

Nippon tuck

Recycling is the solution for the economy and that old favourite.

It's the downside of dating and shopping alike. You invest far too much in a must-have piece of clothing and proceed to live in it. One day it hits you that the affair's over. The item takes up permanent residence at the back of your closet. Still, you can't quite bring yourself to throw it out.

One Japanese fashion designer has found a solution: the custom makeover. For 16 days from September 24, Masahiro Nakagawa will present the Tokyo Recycle Project no.15 at Sydney's Powerhouse Museum in conjunction with the exhibition *The cutting edge: fashion from Japan* (see story p.36).

The museum will invite 50 people

to bring an item of clothing that is filthy with memories, but which they no longer wear. Nakagawa will take a history from the owner and then, based on that story, alter the garment to create a fresh item that gets the pulse racing again (sort of like Viagra for clothes).

Nakagawa and his team will take up residence in the Turbine Hall of the museum and rework the garments in front of visitors. The results will go on display in the museum at the end of the project, which does have a serious message. Nakagawa says it is his response to Tokyo's overwhelming consumer culture and reflects his belief that "frugality is the key to tackling Japan's plunging economy".

