

OFFICIAL JOURNAL FOR  
NON-DOMICILED SEAFARERS

# Ocean Gate International

【WINTER 2011号 VOL.12】

船員さんのための英文機関誌、“Ocean Gate International”2011年冬号でエコでお洒落な風呂敷が紹介されました。

ALL JAPAN SEAMEN'S UNION  
<http://www.jsu.or.jp/>

# Ocean Gate

INTERNATIONAL

Winter 2011, Volume 12

## Sea Change

President Fujisawa reelected union leader by overwhelming majority at JSU's 71st annual national assembly

### JSU Topics

First graduation ceremony held at CSU-JSU-IMMAJ China Dalian Seaman Integrated Training Centre

JSU develops its Vision for Asia Maritime Center in Busan, South Korea

JSU, FKSU and KSSU confirm partnership to ensure seafarer and ship safety

JSU President Fujisawa receives the highest honor for contributing to the development and welfare of Vietnamese seafarers from vice-president Nguyen of the VGCL

Japanese Onko Chishin 温故知新 Furoshiki

Official Journal for Non-Domiciled Seafarers

## Did You Know? Japanese Onko Chishin

# 温故知新

learning new things by studying the past

## - Furoshiki -

Culture

Did You Know?  
**Japanese Onko Chishin**  
温故知新  
learning new things by studying the past  
**-Furoshiki-**

*Furoshiki — cloth used for wrapping that has long been a tradition in Japanese culture — has been attracting attention in recent years as a reusable product with little impact on the natural environment. In this issue, we focus on furoshiki and its use.*



The furoshiki on the left is entitled "Takarazukushi," or full of treasures, as its traditional pattern describes eight treasures, while the other furoshiki features Japan's iconic Mt. Fuji.



Furoshiki, which is made from a single piece of cloth, can be turned into a bag. The secret to crafting a bag from furoshiki is revealed on Page 16.



Many furoshiki in recent years have featured modern designs, which make them also suitable as scarves, among other things.



## Furoshiki dates back more than 1,200 years



Furoshiki are square pieces of cloth that people use to wrap things in. Its use in Japan is said to date back more than 1,200 years.

During the Edo Period (1603-1867), furoshiki, literally "bath spread," were used to carry personal belongings, including toiletries and a change of

clothing, to public baths, which became popular around the start of this period. Commoners then began to use them in other aspects of their daily lives. Furoshiki with elaborate designs, which were seen used by women at weddings, are still used today on many other formal occasions.

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*Feelings of the person who presents it are conveyed by wrapping with furoshiki*



In Japan, people giving gifts wrap them in furoshiki. Taking the time to wrap a gift shows how much care goes into the gift. When Japanese people wrap gifts, they not only want to make them easier to carry but also to express how important the gift and the act of giving is to them and how grateful they are of those to whom they are giving the gifts.

"Otsukai tsutsumi", a style of wrapping furoshiki to be used in running errands, is the most popular way of wrapping square items. For best results, the diagonal length of the furoshiki for this purpose should be three times the diagonal of the item being wrapped.

Let's master basic "otsukai tsutsumi style" of wrapping furoshiki and use it in our daily lives



1

Place the furoshiki with its decorated side down, and the object to be wrapped on top as shown in the photo.



2

Fold the corner of the cloth over the item away from you, and then, bring the far corner of the furoshiki over the item toward you.



3

Bring the right and left ends of the cloth together so that the item snugly fits in the furoshiki.



4

Tie the ends together once.



5

Tie again by bringing the end in your right hand on top of the other.



6

Pull the ends tightly. Adjust the knot so that it looks nice, and you are done.

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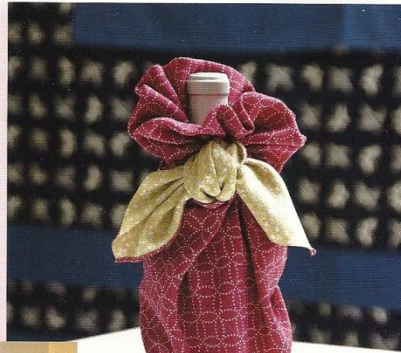
## Other uses for furoshiki

You can use furoshiki for many other purposes



Furoshiki are available in a wide variety of sizes — from approximately 45 centimeters square to as large as 283 centimeters square, which can be used to wrap futons. As the photo shows, you can use furoshiki as a table spread.

Furoshiki can be used to wrap a variety of shaped items. They can also be used to decorate your rooms.



You can use furoshiki to wrap a bottle of wine. Try using it when taking a gift to a party or other celebrations.



You can even use your favorite furoshiki to decorate your wall, just like a painting.



Furoshiki made of recycled fibers produced from used plastic bottles are an eco-friendly option.

## Evolving furoshiki

Furoshiki has recently caught the attention of young Japanese as well as foreigners. In recent years, furoshiki designs have become more unique.



### SHOP DATA

Motai THINK OUT OF THE CASE

Address: 2-7-6-504, Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo

Tel: (0120)85-7255

Business hours: By reservation only

URL: [http://www.boutique-hospitalityjapan.com/\(English\)](http://www.boutique-hospitalityjapan.com/(English))



Bags made from reversible furoshiki — sporting patterns on both sides — are conveniently designed with handles.

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### Become a furoshiki expert! Making a bag out of furoshiki

You can easily fold furoshiki into a bag by simply making three knots.  
By learning to do this, you can make great use of furoshiki.



**1** Fold the furoshiki in half along its diagonal line.



**2** As shown in the photo, make knots on the right and left ends.



**3** Make another knot on the top end.



**4** You are done. When you are caught without a bag, furoshiki can come in handy.

## Pick UP!

Furoshiki shop with a furoshiki gallery



Tokyo Karakusaya of Furoshiki shop



Tokyo Fuji Miyabi Furoshiki Gallery

You can find a variety of furoshiki at Tokyo Karakusaya, which cooperated in our report. There is a gallery on the fifth floor of the same building (which is open by reservation only). A collection of antique furoshiki, written information and other materials are on display, and the gallery offers classes on folding furoshiki.

### SHOP DATA

Tokyo Karakusaya of furoshiki shop

**Address:** 1st Floor, Miyabi Building,

3-4-6 Nihonbashi Ningyo-cho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo

**Tel:** (03)3661-3938

**Business hours:** From 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Closed:** Tuesdays and Wednesdays

**URL:** <http://www.karakusaya.co.jp/> (Japanese only)