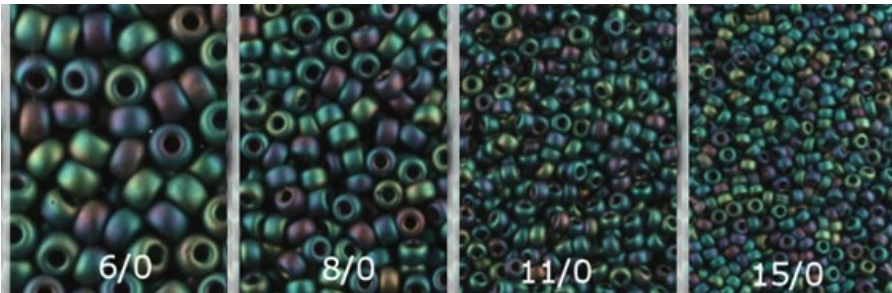
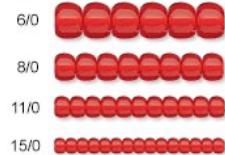


Beginners guide to seed beads commonly used for bead mosaics



The most common sizes of seed beads that you'll come across are sizes 6/0, 8/0, 11/0 and 15/0. Seed bead sizes are a little confusing because the smaller the bead size, the larger it is! (6/0 seed bead is larger than a size 11/0)



Seed beads are sold either by "hank" or by gram weight, packaged in strands, tubes or bags. A typical hank has 12-14 strands of beads ranging from 14-19 inches in length. However, some beads may be sold in hanks with different lengths or number of strands.



You can find seed beads in a range of other shapes as well as round and cylindrical. Charlotte beads are round with a cut on one side, to give them a slightly flat edge. Tri-cut beads are cut on three sides, cubes have four sides and hex beads are cut on six sides (also referred to as two cuts). The treatment of these particular beads gives them a bit more sparkle when they reflect the light. Sizes are similar to round beads sizes shown above.

Japanese Seed Beads - Miyuki, Toho and Matsuno manufacture a round seed bead (round seed beads are also known as Rocailles). These seed beads are high quality and uniform in size.

Czech Seed Beads - Seed beads manufactured in the Czech Republic are donut shaped beads. They have small holes and are not usually uniform in size but work well for mosaics where irregular shapes enhance your work. They are usually a little cheaper than Japanese seed beads.

Bugle Beads - Made in various places these long, skinny tubular-shaped beads are available in twisted, straight and hex-cut varieties. Lengths can be from 2mm to 30mm in length.

Seed bead finishes

In addition to the many types, shapes and sizes of seed beads, they are also available in a wide range of finishes! Here are some of the most common.

- Color-lined** – these are seed beads with a colored lining on the inside of the seed bead and transparent glass (clear or colored) on the outside.
- Silver, gold or metal-lined** – these are lined on the inside to give a metallic effect. The outside is made from transparent glass (either clear or colored).
- Transparent** – completely transparent (clear or colored) on the inside and out.
- Frosted transparent** – slight see through with a frosted matte finished.
- Opaque** – solid color. You can find these in a shiny or matte finish.
- Luster** – seed beads finished with a pearlized sheen.
- AB** – Aura Borealis are designed to reflect and sparkle, this is also known as a **rainbow finish**.
- Galvanized** – a frosted metallic finish.
- Metallic** - Gunmetal, iris or bronze finish
- Combination** finishes are also available such as Rainbow Luster

