

ZoeDIY Bead Size Chart & Bead Hole Size Guide

Printable reference for comparing bead diameter, center openings, thread, cord, wire and beadable pen hardware.



Print note: This PDF is a visual comparison guide, not a precision measuring tool. Printer scaling and paper settings can change the displayed size. Use the U.S. quarter reference shown in the chart and verify each product listing before ordering.

Bead Hole Size and Thread Matching Guide

Bead size and bead hole size are separate measurements. A 10mm bead can still have a small center opening, while a smaller component may accept thicker cord. Use this bead hole size chart to compare common reference ranges for elastic cord, nylon cord, beading wire, and beadable pen rods, then verify the individual product listing before ordering.

Tiny Beads

Use fine thread or 0.2-0.4mm elastic only when the listed opening confirms the fit.

Bracelet Beads

Many 8-12mm pieces can work with about 0.5mm cord when the hole leaves enough clearance.

Large-Hole Beads

Compare the measured opening before using thicker cord, knots, or multiple passes.

Beadable Pens

Look for a listed opening around 2.5mm or larger, then verify the rod diameter and bead height.

Bead Hole Size Reference Chart

These bead hole sizes are practical comparison ranges, not fixed specifications for every item. Material, shape, coating, drilling, and polishing can change the usable opening.

Bead Type / Size Range	Common Hole Size	Best Thread / Cord Match	Suitable Projects / Notes
Mini seed beads and 1.5-2mm small beads	0.3-0.5mm	Fine beading thread, 0.2mm elastic cord, thin wire	Useful for detailed patterns and lightweight accents when the product opening and needle size match.
2-4mm acrylic beads, glass beads, and resin beads	0.4-0.8mm	0.2-0.4mm elastic cord, fine nylon thread, thin beading wire	Suitable for lightweight bracelets, earrings, small charms, and layered layouts when the listing confirms the opening.
5-6mm acrylic beads, glass beads, and resin beads	0.6-1.0mm	0.3-0.5mm elastic cord, thin nylon cord, beading wire	A practical scale for light bracelets, earrings, small keychains, and simple jewelry projects.
8-12mm round beads, spacer beads, and pearl-style beads	1.0-1.2mm	0.5mm elastic cord, 0.45-0.8mm nylon cord, beading wire	Useful for many bracelets, necklaces, bag charms, and beginner projects when the stringing material passes freely.
14-20mm large beads, barrel beads, and large spacer beads	1.5-3.0mm	0.8-1.0mm cord, thicker nylon cord, waxed cord, double-strand layouts	Better suited to bold bracelets, keychains, hanging projects, and larger craft designs after weight and hardware are checked.
Ceramic and other drilled components	1.0-3.0mm	Elastic cord, nylon cord, or beading wire selected for the component weight	Drilling can vary. Check the product page before matching cord, wire, needles, or repeated passes.
Large craft components with wider openings	2.0-4.0mm	Thick cord, leather cord, cotton cord, or macrame cord	Useful for hanging pieces and larger accessories when the opening, edge finish, and total weight are suitable.
Beadable pen compatible beads and pen toppers	About 2.5mm+	Pen rod, beadable pen core, keychain rod, or compatible hardware	Confirm the rod diameter, center opening, bead height, and orientation instead of relying on the outside size alone.

Thread and Cord Matching Guide

The opening should be larger than the thread, cord, wire, or rod. Leave extra clearance when you need a knot, a doubled strand, a crimp, several passes, or a coated material.

Thread / Cord Type	Recommended Minimum Hole Size	Best Bead Match	Best Use Case
0.2mm elastic cord	At least 0.5mm	Mini beads, 1.5-2mm seed beads, tiny glass beads	Small stretch bracelets and lightweight beadwork when repeated passes are not required.
0.3-0.4mm elastic cord	About 0.6-0.8mm	3-6mm acrylic beads, resin beads, and small spacer beads	Simple bracelets, small beaded rings, and lightweight jewelry.
0.5mm elastic cord / jade cord / nylon cord	About 1.0mm	8-12mm round beads, pearl beads, and regular spacer beads	A common starting point for everyday stretch bracelets when the stated hole confirms the fit.
0.7-0.8mm elastic cord or nylon cord	About 1.2-1.5mm	10-16mm beads, larger acrylic beads, and chunky spacer beads	Stronger bracelets and heavier layouts that need additional clearance.
1.0mm thick cord, waxed cord, cotton cord, or leather cord	About 1.5-2.0mm	Large-hole beads and large decorative components	Keychains, hanging decorations, macrame-style projects, and bold accessories.
Beading wire / coated jewelry wire	About 0.5-1.0mm	Glass beads, pearl beads, metal spacers, and heavier jewelry components	Necklaces, bracelets with clasps, and structured jewelry after the complete wire diameter is checked.
Memory wire	Check pass-through	Round beads, spacer beads, and components with smooth center openings	Bracelets, rings, loops, and projects where the wire shape must remain firm.
Pen rod / beadable pen core	Usually about 2.5mm+	Beads for beadable pens, pen toppers, and compatible rod projects	Confirm the actual rod and product measurements before forcing any component onto the hardware.

Important: These values are general reference ranges, not guarantees for every product. Coating, paint, drilling, shape, and inner-hole polishing can change the usable opening. Check the individual product details and leave additional clearance for thick cord, double strands, knots, crimps, or beadable pen rods.