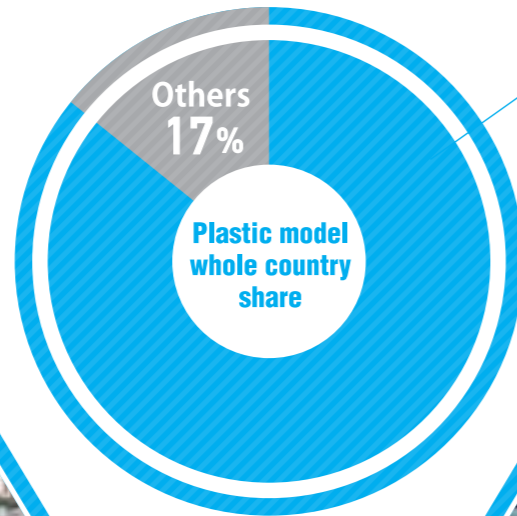


Shizuoka City ships more plastic models than anywhere else in Japan! Its share is a whopping 83%.*



Shizuoka City 83%

With such a tremendous share and long history, model fans adore Shizuoka as a sacred place for plastic models. With so many model makers headquartered in the city, it's no wonder that Shizuoka is known across the globe as "the plastic model capital of the world".

*Source: "Census" Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry 2018

High-quality model products are shipped domestically and internationally from Shizuoka City.



The Model History of Shizuoka City

Shizuoka City, with its abundant forest resources, has always had a thriving wood industry. The history of plastic models begins in the era of wooden models. Jiro Aoshima, the first man to fly an airplane in Shizuoka City, established the Aoshima Flight Research Institute in 1924 (the predecessor of the current Aoshima Bunka Kyozaï Co., Ltd.). The manufacturing of wooden model airplanes started in 1932, and was the first step toward Shizuoka becoming the plastic model capital of the world.



Jiro Aoshima

When foreign plastic models started being imported in the late 1950s, the model trend shifted from wooden to plastic. Changing material from wood to plastic will have a major impact on the manufacturing process. Human resources, knowledge and money for work such as mold making and handling of plastic resin are also newly required.



The maiden plastic model of Tamiya, the "1/800 Scale Battleship Yamato" (1960)

1924



Suruga Takesensuji Bamboo Works

Local Traditional Crafts



Suruga Makie Gold-relief Lacquerware

1932~



Early wooden model airplanes

1950~



Early plastic models

The current model manufacturers used skill, passion and dedication to rise up during these turbulent times. This is why we can supply products loved all over to markets around the world.



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