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What balloons to buy for Pico Ballooning?

This document is about buying Yokohama balloons from Japan.

They have a great track record, at a cost.
Other alternatives exist, but this document is only about Yokohama.

Buying Yokohama Balloons

You have two options, and they both get you 10 balloons (minimum order quantity):

1. Medium-fast and most expensive (4 days, \$250)
2. Medium-slow and less expensive (18 days, \$209)

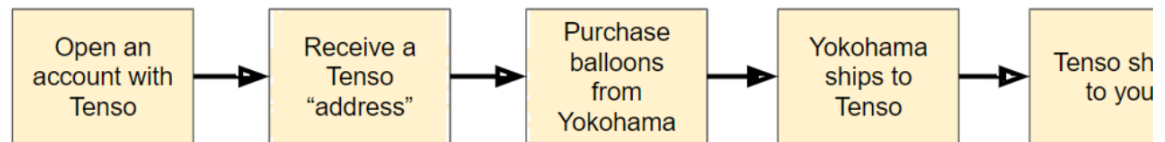
Medium-fast and expensive - buy direct from Yokohama.

Medium-slow and less expensive - use a forwarding service who can save you money on shipping.

If you want the forwarding service, see below.

Using Tenso to buy Yokohama balloons

Tenso is a forwarding service.



1. Open an account with Tenso

Go to tenso.com, click the button "Sign up".
Provide your email address, you will receive a registration link in your email - follow that link.
Provide your proof of identification, method of payment, and your address.

2. Receive a Tenso "address"

Tenso receives packages from lots of places, for lots of people. They only know a package is for you if it's addressed to them, with a special identifier for you only.
That is the Tenso "address."

For example, here is an example of a Tenso "address"

Address: 〒120-0023
東京都足立区千住曙町42-4 TSxxxxxxx転送コム

Phone: 03-5739-3341

Once you sign up with Tenso, you will receive a "Registration Completed" email, it will include your Tenso address.

The address is partly in Japanese, partly in English, use [Google Translate](#) for English.

A "TS" number will be part of the address, that is how Tenso identifies you.

3. Purchase balloons from Yokohama

Go to the [Yokohama website](#) and purchase your 32 inch clear balloons.

You will pay for the balloons, the tax, and the domestic shipping.

Use the Tenso provided phone number.

Use your name and your Tenso address.

Tenso includes [examples](#) of how to populate the address.

For example, here is an example of a Tenso "address"

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Contact". It contains the following fields and elements:

- Email:** A text input field containing "[REDACTED]@gmail.com".
- ☐ Email me with news and offers
- Shipping address:**
 - Country/Region:** A dropdown menu showing "Japan".
 - Last name:** A text input field containing "[REDACTED]".
 - First name:** A text input field containing "[REDACTED]".
 - Company:** A text input field containing "na".
 - Postal code:** A text input field containing "120-0023".
 - Prefecture:** A dropdown menu showing "Tokyo".
 - City:** A text input field containing "Adachi-ku".
 - Address:** A text input field containing "tenso.com, 42-4, Senjyuakebono-cho".
 - Apartment, suite, etc.:** A text input field containing "TS [REDACTED]". To the right of this field is a small icon of a speech bubble with three dots.
 - Phone:** A text input field containing "03-5739-3341". To the right of this field is a small question mark icon.

4. Yokohama ships to Tenso

Yokohama sends you an email saying they have shipped to the address you provided.

5. Tenso Receives the package

Tenso identifies you from the TS number.

Tenso checks the items (there are boxes, packages & items).

6. Tenso confirms shipping details

Tenso emails you to confirm it is your merchandise.

You declare the value in JPY - it cannot be zero

Tenso asks you to select a shipper.

You select the shipper with help from the [shipping calculator](#).
(For a box of ten balloons I used 1.5 pounds and a box size of 23" x 6.5" x 4.5")

You pay at this point.

7. Tenso ships to you

Tenso emails you to confirm the package has been shipped, with a tracking number.

My first experience...

May 2, 2023	I ordered balloons from Yokohama, balloons \$150, tax \$15, shipping \$7.27.
May 12, 2023	Tenso receives the balloons.
May 13, 2023	I selected "AIR/International Parcel" as the shipper, \$36.48.
May 20, 2023	I received the balloons, enjoying a savings of \$56.25 from the original \$100.