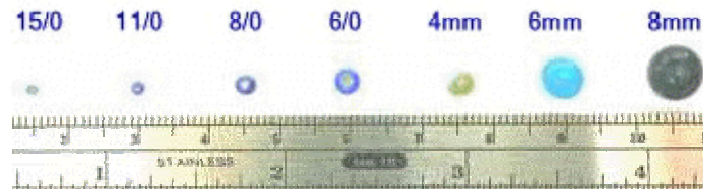


Seed Bead Information Page

Glass beads are available in various sizes, from very large to very small. Small glass beads used to make complex structures with needle and thread are often called "seed beads," however, not all small beads are seed beads. Seed beads were the main bead shape made in the past and all small beads were labeled as seed beads. Seed beads usually have the appearance of a round bead that has been squashed down at the top and bottom. Cut beads are the approximate same size as seed beads, however, the ends are squared off creating a more tubular appearance. There are many other small beads with hexagon, oval square and other shapes. More diversity of shaped beads are on the market now due to the growing popularity of beads.



The larger the bead, the smaller the bead size number and the smaller the bead, the larger the bead size number. For example: size 6/0 beads are about 4 times larger than size 11/0 beads and about 2 times larger than size 8/0 beads. The size was used to indicate the number of beads per inch. This is no longer the case, but will still give you a fair approximation of the bead size. For example, if you set 11/0 beads down next to a ruler with the holes facing up, you will have 11 to 12 beads to the inch. If you set 6/0 beads along a ruler, you will have 6 to 7 beads to the inch and for 8/0 beads, you will have 8 to 9 beads to the inch. In the past beads were more irregular in shape and there were approximately 11 beads to the inch when using 11/0 beads. Due to the Industrial Revolution, advancements in mechanization made it possible for mass bead production and more uniform bead shapes. The uniformity of bead size meant approximately one more bead to the inch than before.

Size 6/0 and 8/0 are often used for embellishment and at the end of dangle earrings and jewelry that are primarily composed of size 11/0 or smaller beads. Size 8/0 beads are often used in Broadway and Las Vegas costumes because they are fast to apply for area coverage, however, still look dainty and do not become too heavy. The 8/0 beads are also great for making amulet purses and then adding size 11/0 beads as dangles and embellishments. The 6/0 beads become quite heavy if used in quantity to make items such as small bags and jewelry. A small bag would require being lined and additional thread worked through the whole piece for strength. The 6/0 beads are perfect for the base of bracelets with 11/0 beads as embellishment. The 6/0 beads work well in combination with 8/0 and 11/0 beads for sculptures and jewelry. The 8/0

beads are very popular for those who have eye problems and want to create a delicate item without eye strain.

SOURCE: <http://www.7beads.com/info/seedbeadinfo.htm>