

about MARUGO



In 1919, Marugo Company Inc. was established in the flourishing feudal town and major transportation hub of Kurashiki-shi, in Okayama Prefecture, and has been doing business with the objective of "protecting workers' feet." In addition to our founding product, the jika-tabi, we currently provide customers with items such as safety sneakers, various types of work shoes, rain boots, and work gloves. In the future, as a manufacturer of work safety items, we will continue with our policy of providing "even better safety and reliability to all types of occupations," and bringing valuable products to customers in a timely manner.

In recent years, we have paid particular attention to the unique form and function of the Japanese footwear, "jika-tabi," footwear with the large toe separated from the other toes. Moving forward, we hope to continue to provide safe work footwear to be used in sports, health, medical, and various other fields while developing new products in new categories.

product



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Marugo Company Inc.
Made in Kurashiki, Japan



MARUGO COMPANY INC.



Onward to 100 more years of being loved.
Bringing you a future with safety, reliability, and comfort.

In 2019, Marugo Company Inc. will celebrate 100 years.

We support your feet safely and reliably.

history

Around the 5th century (Around 400 – 500 A.D.)

"Shitozu" is said to have been introduced from China to Japan. (Shitozu = a kind of footwear without separated toes similar to present-day socks) Artists before the Heian Period wore "asagutsu" that are like slip-on shoes today, and the boot-shaped "kanokutsu." "Shitozu" functioned the same way as socks do today, and were worn inside of asagutsu and kanokutsu.

Heian Period - Kamakura Period (Around 794 – 1333 A.D.)

Hunters crafted together footwear using the skins of monkeys, bears and deer for the purpose of protecting their feet, and this "ketabi" that hunters wore had separated toes.

Muromachi Period (Around 1338 – 1573 A.D.)

Along with the widespread use of zori (thonged sandals made of straw, wood and other materials), tabi made of leather was commonly worn among warriors. As the country plunged into civil war, tough leather tabi began to be worn as military footwear.

Edo Period (Around 1603 – 1868 A.D.)

As inexpensive cotton began to be used as material for tabi, its softness and comfortable wear feeling was well-received and tabi quickly gained widespread popularity.



Setta

Meiji Period (1869 – 1911 A.D.)

Tabi saw further growth in popularity among the general public because of its insulating effect and convenience, and in terms of fashion.

Stitched jika-tabi

Taisho Period – Showa Period (1912 – 1988 A.D.)

In 1917, Itaro Fujiki, the founder of Marugo, created "stitched jika-tabi," by stripping and working the tires of rickshaw and stitching them to the bottom of tabi. Later on, jika-tabi began to be made for more practical outdoor purposes.



hitoe

Present (2015 - A.D.)

The function of jika-tabi (able to directly feel the ground) became the central focus again. Training shoes have been developed based on Marugo's jika-tabi making know-how.