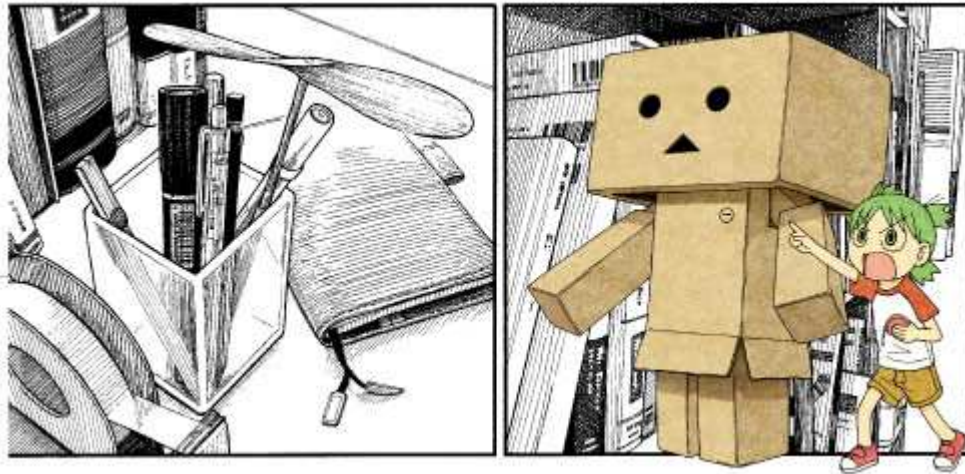


A Hobonichi Day Planner appears in the manga!?
Enter Kiyohiko Azuma, author of the incredibly
popular manga 'Yotsuba&!'.
2011.12.20

スペシャルインタビュー

2011.12.20



Good Hobonichi to you. Hariu here. Allow me to introduce you to
manga artist Kiyohiko Azuma. This is a revised version of what appears
in the ["Official Hobonichi Day Planner 2012 Guidebook"](#) with some
adjustments made.

Kyohiko Azuma's Profile

Born in Hyogo prefecture in 1968. Manga artist.
His manga 'Azumanga Daioh', published in 1999,
was a huge hit.

His ongoing series 'Yotsuba&!' won the manga
division award for excellence at the
Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs 2006 Media
Arts Festival.

As of this writing, this series has a total of 10
volumes in print that have sold a record 8
million copies, not just in Japan, but translated
into 13 different languages worldwide.

It's a notebook for my manga ideas that's full of dates and
opens flat.
I never thought it would get so much attention.

'Yotsuba&!' is a manga that introduces us to "Daddy", and an energetic young girl named Yotsuba, and shows us the ordinary pleasures of their daily lives.

Serialized in the Ascii Media Works publication "Monthly Comic Dengeki Daioh", this comic is up to its 10th volume, and has sold a record 8 million copies. The author of this series is Kiyohiko Azuma.

Shortly after volume 10 of 'Yotsuba&!' went on sale, Hobonichi received a flood of mail. They all said "There's a Hobonichi Day Planner in volume 10 of 'Yostuba&!'!" If you want to see for yourself, just look at that panel with the butterfly stopper, dual bookmark notebook in it. "Could it be that Mr. Azuma uses our notebooks?" I thought. I contacted Mr. Azuma via his editorial department and found out that was indeed the case.

* * * * *

Alright, let's stop here for a moment!

Wouldn't you like to read the chapter in volume 10 in which the Hobonichi Notebook appears, called "Yotsuba & Playing"?

For those of you who would, that entire chapter has been made available through the kindness of Mr. Azuma and Ascii Media Works.

But first, for those of you who are completely unfamiliar with 'Yotsuba&!', allow me to introduce you to the characters who appear in "Yotsuba & Playing".



Yotsuba

The main character of this story.

A 5 year old girl. She may actually be a foreigner.



Daddy

The man Yotsuba lives with.

The reasons for that have not been made clear.

He has the occupation of translator, so he's always at home.



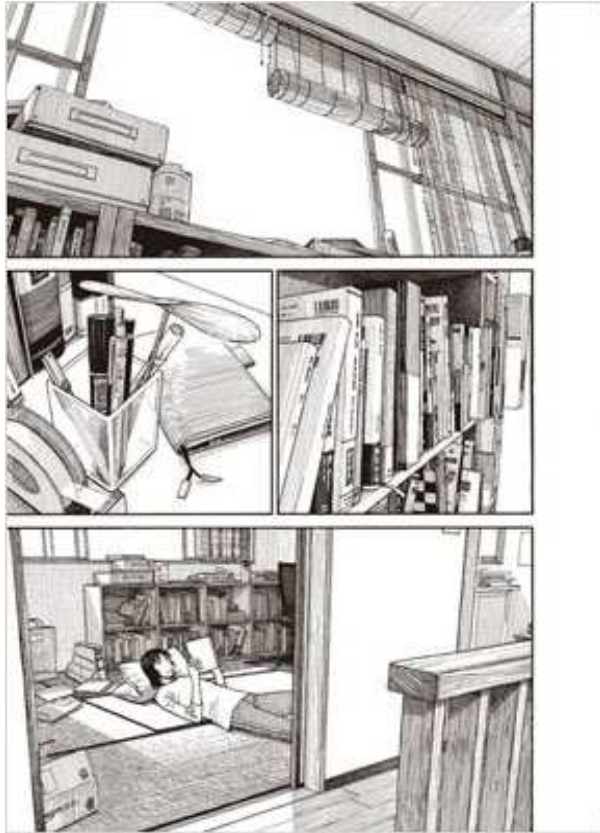
Ena (Ena Ayase)

The youngest daughter of the Ayase family living next door to Yotsuba and Daddy (an elementary school student).

There are many more characters who appear in 'Yotsuba&!', but these are the only three who appear in "Yotsuba & Playing".

As long as you're familiar with these three, you'll be okay.

Now, let's continue!



※Click to start reading chapter 63. Click 'next' to go to the next page.

So, how did a Hobonichi Day Planner come to appear in the world of 'Yotsuba&!'? Let's continue our discussion with Mr. Azuma to address that.

* * * * *

"I told one of my assistants, 'Daddy uses one of these, so draw it in the scene,' and then handed him the Hobonichi Day Planner I use. I never thought it would get so much attention (laugh)."

I understand that other things you use, similar to the Hobonichi Day Planner, also appear in 'Yotsuba&!'. What was it that drew you to Hobonichi Day Planners out of all the other day planners available?



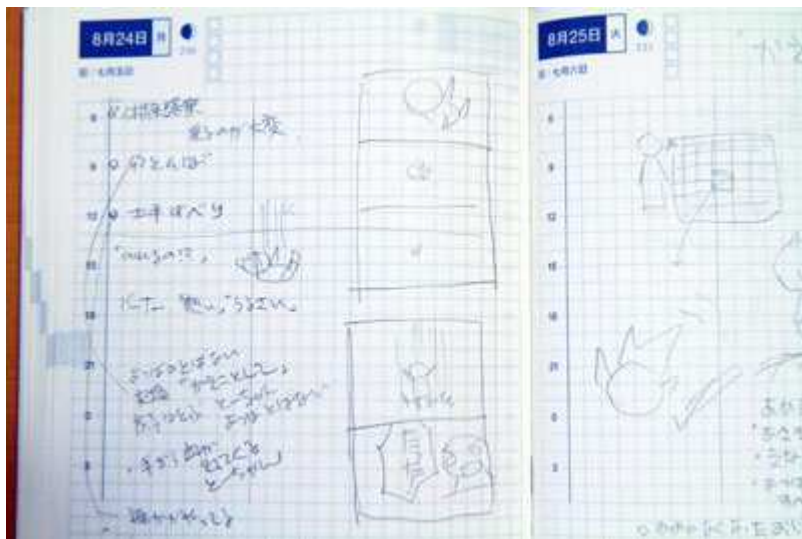
“Once I realized I needed a day planner, having a calendar that began the week on Sunday was one of my selection criteria. Then Satomi, whom I work with, (Hideki Satomi, Director of Yotuba Sutazio) found Hobonichi Day Planners online. The deciding factor was that they could open completely flat. Having a flat surface to draw on makes drawing so much easier.”



While flipping through his day planners from 2009 and 2010, Mr. Azuma jokes, “I don’t exactly keep them pristine, so I don’t like to show them off that much.”

They’re full of scribbles. What is this?

“This is basically a notebook for my ideas for the manga. As I come up with ideas, I’ll write them in on the respective day. That’s more or less how I use them. I’m certain I’d forget right away if I didn’t write them down.”



It seems that Mr. Azuma had been using these day planners as idea notebooks.

“It was so handy having them open flat, so at first I just used them as regular notebooks. Then I switched to a loose-leaf since I thought being able to swap out the pages would make it easier to find things. But that idea actually backfired, and it became unmanageable. I decided I needed something a little simpler, so I settled on a day planner.”



And now you're transitioning to using a Hobonichi Day Planner in conjunction with an iPad.

“I'm at a point where I still haven't decided which is the best way to go, but I'm really into this fully integrated memo app right now. Being able to fit everything onto a single page, no matter how many ideas I come up with can be both a blessing and a curse. I will say that it's inconvenient not being able to easily sketch in drawings.”

Hehehe, so you're saying that the Hobonichi Day Planner is superior to the iPad in that regard?

By the way, what was your reason for selecting the one with the green cover?

“It's for Yotsuba, so naturally I chose the green one.”

Ohh, of course! That makes perfect sense.

And that's how we came to bring you how Mr. Azuma uses his day planner. When I think that a Hobonichi Day Planner helped give birth to the lovely, charming story of Yotsuba and her friends, it makes me happy. The actual drawings Mr. Azuma created for 'Yotsuba&!' are

included in the Official Guidebook. Please try to take a look at that as well.

Now, there is still another 'Yotsuba&!' related feature to come. Tomorrow I'll be bringing you something that wasn't featured in the [Official Guidebook](#) due to space limitations. Be on the lookout for it!

Yotsuba&! Feature Part 2.

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

クラブ通信

2011.12.21



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...

Yotsuba&! Volume 11, On Sale Now!



The world is waiting to be discovered.

Yotsuba&! Volume 11

By Kiyohiko Azuma

Ascii Media Works

Price 630 ¥

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