

Beading Needles:

1. What kind of needle should I use with seed beads?

A. The most popular needle for off-loom work is a beading needle, which is longer than a standard sewing needle. Shorter needles called Sharps can be used when embellishing fabric with beads. Both beading needles and sharps are sized by number - the larger the needle, the smaller the number. Generally, a size 10 needle will go through seed beads as small as 15°. Big Eye and twisted wire needles can be used for loom work and stringing.

2. How do needle sizes correspond to seed bead sizes?

A. As with seed beads, the smaller the needle size, the larger the needle. For example, size 10 needles are larger than size 15 needles. When using size 11 seed beads or larger for bead embroidery and most off-loom bead weaving stitches, use a size 10 needle. You may also be able to use a size 10 needle with 15° or smaller seed beads, especially with embroidery and bead weaving stitches that require only two passes of thread (such as peyote, herringbone and brick). If you are incorporating pearls, gemstones or other beads with small holes, or if you are using a bead weaving stitch that requires more than two passes of thread (such as square stitch, right angle weave and spiral rope), you may need to use a size 12 or smaller needle.

3. What type of needle is recommended for bead embroidery?

A. Many people prefer to use the shorter Sharps length of needle for bead embroidery because its shorter length makes it less flexible than beading needles, providing better leverage for piercing fabric. However, other beaders prefer to use beading needles, especially if they have grown accustomed to the longer length from using them with off-loom bead weaving techniques. Ultimately, personal preference should be your guide.

4. What is a Size 10 English Beading Needles and what should I use them for?

A. The size 10 English beading needle is a high-quality, durable needle. These beading needles are longer than standard sewing needles, enabling you to string multiple seed beads and other beads. Use size 10 beading needles with beading threads size D and smaller, and use with 15° seed beads or larger. This size is recommended for most off-loom bead weaving stitches (such as peyote, brick stitch and netting) and loom work. Size 10 may be too large if you are using a stitch that requires more than two passes of thread through the same bead, such as right angle weave or spiral rope. The size 10 beading needle is approximately 2" long.

5. What is a Size 12 English Beading Needle and what should I use it for?

A. The size 12 English beading needle is a high-quality, durable needle. Beading needles are longer than standard sewing needles, enabling you to string multiple seed beads and other beads. Use size 12 beading needles with beading threads size D and smaller, and use with 15° seed beads or larger. This size is recommended for all off-loom bead weaving stitches and loom work. Size 12 may be too large if you are using a stitch that requires more than two passes of thread through the same bead, such as right angle weave or spiral rope. The size 12 beading needle is approximately 2" long.

6. What is a Size 13 English Beading Needle and what should I use it for?

A. These English beading needles are high-quality, durable needles. Beading needles are longer than standard sewing needles, enabling you to string multiple seed beads and other beads. Use size 13 beading needles with beading threads size B and smaller, and use with 15° seed beads or larger. This size is recommended for all off-loom bead weaving stitches and loom work. Size 13 may be too large if you are using a stitch that requires more than two passes of thread through the same bead, such as right angle weave or spiral rope. These needles are approximately 2" long.

7. What is a Size 15 English Beading Needle and what should I use it for?

A. These English beading needles are high-quality, durable needles. Beading needles are longer than standard sewing needles, enabling you to string multiple seed beads and other beads. Use size 15 beading needles with beading thread size AA, and with 15° seed beads or smaller antique seed beads. This size is recommended for all off-loom bead weaving stitches and loom work. Size 15 would work well if you are using a stitch that requires more than two passes of thread through the same bead, such as right angle weave or spiral rope. These needles are approximately 2" long.

8. What is a Big Eye Needle and what should I use it for?

A. Made of 2 needles soldered together, the eye in the Big Eye Needle is in the middle. The large expanding eye allows ribbon, twine, yarn, and other large fibers to pass through easily. The Big Eye is great for use by bead knitters, diva cord makers and crocheters.