

SEED BEADS

MAJOR MANUFACTURERS:

- Miyuki – Japanese
- Toho – Japanese
- MGB (Matsuno Glass Beads) – Japanese
- Preciosa (Formerly Jablonec) – Czech

TYPES AND SHAPES:

- **Round** - Also known as Rocailles (*roh-kahy*) in modern times. Originally it described a round bead that had a different color on the inside than the outside, i.e. *silver-lined crystal*. Czech seed beads have a slightly smaller hole; making Japanese round beads better for multiple thread passes. Rounds can have either round or square holes. Czech beads are shipped from the factory in hanks, which are bundles of strands. Japanese seed beads are packaged and sold by gram weight.
- **Cylinder** - Unlike regular rounded seed beads, the cylinder beads are quite uniform in shape and size and have large holes for their size. Their flattened ends mean that work created with cylinder beads has a flat, smooth texture. Known as **Delicas** from Miyuki and Preciosa, **Treasures** from Toho, **Aiko** from Toho and **Cut-Offs** from Matsuno. Toho and Miyuki also make a **Cut** cylinder bead, which are a six-sided bead and are similar to Hexagon 2-Cut beads.
- **Charlottes** – Most commonly a 13° round bead with a single facet to produce more shine. Any size other than the 13° is technically called a "**true Cut**". Charlotte cuts do not refer to other cuts of beads. There are three-cut beads which are "barrel faceted", meaning they start with a round bead and make more random machine cuts, creating a nugget like bead. Then in a class of their own is the two-cut seed bead. These never started out as a round bead, but rather the raw cane has been shaved and cut.
- **Bugles** - Bugle beads are longer than they are thick, creating a tubular shape. They have different lengths but often range from 1/2" to 2" in length, and may be twisted, hex-shaped or triangular and many have round or square holes.
- **Triangles** – Triangle beads come in sharp and rounded points. They many have round or triangular holes.
- **Squares or Cubes** – Squares and Cubes come in sharp or rounded edges. They may have square, diamond shaped or round holes depending on the manufacturer.
- **Hexagons** – Are also known as Hexagon 2-Cut. Hexagons are a six-sided bead with a round hole.
- **Drops, Long Drops, Magatamas, Long Magatamas, Peanuts, Farfalle and Berry Beads, Tila and Half-Tila Beads** – While these beads are not the typical "seed bead shapes" they are considered by their manufacturers to fall into this category. Please refer to the handouts for their shapes, sizes and product numbers as well as numerous other shapes.

REFERENCES:

- www.preciosa-ornela.com
- www.tohobeads.net
- www.miyuki-beads.co.jp/english
- www.mgb.co.jp