

Yotsuba&! Feature Part 2.

Mr. Azuma's things equal Daddy's things!?

クラブ通信

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Good Hobonichi to you. Hariu here.

'Yotsuba&!' is a best-selling manga featuring a young girl, full of energy, named Yotsuba, who spends every day having fun, and 'Daddy', and their simple yet enjoyable day to day lives. Yesterday we published a revised, amended version of the interview with series author Mr. Kiyohiko Azuma that was published in the Official Guidebook.

[If you haven't read it yet, please do so.](#)

The Hobonichi Day Planner that was featured in volume 10 actually made another appearance in volume 11, which was released just the other day. If you're wondering where it was... the answer is Chapter 71, "Yotsuba&! Pizza"! It was featured subtly, but there were two panels where you could definitely tell it was a Hobonichi Day Planner.



Daddy and Yotsuba waiting for pizza. While Yotsuba can hardly wait, Daddy is... passing the time writing in his Hobonichi Day Planner! Oooh, it's the butterfly stopper one day per page model. There is no doubt that this is a Hobonichi Day Planner.

Now, there are some parts to my research with Mr. Azuma that couldn't be published due to page constraints. So today, in commemoration of the release of volume 11, it is my pleasure to be able to print a portion of that here. Consider it a bonus track. Now then, here we go!

* * * * *

— You said that for the Hobonichi Day Planner that Daddy uses, you said to one of your assistants “Daddy uses one of these, so draw it in the scene” and handed him a Hobonichi Day Planner. Would you say that the things Daddy uses are fairly synchronized with your own possessions?

Azuma It's not as though everything is a carbon copy of mine. We have different tastes.

— Different tastes (laugh).

Azuma I mean if you look at what we have around our desks aside from the day planner...
Ah, see, he's got a pair of scissors.
We do share a chair though.



▲ Mr. Azuma's workspace. This is where he draws 'Yotsuba&!'.
You can see the model from which Yotsuba's friend Duralumin was based on

in this photograph.

— Oh, it is the same.

Azuma Daddy and I may share a lot of the same habits.

— Habits such as?

Azuma Sitting cross-legged in our chairs.

— Ahahaha!

Azuma Curved chairs make it difficult to sit cross-legged, so I chose this chair because it's flat and has a large seat.

— I see. I certainly seem to recall scenes with Daddy sitting cross-legged.



▲ There's a scene of Daddy sitting cross-legged in the same chapter from volume 11 that featured the Hobonichi Day Planner!

Azuma But the more I think about it, any time Daddy and I use the same things, it's usually because I drew him using it first, then went out and bought it myself. Like our bicycles, for instance.

— So that was the same bicycle Daddy rides!

Azuma Oh, actually, I believe Satomi (Hideki Satomi, Director of Yotuba Sutazio) said to me me, "After you've drawn this, go get it," and made me buy it for him

Satomi It's true. I said, "Get me this bike!"

— Hehehehe.



▲ The bike that Daddy and Mr. Satomi ride.

This shot also has the bike Yotsuba rides. It's so tiny!

Azuma I actually don't like this particular bike (laugh). My preferred bicycle is nothing like Daddy's. I kind of lean towards the obsessive side of things, while Daddy doesn't really think too much about that sort of thing one way or the other. Well, I say that, but he may be a little particular about his work area. Getting that chair because his hips hurt, for instance.

— I see.

Azuma Whenever I think about the things that I like, and the things that Daddy likes, and come to the conclusion that they're the same, I'll buy what he has. For one thing, it makes them much easier to draw. Drawing his bike from scratch was a real pain (laugh).



▲ A sketch from Mr. Azuma's notebook of Daddy riding a bicycle.

— Oh, speaking of bicycles, you once featured a foldable bike as well. I believe it was... yes, it was Tora riding that one.

Azuma I didn't buy that one. Boy, no matter how much I tried, I just couldn't figure out how they collapsed just from looking in catalogues or magazines, so I ended up going to the a store to see one.

— Did they let you play with one at the store?

Azuma Indeed, they did.
"Is it alright if I play around with this bike a little?" I asked. Naturally I felt kind of awkward taking photos, so I had to commit it all to memory.

— Do you do a lot of research like that? For example, in one chapter you featured an electronics store.

Azuma I had to get permission to research that one. I used the Hobonichi Day Planner without permission though (laugh).

— No, no, the honor is all mine!

* * * * *

So, what did you think? I thought it was a very interesting conversation on the reasons Mr. Azuma's things and Daddy's things seem to be so in sync with one another. Sadly, this portion was cut from the Official Guidebook. If you want to know more about how Mr. Azuma uses his Hobonichi Day Planner, be sure to check out the Official Guidebook. Until then...

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By Kiyohiko Azuma

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