

The Day 3 Comiket Guide

Step 0: Learn Japanese.

Step 1: Get the digital catalog, and figure out what you want to buy. Colour-code the circles from which you want to buy in order of priority, and check the map to determine:

- 1) which hall your primary purchases are going to be in,
- 2) the number of major (i.e. outward-facing) circles you want to buy from, and
- 3) your optimal route to pick up your minor circle goods from.

You may need to increase the priority for niche stuff like AskRay or Behind Moon (dickgirls ahoy) because they sell out super fast.

Step 2: Figured out how many major circles you're buying from? Okay, now you need to make sure you're going in a group of at least $X/2$ people, where X is the number of major circles you're buying from... and you need to stay out overnight.

Here's why – the sad truth of Comiket is that even staying out overnight, **you'll only have time to hit two major lines.**

So what this means is, you're going to need to split up to hit the major circles and each person is going to have to handle the purchases for the group for that circle – which can be a problem for circles like T2 Art Works, which has a hard cap on their goods bags at 2 per person. The more people in your little posse, the better.

Step 2.5: *If this is your first Comiket / Big Site event OR you're after some industry goods:* line up in the morning of Day 1 and head straight to the industry hall. Buy some stuff (be wary, the lines for some companies won't actually be in the hall – they'll be in a holding area outside and move into the halls in sections) then wander around the east and west halls to familiarise yourself with the way the event is laid out, by English/Katakana letter to designate blocks with tables numbered therein.

Step 3: Get some sleep on the night of Day 1. I repeat: GET SOME SLEEP.

Step 4: Meet up with your brosefs in front of the Ariake McDonalds around 9pm on the night of Day 2; grab some food and some pocket warmers from the conbini if it's Fuyuket, then at about 9:45 head off to the Big Site in search of the line.

WARNING: If it's Fuyuket, make SURE you have enough warm clothing, and possibly a jacket you can use to avoid sitting on cold cold asphalt. You have been *warned*.

The line should have formed by now (and should be at ground level, NOT in front of the Big Site's entrance), but probably hasn't moved into the holding area. Follow the instructions of

the staff and join it. You'll shuffle along, and then the line will split into two lines – one for the East halls, and one for the West. Say goodbye to half of your buddies here, and make sure you've arranged for a place to meet up after you've hit your major lines.

Step 5a (East halls): So, you were brave enough to go to the East halls first – or maybe you just really, really want a T2 Art Works dakimakura cover. Unfortunately, the East halls line holding area is in a parking lot between the ass end of the East halls and Tokyo fucking Bay; it will be cold. Once the lines have metastasized and the staff have allowed you to sit down, take it in turns to go to the hot food and tea-selling trucks – you have a long wait, since by this time it's probably only 2am.

Step 5b (West halls): West hall, hey? Not so bad – your holding area is directly in front of the main entrance, under the iconic reversed pyramid with a FamilyMart in easy reach. Also, it's less cold. Resupply your food / warmers – you have a long wait, since by this time it's probably only 2am.

Step 6: At 5am or so, GO TO THE BATHROOM. If you're in the East halls area, you'll want to ignore the portable toilets at the south end of your holding area – not only are they dank, cramped and unlit, but they're also squat toilets. People will spray, and people will miss. And I'm not talking about urine. You may want to walk all the way back to the Big Site's main ramp, there's a decent western-style toilet there.

You might be wondering why I'm stressing this point. Let's just say that you don't want your first taste of real Comiket lines to be a four-man-wide snaking line for squat toilets at 9:30, when you should really be in your spot in the main line waiting to get into the event.

Step 7: The line is now moving, and your feet probably aren't touching the ground at this point. Once you get in, make sure you hit the ground running (and don't trip!); you don't have long to get to your first major circle. The staff will attempt to calm you by saying that there'll be time for you to get your *gentei-ban* goods; this is vicious lies. You're already behind the game by not being in on a circle ticket.

This is where you realise that your twelve hour wait was really only good for getting you into the first forty minutes of a major line. It'll be good enough for most special goods, but stuff like bedsheets probably will be sold out by the time you get to the head of the line – for that sort of thing, you generally need to be in on a circle ticket and lining up before the event starts.

Buy your stuff.

Step 8: Head to your second major line. The line will be at about half to 3/4ths capacity; but it's still better than what it'd be if you'd just come in the morning.

Buy more stuff.

Step 9: Meet up with your buddies at your previously-designated meetup point and exchange goods. You may want to hit targets of opportunity along the way – high-priority secondary circles go here.

Step 10: Hit your secondary circles now.

Step 11: If you have time remaining, go see the cosplayers or something. Don't even think about hitting industry, you don't have time and the lines will be like I CAN SEE FOREVER by now.

Step 12: Go back to your hotel room and figure out how you're going to get all this shit home (pro tip: EMS post!). Also gloat, on #Comiket.