

TEEN'S SHOES OBJECT



TORIKAGO

## Sports, Recycling and Art

Baseball bats, tennis rackets, balls, and other used sports equipment all made an appearance at the Recycl'art exhibition, held in Osaka last March. The exhibition used the familiar theme of sports equipment to encourage people to think about issues relat-

ed to garbage and recycling in our mass-consumption, disposable society. The show featured works which recycled the well-loved sports equipment of famous sports stars, such as former pro tennis player Kimiko Date's tennis shoes, and hammer-throw

athlete Koji Murofushi's hammer. Thanks to the support of Citigroup Private Bank, the 2004 Recycl'art will not be limited to an art exhibition; the organizers also plan to collect used sports gear for recycling, and carry out other activities under the same theme.



## Family Crest T-Shirts

Most people have lost the habit of wearing Japanese-style clothing every day. Along with this, another custom that has all but disappeared is the use of family crests to adorn clothes. From ancient times, family crests have been a traditional symbol for not only the Imperial Family, but for all families. Tastefully elegant patterns using flowers and birds, the first character of a family name, numbers, and other designs were used for family crests. Court nobles used family crests on their clothing, vehicles, and furnishings, while for generations samurai families used crests as a symbol on their flags and

drapes. During the Edo Period, common folk and actors created family crests according to their own personal fancy, and used the crests to adorn their formal clothing.

To revive this piece of Japan's past, the fashion boutique United Arrows has a new series of T-shirts featuring embroidered family crests. Customers are able to choose from a variety of family crests and thread colors, and can order their favorite combination on a T-shirt. The simple yet beautiful family crest designs have now been rediscovered as a fashion statement for the younger generation.



PHOTOS: SAKUNA TAKAHERO



## Household Solar Energy Monitor

If you want to know how much electricity your domestic solar power generator is producing, the Econonavit from Kyocera has the answer. This solar power monitor displays in real time the amount of power generated by home-use solar systems, as well as

the amount of electricity being consumed within the household.

The Econonavit uses a wireless data connection to both send and collect data, allowing users to place the unit wherever in their house they like. It can display yearly and monthly

data comparisons, as well as environmental statistics, thus helping instill awareness of energy-saving efforts within the home. The product received the 2003 Good Design Award thanks to its stylish design, easy-to-read display, and wide variety of functions.

## Roll-up Keyboard

The ultimate in portable keyboards is this model, which weighs just 850 grams and can be rolled up small enough to take anywhere. It has proved extremely popular, and some stores sold out soon after it was released.

The roll-up keyboard was developed by Yamano Music, Inc. It is laid out on a single sheet of strong rubber, and the keys do not depress when played. Despite being compact and portable, the keyboard has a full four-octave key range, and can produce chords. As well as a piano sound, the keyboard can reproduce over 100

different types of sounds, including the violin and trumpet. The keyboard uses batteries as its power source, allowing for outdoor performances as well. Add headphones, and you can play without worrying

about the neighbors. Yamano's roll-up keyboard is sure to be a popular option for people who want a piano but have no place to put one, or those who want to play anytime, anywhere.

