

# Made in Japan /// Mindbike



When product designer and cycling enthusiast Takeo Sunami conceived of Mindbike, he had no intention of reinventing the wheel. But his clever design for a do-it-yourself bicycle puts a new spin on convention. Made from prefabricated recyclable parts that ship in a flat cardboard box, Mindbike is easy to assemble, ecological—and elegant to boot.

The inspiration for Sunami's design came from crowded Tokyo, where pedestrians and cyclists of all ages clog the city's narrow streets. Convinced he could make a better bike, Sunami envisioned simplifying the industry standard. Instead of the typical triangular frame, a single aluminum bar—sturdy enough to bear the rider's weight—joins the Mindbike's wheels together. Another improvement was replacing welded joints with bolts that are both strong and easily concealed.

Manufactured by 10 different companies, the parts include a seat, two wheels, two pedals, five connectors and three bars plus various bits of hardware to secure everything in place. All the

owner has to provide is a hex key, a screwdriver, 60 minutes of their time and a little elbow grease.

The result is a bicycle with clean lines, eye-pleasing proportions and the prospect of an extended lifespan since it is easy to replace worn-out components or substitute wheels and bars of various sizes. And when the owner is finally ready to retire it, the bike comes apart quickly and is ready for recycling.

*Tokyo-based American architect Naomi Pollock writes on Japanese design for the Financial Times, Wallpaper and Architectural Record. Her books include Modern Japanese House and Made in Japan: 100 New Products*

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