

## KIMONO

do you know why japanese costume has two big „sode“. perhaps , you do not know. this “sode” has an interesting story. i will tell it you.

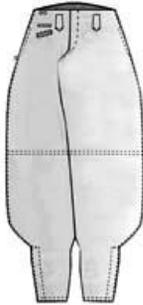
long long years ago, there was a very very fair woman. she was so tender and fair that many men of that days wrote to her many love-letters. if she took a walk, men flung their letters into her pocket. at last, she had no space to receive their letters on her person . and then that very clever woman made “sode” in her costume.

is this story not interesting, sir? all japanese are wishing to be flung by love-letters. (all japanese like to receive love-letters is the way to say it?)

osamu dazai, japanese writer ca.1920

(p.s.)

a single bolt of cloth measures approximately 9 m in length and 30 cm in width. this is sufficient to make one kimono, whether for men or for women regardless of height and weight. no pattern is needed. kimonos are hand-crafted and mostly out of silk. originally the kimono is unseamed for cleaning and resewed after it. well-worn kimonos are recycled into cushions, curtains, dolls.....



## TOBI

the tobi is one of the most distinctive styles of construction worker uniform, in japan.

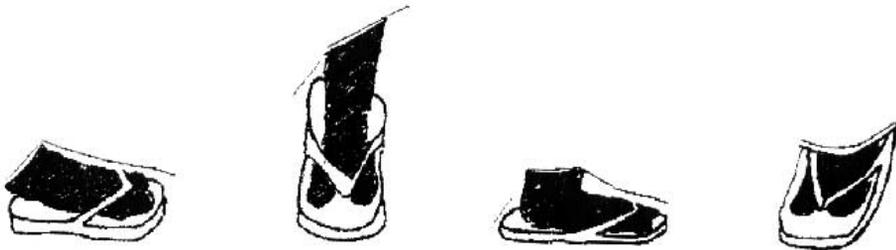
tobi means something like “scaffolding man/woman”. the name comes from a certain kind of device - a japanese style pike pole - which was used during the edo period in japan. the shape of the device reminded people of the hooked beak of the bird tobi and soon tobi became a generic term used for those working at high places. the work of a tobi involves a great deal of danger, therefore, tobis are admired as “star performers” on the construction site and they have been chic and fashionable since the old days.

tobi workers are easily identified by the shape of their trousers. the lower part under the knee is pumped up like a balloon. the main reason: the baggy pants make it easy to move, easy to bend, stretch and stride. furthermore it is good to have some kind of sensor: the balloon part of your trousers touches obstacles before your legs do, which acts as kind of a warning system without necessarily having to look down. besides, they can measure the intensity of the wind and the bagginess prevents the fabric from clinging to your leg even when you are sweating.

right below the pumped up part, the trousers become narrow again in order to tighten up your calves. why? pressing the calves encourages blood circulation and helps you to work longer and to stand for hours without your feet swelling up.

the tobi trousers developed out of a westernization of traditional japanese clothing. after the meiji restoration, workers adjusted their trousers in order to move more easily, taped their calves with a band and wore tabi on top of them. besides, the balloon shape was also influenced by ninja outfits.

over the last twenty years, the balloon part has become wider and longer...



## ZORI and TABI

the traditional japanese zori originated in the heian period (794-1192) is the prototype, of what has evolved into, as more widely known today as, the thong or flip-flop.

the traditional zori is made from the same material used to cover tatami mats, to keep the feet free from perspiration. the zori allows for free circulation of air around the feet, letting your feet breath naturally and were designed so they could be easily slipped on and off, when entering a room with tatami mat flooring.

the act of removing your shoes is symbolic of casting off the worries and troubles as well as the dirt of the outside world (soto).

tabi are used in conjunction with zori because the zori are not allowed to touch the tatami mats. these socks like slippers separate the big toe from the rest of the toes and are always worn with sandals outdoors

japan spred the zori to the west. the original manufacturing of the thong sandal in america was in hawaii, when allied forces brought back the zori to the us after world war II. the zori gained popularity amongst californian surfer in the 50s.they embraced the flip-flop, being the closest you could come to bare feet and the open-toed shoes became popular...