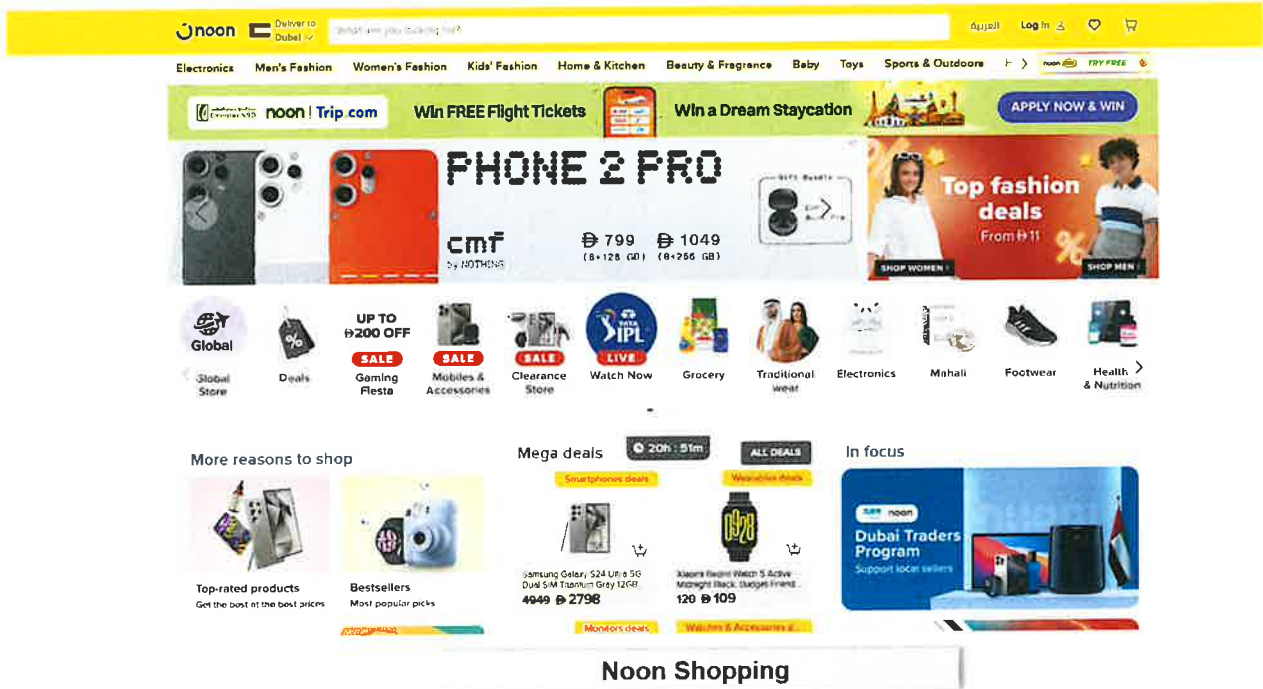
Restaurant Menu



Cafe Menu



Emirates Auction



https://www.panhomestores.com/uae_en/

<https://www.noon.com/uae-en/>

<https://www.emiratesauction.com/>

<https://www.namshi.com/uae-en/>

<https://www.eross.ae/>

In future we may mandate usage of currency symbol or make reference to the currency symbol as part of the Central Bank Federal Law. <https://rulebook.centralbank.ae/en/rulebook/central-bank-organization-financial-institutions-and-activities-law>

For further examples of intended use please refer to the guidelines:

http://centralbank.ae/media/w3ansspi/dirham_currency_symbol_guidelines_en_21-may.pdf

6. Compatibility

The UAE Dirham has historically been represented through abbreviations rather than through a standardized symbol.

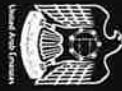
In Latin-based texts and international systems, the currency is commonly referred to by its ISO code “AED”.

In Arabic contexts, the abbreviation “إ.د.” (short for درهم إماراتي) is used.

However, neither “AED” nor “إ.د.” is a dedicated typographic symbol.

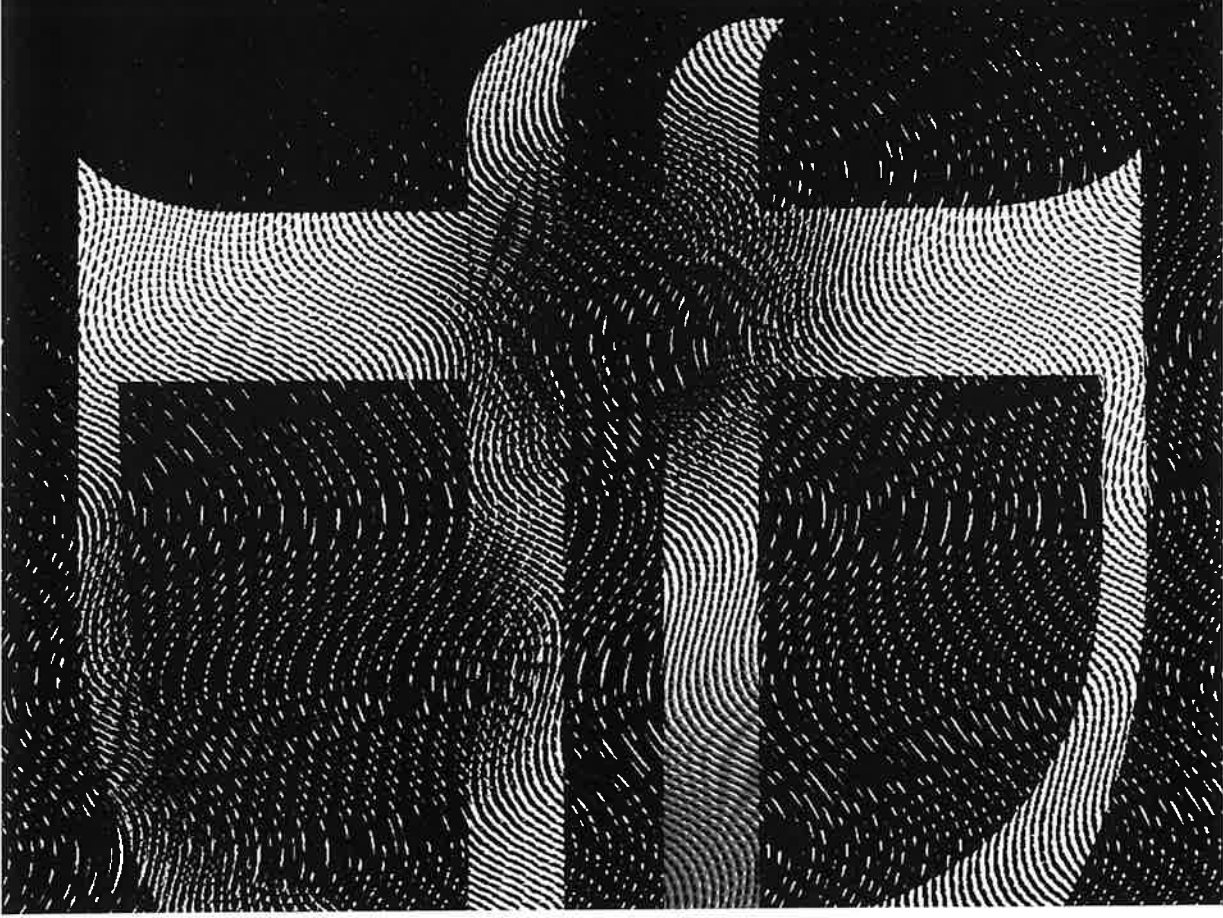
Their use results in inconsistent formatting across platforms, as they are treated as text strings rather than currency symbols.

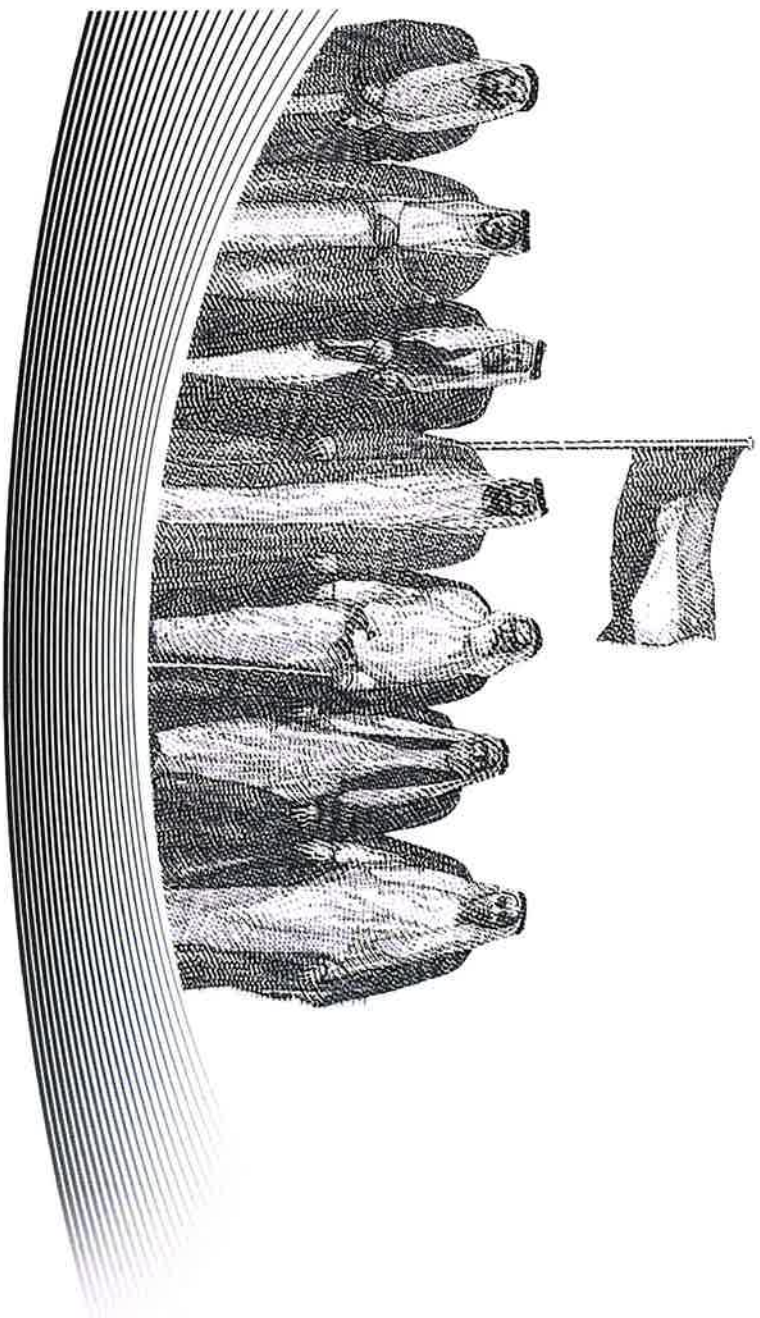
By introducing a dedicated Unicode character for the UAE Dirham, typographic consistency will be improved across financial systems, digital applications, banking documents, and government records, aligning the Dirham’s treatment with that of other global currencies such as the Dollar Sign (\$), the Euro Sign (€), and the Indian Rupee Sign (₹).



مصرف الإمارات العربية المتحدة
CENTRAL BANK OF THE U.A.E.

Dirham Currency Symbol Guideline





Symbolising a Legacy

This document presents the visual identity and application guidelines for the UAE's Dirham Currency Symbol, which has now been developed and must be used hereafter. The symbol represents a bold step toward the future, seamlessly blending national identity with innovation.

As the UAE continues to lead in financial excellence and digital transformation, this design stands as a testament to the nation's visionary spirit, economic resilience, and commitment to shaping a globally recognised and technologically advanced financial landscape.

Content

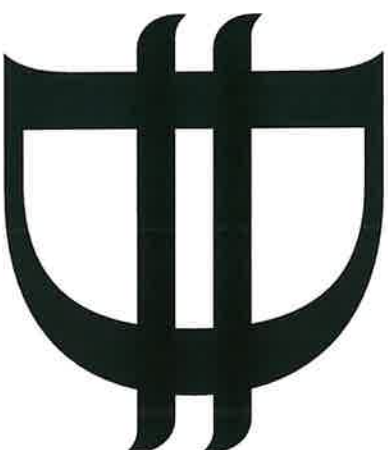
Dirham Currency Symbol

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Dirham Currency Symbol

Introduction

A Symbol for a New Age



In May 1973, the UAE introduced the Dirham, a defining moment that marked its integration into the global economy. More than just a currency, the Dirham has become a testament to the nation's identity, unwavering values, and remarkable journey of progress.

Dirham Currency Symbol

Concept

Inspired by
National
Identity

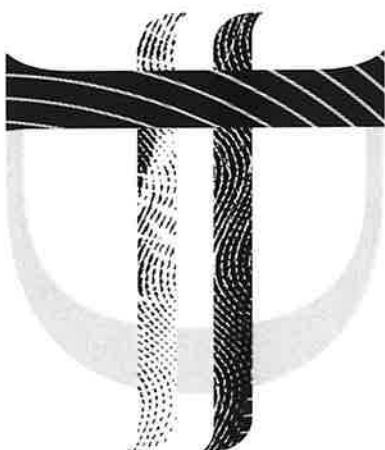


Rooted in the essence of the UAE's national identity, this concept reimagines the lines of the flag, seamlessly integrating them into the design of the letter "D" for Dirham. The result is a powerful emblem of strength, unity, and progress.

Dirham Currency Symbol

Concept

Rooted in
the Identity
of the UAE

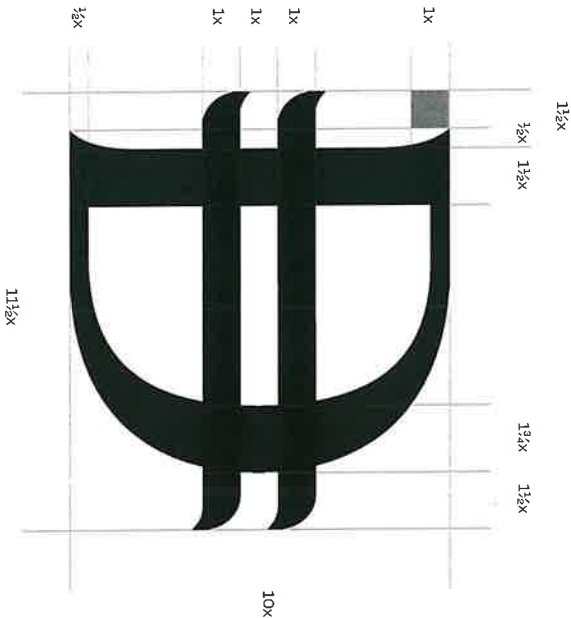


The pointed curves are inspired by the flowing elegance of classical Arabic calligraphy, where scripts such as Thuluth and Diwani often feature sharp, sweeping endings that express both grace and authority.

Dirham Currency Symbol

Metrics

Built to Precision



The Dirham Currency Symbol is constructed on a precise and balanced grid system, ensuring geometric harmony and visual consistency across all scales and mediums. The use of proportional measurements based on an "X" unit creates a modular structure, allowing for flexibility while preserving the symbol's integrity.

Every curve radius and spacing ratio (X) is carefully calibrated to maintain a cohesive relationship between the vertical stroke, the intersecting horizontal lines, and the signature pointed terminals. This meticulous approach ensures the symbol retains its clarity, legibility, and cultural essence whether displayed at small sizes on digital platforms or large-scale applications such as signage or official documentation.

The grid also provides a sense of rhythm and balance, reflecting the seamless blend of national identity and modernity which is central to the Dirham Currency Symbol's identity.

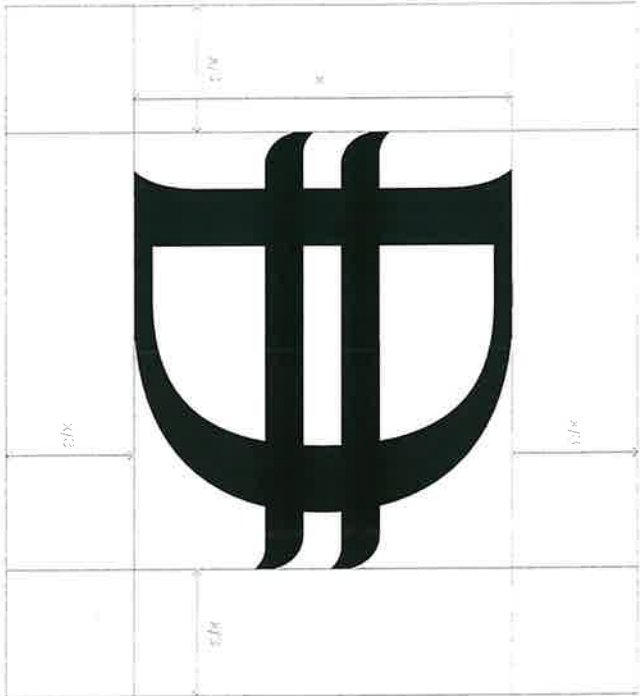
Dirham Currency Symbol

Clearspace & Minimum Sizes

In instances where the currency symbol is used as a standalone graphic element—such as in logos, signage, UI buttons, or promotional layouts—a minimum clear space equal to one-third of the symbol's height must be maintained on all sides. This ensures the symbol remains visually clear and uncluttered.

However, when used inline with text or numerical values, this clear space rule does not apply. To maintain legibility, the symbol should not appear smaller than 12px on screen or 5pt in print.

Symbol Clearspace



Minimum Sizes



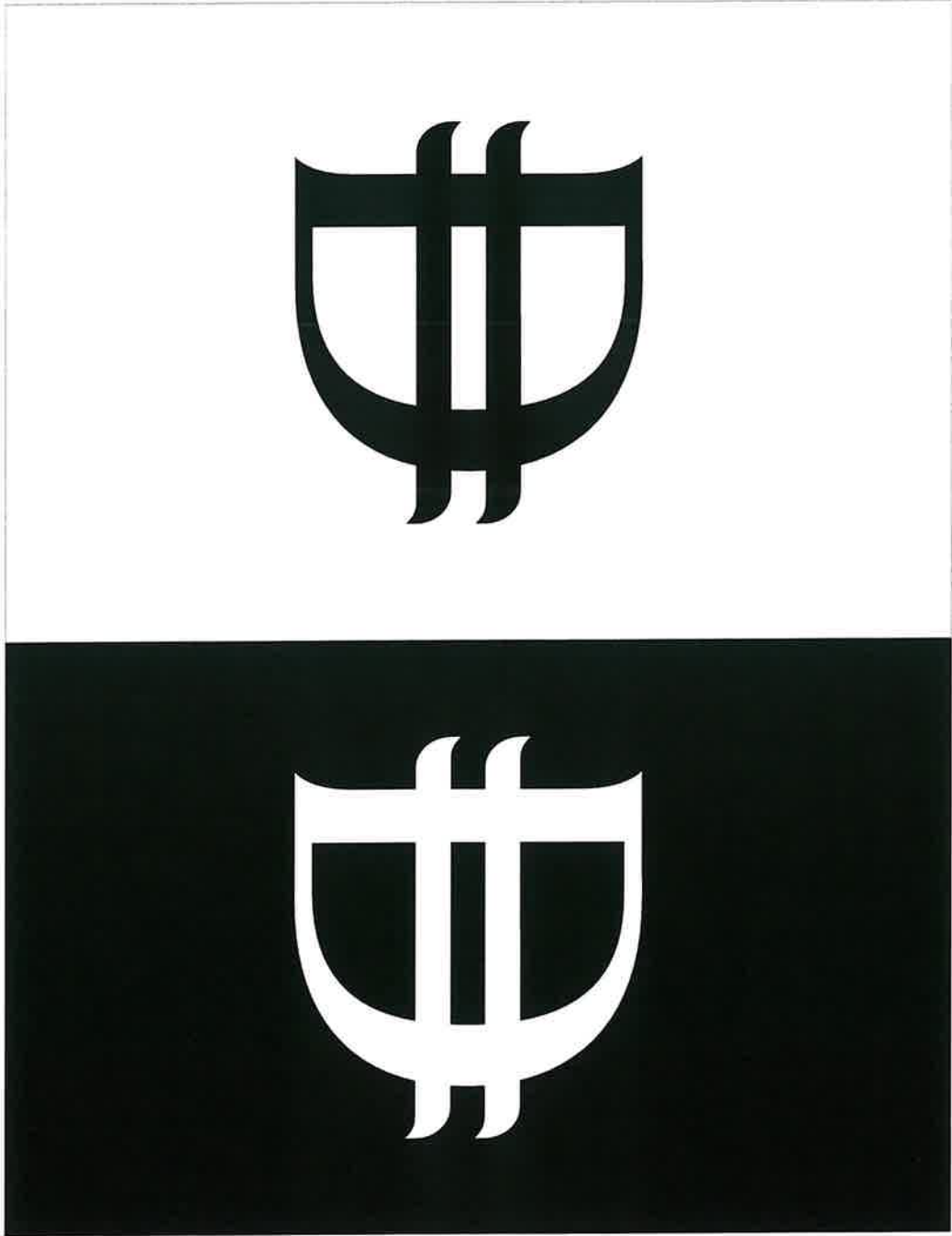
Print Minimum Size: 5pt
Web Minimum Size: 12px

Dirham Currency Symbol

Colour Usage

The currency symbol should primarily appear in black or white to ensure clarity and consistency across applications. In functional use—such as pricing, forms, and financial documents—always prioritise contrast and legibility.

Brand colour variations may be used in marketing contexts only, provided they maintain clear visibility. Gradients, effects, and decorative alterations are not permitted.

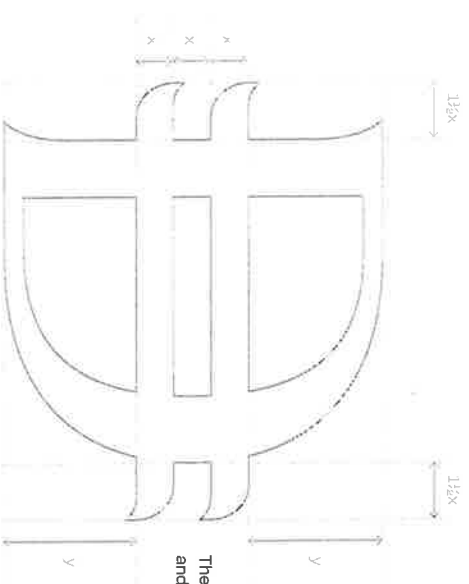


Dirham Currency Symbol

Adaptations

While the currency symbol may be adapted to match different font styles and weights, it is essential that the core structure remains consistent across all variations. The symbol should always maintain its recognisable form, preserving the two horizontal bars and the overall shape that references the letter D.

Minor adjustments to stroke weight, curvature, or serif details may be required to harmonise with a specific typeface, but these modifications must not compromise legibility or distort the symbol's identity. Regardless of stylistic changes, the placement and proportion of the two bars should follow the defined spacing guidelines to ensure visual consistency and brand integrity.

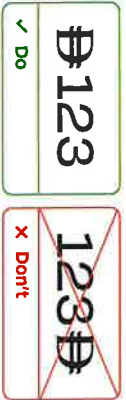


The horizontal bars must be centred and maintain consistent spacing.

Dirham Currency Symbol

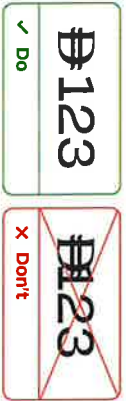
Dos & Don'ts

Position



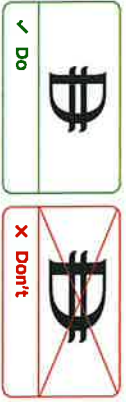
The symbol should be positioned to the left of the numeral.

Spacing



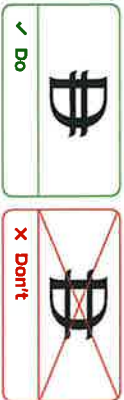
Sufficient space is required between the symbol and the numeral.

Proportions



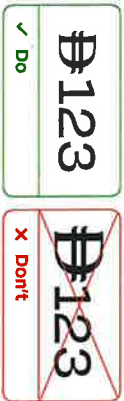
The shape of the symbol should be maintained.

Geometry



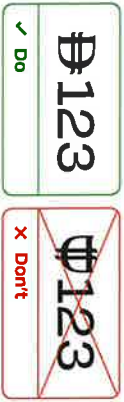
The geometric structure of the symbol should be maintained.

Size



The height of the symbol should be equal to the height of the text.

Direction



The direction of the symbol should match the direction of the text.

Integration



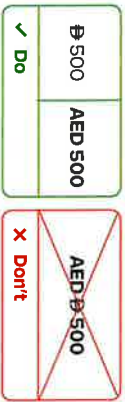
A clear space equal to one-third of the symbol's height is required around the shapes.

Contrast



Sufficient colour contrast with the background is required.

Symbol vs Currency Code



Never use the currency symbol and 'AED' together — use one or the other, not both.

Physical Applications

CENTRAL BANK OF THE UAE

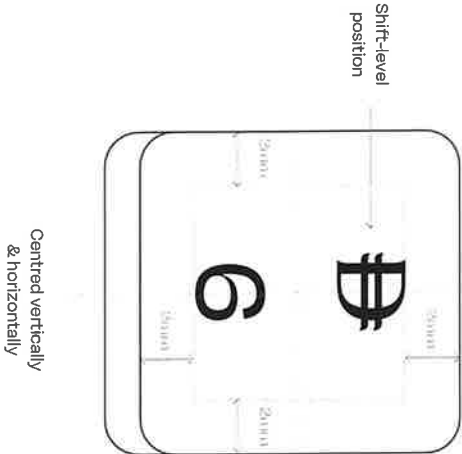
Physical Applications

Keyboard

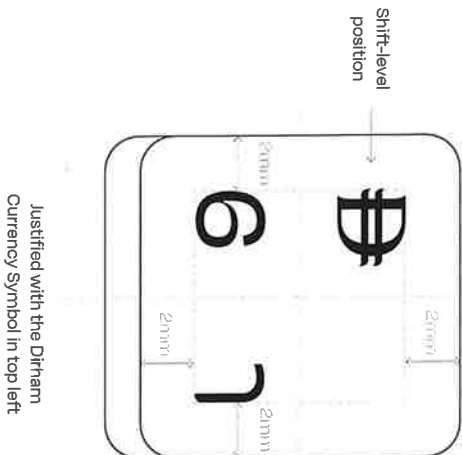
The currency symbol is designated to appear on the number 6 key across all keyboard layouts. On single-language keycaps, the symbol should be centred horizontally and vertically within the top half of the key, replacing the standard secondary character (such as the caret ^).

On dual-language keycaps, it should be placed in the top left corner to accommodate the secondary script, which typically appears in the lower portion of the key. In both cases, the symbol should be scaled to fit comfortably within the key's printable area, maintaining a minimum of 2mm clear space on all sides to ensure legibility and visual balance.

Single Language



Dual Language



Physical Applications Keyboard



Physical Applications Cheque Book

When printed on cheques, the currency symbol must appear in the amount in figures' field, placed immediately before the numeric value. The symbol should be the same height and stroke weight as the numerals, maintaining baseline alignment to ensure clarity and prevent tampering.

In the 'amount in words' field, use the full phrase "Dirhams". The symbol should not be used on its own in written amounts to maintain legal clarity. Ensure sufficient print resolution for visibility and legibility, especially when cheques are scanned or photocopied.

PAY TO THE ORDER OF	Five Hundred Dirhams
DATE	0000
CURRENCY SYMBOL	₪ 500
PAYER'S SIGNATURE	
AMOUNT IN NUMBERS	:0000000000: 00000000 0000

Same height as
numeric digits box

Physical Applications Cheque Book

YOUR NAME
ANY STREET, ANYTOWN
555-0000

DATE _____

PAY TO THE
ORDER OF _____

RE _____

PAYER'S SIGNATURE _____

0000

SECURITY
FEATURED
INCLUDED

1:000000000:1 00000000 0000

Physical Applications

Receipts

When used on printed or digital receipts, the currency symbol must appear directly before the numeric value, and should be set in the same height, font weight, and style as the price digits to ensure visual consistency.

The symbol and amount must be right-aligned and clearly separated from the item description to avoid confusion. Maintain adequate spacing between the item name and the price column to ensure legibility, especially in long itemised lists. All text on the receipt, including item names and headings, should appear in English only and follow a justified alignment for a clean, uniform structure across all entries.

Overall list must be justified and written in English

Purchased Item

Provide adequate spacing between listed item and price

Dirham Currency Symbol aligned to digits height with matching weights

₪7.50

Physical Applications
Receipts

CASH RECEIPT

(123) 456-7890
Manager John Smith
8355 Lorem Ipsum

Delenit Augue ₪3.20
Consectetur ₪5.25
Exerci Tation ₪9.80
Lobortis x3 ₪12.50
Vulputate Velit ₪1.00
Molestie x2 ₪7.55

Tax:
Total: ₪39.30

Credit Card: **** * 8911
Network ID: 0051 Appr Code: 6543
12/07/24 03:25:47

THANK YOU

Physical Applications

Price Tags

When applied to physical or digital price tags, the currency symbol should be positioned directly before the numeric value and set in the same font, size, and weight as the price digits for visual consistency. The price should be centre-aligned or right-aligned, depending on the design layout, and surrounded by enough spacing to ensure clear separation from product descriptions, barcodes, or icons.

The symbol must be easily legible at small sizes, especially in printed retail environments. Use the currency symbol or the currency code (AED), but never both. The design should prioritise clarity and avoid decorative treatments that compromise legibility, especially in multi-item layouts or high-speed retail environments.

Sufficient clear space must be provided



Dirham Currency Symbol aligned to digits height with matching weights

Physical Applications Price Tags



Digital Applications

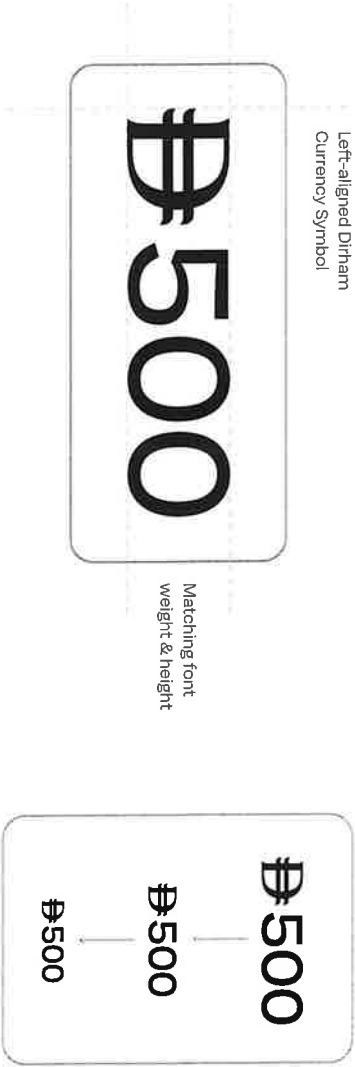
CENTRAL BANK OF THE UAE

Digital Applications

Digital Use

In digital interfaces such as exchange websites and mobile apps, the currency symbol must always be displayed to the left of the numerical value, with consistent alignment across all components. The symbol should be the same height, baseline, and stroke weight as the numerals to maintain visual harmony.

It must scale proportionally with responsive typography to ensure legibility across different screen sizes, with a recommended minimum size of 12px for small devices. The symbol should not be stylised independently or appear in superscript/subscript forms. When used in conversion charts, dropdown menus, or financial summaries, apply consistent spacing, alignment, and font treatment to preserve clarity and user trust.

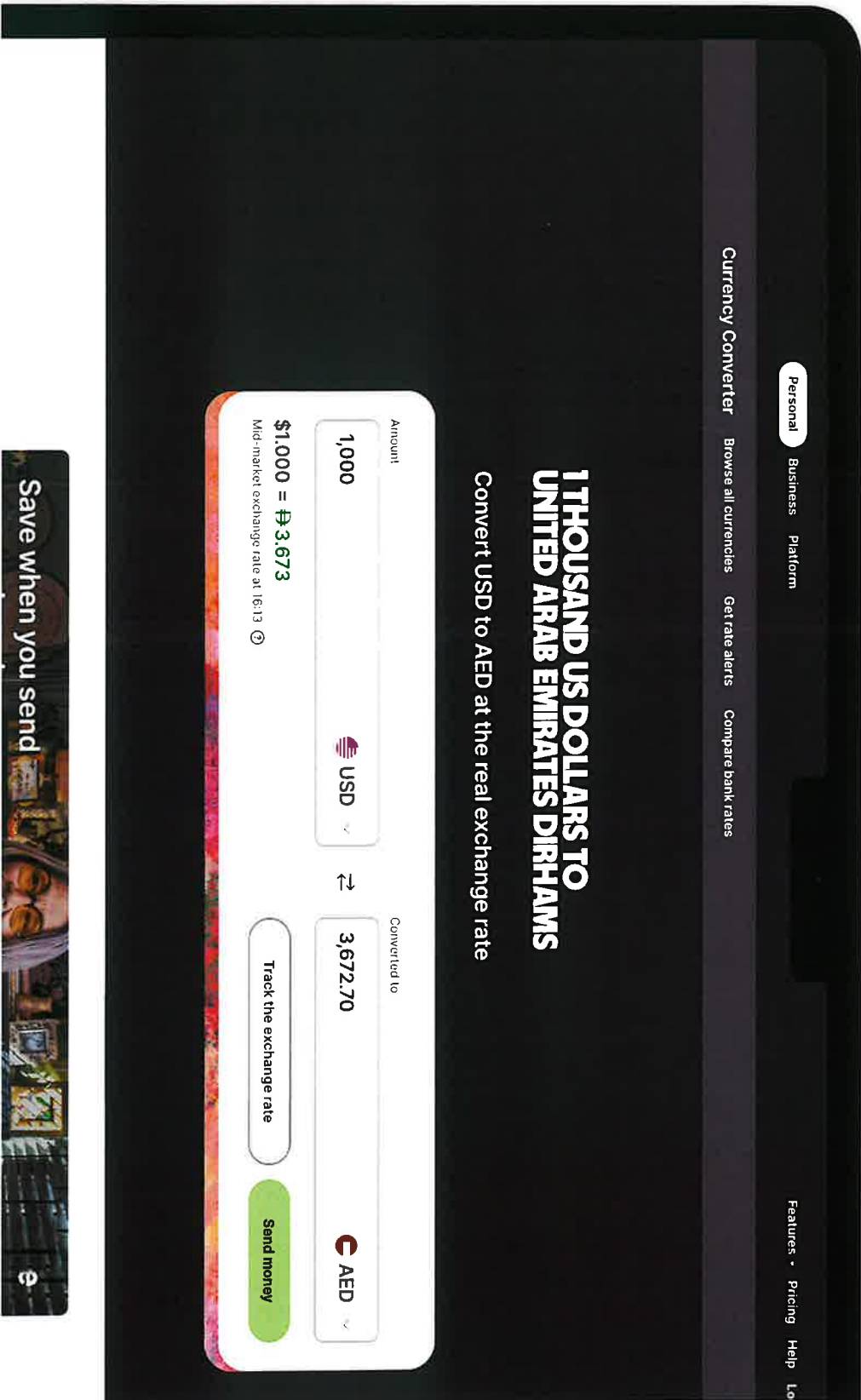


Digital Applications

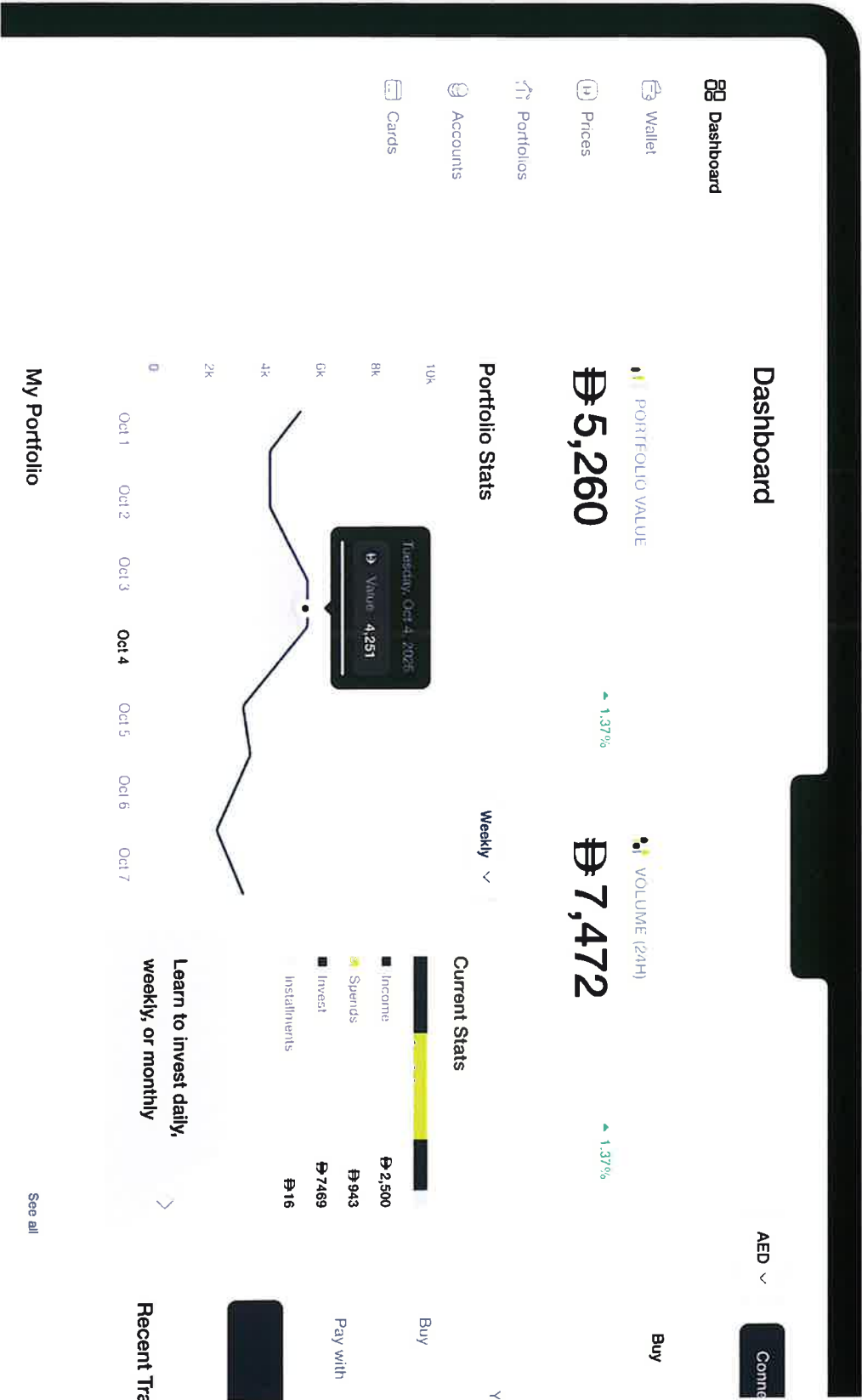
ATM Screens



Digital Applications
Conversion
Platforms



Digital Applications
Trading
Platforms



Dashboard

Portfolio Value

₹5,260

Volume (24h)

₹7,472

Weekly

Current Stats

Income

Spend

Invest

Installments

Learn to invest daily, weekly, or monthly

Recent Transactions

₹5,260

₹7,472

₹2,500

₹943

₹7469

₹16

Oct 1

Oct 2

Oct 3

Oct 4

Oct 5

Oct 6

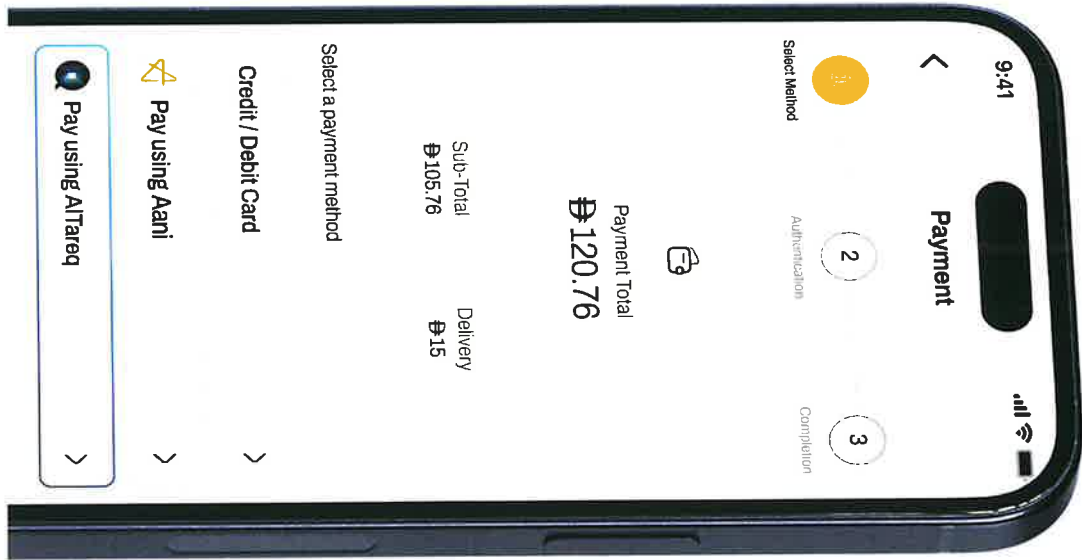
Oct 7

Buy

Pay with

Digital Applications

Mobile App



Use Cases

CENTRAL BANK OF THE UAE

Use Cases

Dirham

Currency

Symbol

The currency symbol is designed for use in financial and transactional contexts where values are expressed in numerals. It appears on physical currency notes and coins, and is used in systems such as point-of-sale terminals, ATMs, accounting software, financial reports, cheques, and invoices.

In digital interfaces, it should be shown next to numeric values in apps, calculators, pricing displays, and forms. However, the symbol should not be used as a logo or branding element, and it should never replace the full written form "Dirhams" when amounts are spelled out. It is also not suitable for use on splash screens or as part of identity or promotional design.



Should be used:

- On physical currency notes and coins
- In POS systems, ATMs, receipt printers and tills
- In financial apps (e.g. online banking) and accounting systems, beside numeric values
- On cheques, invoices, and printed financial documents
- Online shopping and in-store, on pricing labels
- Within dropdowns, calculators, and currency fields in UI

Should NOT be used:

- As a logo, lock-up, or brand identifier
- On splash screens, headers, or app branding
- In place of "Dirhams" when writing amounts in words

Download links for the Dirham Currency Symbol in various formats

[EPS](#)

High-quality printing

[PNG](#)

General use

[SVG](#)

Digital vector graphics

Thank You

