

Japan Inside
a day ago ·

Rocket Amateur Radio, a ham radio specialty shop under the train tracks in Akihabara, closed its Main Store for good on November 23, 2026.

Ham radio is the hobby of building and operating your own radio equipment to talk with people across the country and around the world.

Rocket sold the gear for it, from radios to antenna parts, for roughly eight decades.

That matters because Akihabara's electric town began with radios.

The district grew out of stalls and shops selling surplus radio equipment left over from the US military, which is why so many old Akihabara businesses still carry "radio" in their names.

Most of those shops changed their business long ago, and stores that sell radio equipment have become rare.

Rocket stayed, so shoppers could still walk into a real counter and ask a veteran staff member how to fix a piece of gear.

When closing time came, the employees pulled the shutter down, stepped outside in their red jackets, and bowed to the street.

Neighboring shops said they felt the loss too.

Rocket says it will keep selling through online orders, but the storefront that anchored the old Akihabara is gone.

Around it, prize figure shops, card slab stores, and gachapon machines keep multiplying.

One of the last living links to the radio roots of Akihabara just took its final bow.