



Japanese



Czech

Not all Seed Beads are Created Equal

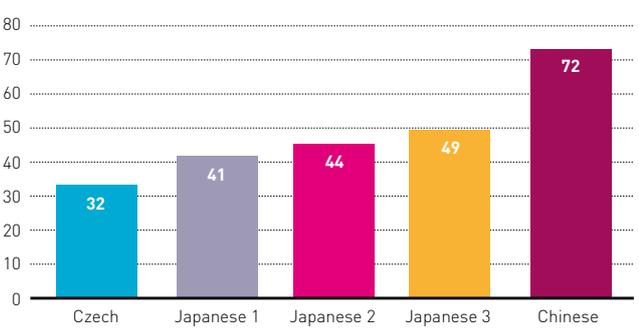
Comparing size and shape consistency

Beads are one of the oldest objects known to humankind. Excavations of ancient archeological sites reveal that beads were part of the lives of our ancestors millennia ago. Throughout the ages, glass bead production, which originated in ancient Egypt, migrated to Venice and Murano. Then, about 300 years ago, bead production moved yet again to what is today the Czech Republic. Local craftsmen have gradually perfected the production process and since the beginning of the last century have achieved world-class quality glass beads. Today, this historical achievement is reflected in the unparalleled quality and durability of Czech Seed Beads.

Size and Shape Variation Test

In a recent study Seed Beads from various countries were subjected to a systematic and rigorous quality testing. The first test compared Seed Bead shape and uniformity across different manufacturers. Samples of Seed Beads coming from 5 manufacturers - one Czech, three Japanese, and one Chinese manufacturer - were systematically studied, measured, and compared. Results show that Czech Seed Beads possess the highest level of shape and size consistency when compared to others. The following graph demonstrates these findings:

Chart: Variation Coefficient



Note: The lower the values the higher shape consistency

Czech Seed Beads are easily recognizable by their round doughnut shape. The symmetrical shape of the beads can be appreciated even more when beads are strung. Regularity and consistency of the shape set Czech Seed Beads apart not only from Chinese but also, contrary to popular belief, from Japanese seed beads.

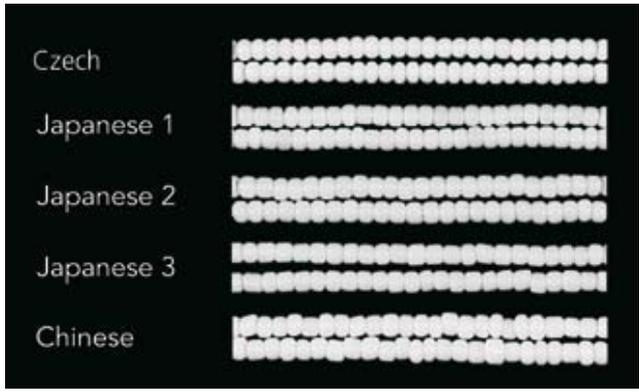
Test Methodology

The test was performed on samples - 5 lots from each manufacturer - produced in both continuous melting tanks and separate ovens. Dimensions, including diameter, height and hole size of 100 randomly selected seed beads per each sample and manufacturer, were measured. 11/0 beads were used in the Preciosa and Japanese samples and 10/0 beads in the Chinese samples. The standard deviation of measured dimensions was calculated for each sample of 100 beads. The variation coefficient is a ratio between standard deviation and averages of measured dimensions. Standard deviation reflects the average variation of beads in the sample. Variation coefficient compares variations of different sizes (e.g. 11/0 and 10/0 diameters or diameters vs. heights of beads). Czech Seed Beads came out as the most uniform in all aspects measured with a high statistical significance.

Shape and size consistency are very important parameters of Seed Beads. They play an important role in the final look of any beading project be it a jewelry item, embroidery or home décor. Czech Seed Bead uniformity makes Czech Seed Beads a smart choice for any creative project.

Czech Seed Beads, manufactured and distributed exclusively under **Preciosa Traditional Czech Beads** trademark, are the best choice, as clearly demonstrated by this rigorous study.

Strung Seed Beads





Assortment is King

How large is the seed bead assortment across different manufacturers?

Beads are one of the oldest objects known to humankind. Excavations of ancient archeological sites reveal that beads were part of the lives of our ancestors millennia ago. Throughout the ages, glass bead production, which originated in ancient Egypt, migrated to Venice and Murano. Then, about 300 years ago, bead production moved yet again to what is today the Czech Republic. Local craftsmen have gradually perfected the production process, and since the beginning of the last century have achieved world-class quality glass beads. Today, this historical achievement is reflected in the unparalleled assortment of sizes, colors and finishes of Czech Seed Beads.

Size, Color and Finish Assortment Test

In a recent study, Seed Beads from various countries were subjected to systematic and rigorous quality testing. One of the tests compared Seed Bead assortment across different manufacturers: from one Czech, three Japanese, and one Chinese manufacturer. The results show that Czech Seed Beads come in the largest assortment of sizes, colors, and finishes available in the marketplace.

Test Methodology

Due to the very limited assortment of Chinese Seed Beads, only an assortment of colors, sizes and finishes from one Czech and three Japanese manufacturers were compared and tested.

Czech Seed Beads come in 20 sizes with both square and round hole and in more than 1000 colors and finishes. This makes Czech Seed Bead assortment the widest seed bead program in the world, as demonstrated by the following table:

Seed Bead Size Comparison Chart

	Czech	Japanese 1	Japanese 2	Japanese 3
8,8 mm	o x			
8,3 mm	o x			
7,8 mm	o x			
7,3 mm	o x			
7,0 mm		o		
1/0	o x	o		
2/0	o x	o		
3/0	o x		o x	
4/0	o x			
5/0	o x	o		
6/0	o x	o x	o x	o x
7/0	o x		o x	
8/0	o x	o x	o x	o x
9/0	o x	o x	o x	o x
10/0	o x	o x	o x	o x
11/0	o x	o x	o x	x
12/0	o x	o x	o x	o
13/0	o x			
14/0	o x			
15/0	o	o x	o x	o
16/0	o			

o = Round Hole, x = Square Hole

Seed Bead color / finish comparison chart (most common sizes)

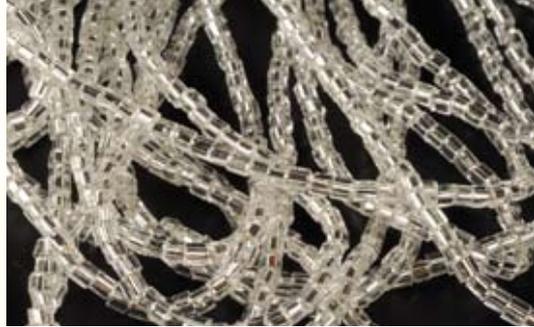
	Czech	Japanese 1	Japanese 2	Japanese 3
11/0	1284	674	817	461
10/0	1388	588	466	461
9/0	1388	588	466	461
8/0	1388	691	797	461
6/0	1393	752	476	461



Extensive color and size assortment is extremely important as anyone in beading will readily attest. Finding the right size and color for the beading project is half the success. Czech Seed Beads come in a vast assortment, so bead makers do not need to spend time searching for the right bead and can instead concentrate on their creative work.

Czech Seed Beads, manufactured and distributed exclusively under **Preciosa** trademark are the best choice, as clearly demonstrated by this rigorous study.





Keepsakes for Future Generations

How long does a seed bead last...?

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Czech Seed Beads' outstanding quality, near perfect uniformity and exceptional breadth of assortment make them a smart choice for any beading project.

Czech Seed Beads, manufactured and distributed exclusively under **Preciosa** trademark, are the best choice, as clearly demonstrated by this rigorous study.

Silver Lining Durability Test

A recent study compared the silver lining quality of five seed bead manufacturers (one from the Czech Republic, three from Japan and one from China). An independent, certified laboratory performed four separate tests of silver lining durability across these manufacturers. It found that silver lining might change color when exposed to substances containing sulfuric acid or chlorine. It decays when exposed to a large amount of these substances or if the silver lining surface is mechanically scratched. However, the quality and durability of the silver lining of Czech Seed Beads far exceeds that of other manufacturers', as summarized in the following table:



Type of test	Description
Corrosion test (thioacetamide)	General test of resistance against environmental factors.
Acid test	Test of resistance against sweat.
Chlorine test	Test of resistance against chlorine, which may be contained in bleach and dry cleaning agents
Heat and humidity test	Test of resistance against hot and humid weather.

Type of test	Results				
	PRECIOSA	Japanese 1	Japanese 2	Japanese 3	Chinese
Corrosion test (thioacetamide)	light blackening	light blackening	light blackening	blackening	blackening
Acid test	no change	loss of silver lining	light blackening	light blackening	blackening
Chlorine test	light change of color	light change of color	change of color	change of color	change of color
Heat and humidity test	no change	no change	no change	no change	no change

The durability of silver lining is an important parameter of seed bead quality. It provides for a long-lasting brilliance of the beads, regardless of the project they might be used in. Czech Seed Beads are in a category of their own. They represent a unique price value ratio. Production technology is constantly being refined, and several technological steps are carefully guarded secrets. Achieving superior quality is a complex and tricky task which involves many years of experience as well as a thorough understanding of the production process.

