

Proposal to rename and reassign some Japanese TV Symbols from L2/08-077R3

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Reference: "Japanese TV Symbols": ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2 N 3469, as of Date: 2008-04-23;
Unicode document number: UTC L2/08-077R3, found at: <http://std.dkuug.dk/jtc1/sc2/wg2/docs/n3469.pdf>)

While character placement and naming in the Unicode Standard and 10646 are in principle arbitrary to some extent, proximity to like characters does aid users of the standard, as does the avoidance of misleading character names. This document suggest a carefully selected set of proposed changes that the author feels will significantly improve the standard.

The referenced document has proposed a set of 186 symbols from a Japanese ARIB standard (referred further as "ARIB symbols") which were accepted by WG2 in April 2008 and subsequently by the UTC in May 2008.

64 of these symbols were assigned within the "Miscellaneous Symbols" block (U+2600...26FF).

Several of the tentative code positions and character names selected can and should be improved before all aspects of this repertoire are irrevocably frozen. This author had earlier submitted some concerns about code allocation and character name choices in L2/08-158 and L2/08-215. Some of these concerns have been resolved in discussion; the remaining concerns are summarized here.

The main concerns are:

1. Symbols which resemble technical symbols, i.e. ARIB 9388 and 9389, should be assigned within the Miscellaneous Technical Symbols block (U+2300...23FF), rather than in the Miscellaneous Symbols block (U+2600...26FF).
2. Symbols with a more geometrical than iconic appearance (e.g. ARIB 9101...9105, 9132, 9376) and which have been named like geometrical symbols, should be assigned within the Miscellaneous Symbols and Arrows Block (U+2B00...2BFF).
Because of their general nature, over time, these symbols can be expected to see usage outside the ARIB context, therefore their placement in the proximity of other general and non-iconic symbols is highly preferable.
3. Traffic related symbols specific to left way traffic should be named so, as otherwise applying such symbols by name in a right way traffic context is misleading.

One benefit of the proposed changes is that the Miscellaneous Symbols block at U+2600...26FF would not be filled up almost completely right now, leaving space for more iconic symbols to be encoded in the future in the same BMP block.

Acknowledgements:

The authors wishes to thank Asmus Freytag for his extensive contributions and insightful comments.

In concrete terms, the changes as described in columns 5 and 6 of the table below are proposed.

(The table part resembling columns 1 to 4 were taken from the reference document L2/08-077R3, where the original tables have these 4 columns. Shadowed parts are these for which no action is proposed.)

Column 1 "**UCS**" denotes the Unicode point proposed in L2/08-077R3.
It is set in parentheses for the points where another allocation is proposed.

Column 2 "**glyph**" contains the originally proposed glyph.

Column 3 "**Name, description**" contains the originally proposed name.





















Column 4 "**ARIB**" denotes the ARIB number as specified in the document:
http://www.arib.or.jp/english/html/overview/doc/6-STD-B24v5_1-1p3-E1.pdf
(Note: the exact link has changed since the submission of L2/08-215).



















Column 5 "**New U.**" contains (if not empty) the proposed changed Unicode point.

Column 6 "**New name / remark**" contains the proposed changed glyph (if one is shown, i.e. only for ARIB 9123 MOUNTAIN), the proposed changed name (if one is shown in the first line outside of parentheses), the proposed alternative name (if marked as usual by "="), cross reference (if marked as usual by "→"), and remark in parentheses (if applying; these remarks are in no case explicitly proposed for inclusion in the code tables as "informative notes").

A font containing the proposed changed glyph is found at:
<http://www.europatastatur.de/material/AribAlternative.ttf>

UCS	glyph	Name, description	ARIB	New U.	New name / Remark
(269E)		THREE LINES CONVERGING RIGHT = someone speaking (close caption)	9388	U+23E9	
(269F)		THREE LINES CONVERGING LEFT = background speaking (close caption)	9389	U+23EA	
26BD		BASEBALL	9316		
26BE		SQUARED KEY = parental lock	9071		
26C4		SNOWMAN WITHOUT SNOW = light snow	9367		
26C5		SUN BEHIND CLOUD = partly cloudy	9380		
26C6		RAIN = rainy weather	9382		
26C7		BLACK SNOWMAN = heavy snow	9384		
26C8		THUNDER CLOUD AND RAIN = thunderstorm	9386		
26C9		TURNED WHITE SHOGI PIECE	9370		
26CA		TURNED BLACK SHOGI PIECE	9371		
(26CB)		WHITE DIAMOND IN SQUARE → 233A apl functional symbol quad diamond	9376	U+2B5B	
26CC		CROSSING LANES = accident → 292C falling diagonal crossing raising diagonal	9001		
26CD		DISABLED CAR	9002		
(26CE)		TRAFFIC WARNING = obstacles on the road → 2762 heavy exclamation point ornament	9003	U+27BF	HEAVY EXCLAMATION MARK = obstacles on the road → 0021 exclamation mark → 2762 heavy exclamation point ornament (This character is unique in this set that it is a bold variant of a common punctuation mark, being inherently this punctuation mark. As such, its place is in the Dingbats block.)
26CF		PICK = under construction	9004		
26D0		CAR SLIDING = icy road	9005		
26D1		HELMET WITH WHITE CROSS = maintenance	9006		
26D2		CIRCLED CROSSING LANES = road closed	9008		
26D3		CHAINS = tire chains required	9010		
26D4		NO ENTRY	9011		
26D5		ALTERNATE ONE-WAY TRAFFIC * left way traffic	9009		ALTERNATE ONE-WAY LEFT WAY TRAFFIC
26D6		BLACK TWO WAY TRAFFIC * left way traffic	9020		BLACK TWO WAY LEFT WAY TRAFFIC
26D7		WHITE TWO WAY TRAFFIC * left way traffic	9021		WHITE TWO WAY LEFT WAY TRAFFIC
26D8		BLACK LANE MERGE * left way traffic	9022		LEFT BLACK LANE MERGE
26D9		WHITE LANE MERGE * left way traffic	9023		LEFT WHITE LANE MERGE
26DA		DRIVE SLOW	9024		JAPANESE DRIVE SLOW SIGN (As this design is not compatible with any sign meaning "drive slow" in at least Europe or North America, the naming has to specify its application area, as long as the symbol is not named by its appearance.)

(26DB)		HEAVY WHITE DOWN-POINTING TRIANGLE = drive slow → 25BD white down-pointing triangle	9025	U+2B5C	(in other parts of the world, the sign means "give way".)
26DC		CLOSED ENTRY	9026		LEFT CLOSED ENTRY
(26DD)		SQUARED SALTIRE = closed entry → 22A0 squared times	9027	U+2B5A	
(26DE)		FALLING DIAGONAL IN WHITE CIRCLE IN BLACK SQUARE = closed to large vehicles	9028	U+2B58	
26DF		BLACK TRUCK = closed to large vehicles, alternate	9029		
26E0		RESTRICTED ENTRY 1	9030		RESTRICTED LEFT ENTRY 1
26E1		RESTRICTED ENTRY 2	9031		RESTRICTED LEFT ENTRY 2
(26E2)		HEAVY LARGE CIRCLE = basic symbol for speed limit → 25EF ○ large circle	9032	U+2B4E	
(26E3)		HEAVY CIRCLE WITH STROKE AND TWO DOTS ABOVE = public office	9101	U+2B57	
(26E4)		HEAVY OVAL WITH OVAL INSIDE = prefectural office	9102	U+2B56	
(26E5)		HEAVY CIRCLE WITH CIRCLE INSIDE = municipal office → 25CE bullseye	9103	U+2B55	
(26E6)		HEAVY CIRCLE = town or village office → 25CB white circle	9104	U+2B4D	
(26E7)		HEAVY CIRCLED SALTIRE = police station → 2A02 n-ary circled dot operator	9105	U+2B4F	
26E8		BLACK CROSS ON SHIELD = hospital	9109		
26E9		SHINTO SHRINE	9112		
26EA		CHURCH	9114		
26EB		CASTLE	9115		(The name implies that more pictorial variants of the symbol are legitimate glyph variations.)
26EC		HISTORIC SITE	9116		HISTORIC SITE SIGN → 2E2B one dot over two dots punctuation (1.: As here a special meaning is associated to an abstract symbol which is not obvious in all applications, the suffix "sign" is appropriate.) (2.: Unlike ARIB 9003 HEAVY EXCLAMATION MARK, this symbol is not semantically connected to the punctuation mark it resembles superficially. Therefore, it is not a Dingbat.)
26ED		FACTORY → 2699 gear	9118		GEAR WITHOUT HUB = factory → 2699 gear → 263C white sun with rays (1.: Neither is the symbol a picture of a factory, nor is it recognized as factory symbol for any wider audience. Therefore, naming this symbol by a meaning only used in a specific context is inappropriate.) (2. The name proposed here is in accordance with the naming of ARIB 9119 proposed as U+26EE, regarding the "gear" as a geometric form and thus being a naming by appearance.)
26EE		GEAR WITH HANDLES = power plant or power substation	9119		

26EF		LIGHTHOUSE	9120		GEAR WITH HEAVY HUB = lighthouse → 2699 gear (1.: Neither is the symbol a picture of a lighthouse, nor does it conform with international standards like these for nautical maps. Therefore, naming this symbol by a meaning only used in a specific context is erroneous.) (2. See remark 2 on ARIB 9118 proposed as U+26ED.)
26F0		MOUNTAIN	9123		→ 25B2 black up-pointing triangle  (the rounded form is different from U+25B2, is more like a mountain, and is more like the original ARIB symbol.)
26F1		UMBRELLA ON GROUND = bathing beach	9124		
26F2		FOUNTAIN = park	9125		
26F3		FLAG IN HOLE = golf course	9126		
26F4		BLACK BOAT = ferry boat terminal	9127		
26F5		WHITE SAILBOAT = marina or yacht harbour	9128		
(26F6)		SQUARE FOUR CORNERS = intersection	9132	U+2B59	
26F7		SKIER = ski resort	9138		
26F8		ICE SKATE = ice skating rink	9139		
26F9		PERSON WITH BALL = track and field or gymnasium	9140		
26FA		TENT = camping site	9141		
26FB		JAPANESE BANK SYMBOL	9144		
26FC		GRAVEYARD = memorial park or cemetery	9145		
26FD		FUEL PUMP = gas station, petrol station	9146		
26FE		CUP ON BLACK SQUARE = drive-in restaurant	9147		
26FF		WHITE FLAG WITH AN HORIZONTAL MIDDLE BLACK STRIPE = Japanese self-defense forces site	9149		