



Need For Beads, Inc.

Creating a Custom Bead Size in The Bead Cellar Software
Instructions to help you with using the software

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It's easy to create a custom bead size in The Bead Cellar if you have some basic information about the beads you want to use. The custom bead below is a 10/0 Czech Seed bead that is #10SB599 from Shipwreck Beads. The number of beads per gram will depend on the type of bead: Metal coated beads, such as galvanized beads, will have fewer beads per gram, because each bead is heavier than each bead that is a plain transparent bead with no finish. The number of beads per inch may also vary slightly because Czech seed beads are not made as precisely as the Japanese cylinder beads, such as the Aikos.

To get the correct information for your Czech seed bead, you will need to weigh out one gram of beads and count them. I weighed out one gram of the 10SB599 beads, counted them, and found that one gram equaled 92 beads. So that's the information I entered into the data box you reach by choosing TOOLS, Create Custom Bead Size, and the selecting NEW from within the The Bead Cellar Software (figure 1).

You will also need to measure the number of beads per inch. In the example below, I measured 18 using a ruler, but if you want a more accurate measurement, you could measure ten inches, count the beads, and divide the number of beads by ten. You might get something like 18.2 doing it that way. If you are designing a large piece, going to one decimal place may make a difference.

Grams per tube, of course, depend on the size of the tube. If the bead has a finish that adds to the weight of the bead, then two tubes of beads with the same number of beads, but different finishes, would have different weights. However, beads may be sold by the weight. If the tube holds 7.5 grams no matter what finish the bead has, grams per tube would stay the same, but the number of beads per gram would be less for the heavier bead. So a tube of heavier beads would weigh 7.5 grams, but have fewer beads in the tube. Continue entering the information you gather from your beads into the data box:

The screenshot shows a window titled "Bead Creator" with the following fields and values:

Bead Creator			
Description (Size)	10/0 Czech Seed Bead-10SB599		
Beads / Gram	Beads / Inch	Grams / Tube	Beads / Tube
92	18	7.5	690
Inches / Gram	Inches / Tube	Height (mm)	Width (mm)
5.11	38.33	2.4	1.4
<input type="radio"/> Cylinder Bead		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Seed Bead	
Copy Bead		Save	Close

Figure 1



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Once you have the number of beads per gram and the grams/tube, beads per tube is a simple mathematical calculation. Multiply the beads/gram (92) by the grams/tube (7.5) and you have your number for the beads/tube (690).

Inches/gram is likewise a mathematical calculation. Divide beads/gram (92) by beads/inch(18) and you will have your inches/gram (5.11).

Inches/Tube is also a mathematical calculation. Divide beads/tube (690) by beads/inch (18), and you will have the number for inches/tube (38.33).

Now you need to measure the seed bead itself. The measurement of your bead can be done with a caliper, a tool I recommend for any serious beader and designer. The height is the diameter of the bead. Lay the bead flat on it hole and measure the outside diameter. The width of the bead is the distance from the beginning of the hole on one side to the end of the hole on the other. It is how wide the bead is when woven.

Choose cylinder bead or seed bead, save, and you're done!