

Braid Length & Design Tips by Adrienne Gaskell

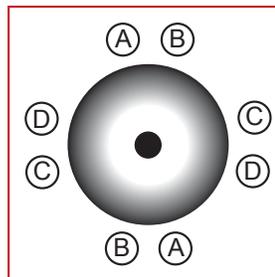
Yatsu Kongoh 2-Drop Braid

When projects require that beads be counted on the warp cords, it is helpful to know how to lengthen or shorten the formula. This requires knowing how many beads are in one inch of braiding. The chart uses Toho beads, Miyuki would be the same. Individual results will vary based on the brand of the beads and individual braiding tension.

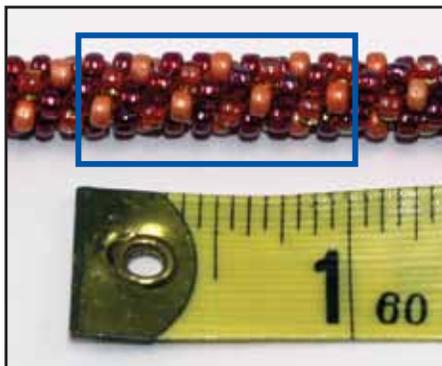
Beads per inch is for each individual warp cord. *The grams per inch is a total of all eight warps cords. Large beads and pearls (3 & 4mm) are usually sold by the number of beads.

BEAD SIZE	BEADS PER INCH	GRAMS* PER INCH
11	10	0.7
8	7	1.4
6	5	2.3
3mm	5.5	
4mm	4.5	

To determine the amount of beads per inch braid a small section using a dark bead on six of the warp cords of a lighter contrasting color bead on two of the warp cords. The light beads should be on mated warp cords. Warp mates have the same letter.



Referring to the photo, count the count the beads on one side of the braid, this will represent one warp cord. There are seven light orange beads in one inch of the braid. (See the beads in the one inch blue square.) This braid was made with size 8/0 round Toho beads.



Good websites with braid pattern planning information:
<http://www.lythastudios.com/123bead/kumiplanner.html>
http://craftdesignonline.com/marudai/?a=js_kongoh-gumi

Teardrop Necklace Measurement

Teardrop Necklace made with size 8/0 seed beads and UnicornBeads.com teardrops beads, use three strands of teardrop beads. Total of 75 tear-



drops, 37 on each of the two mated warp cords.

The braided section with teardrops measures about six (6) inches (15.25cm).

To determine the bead formula first decide your desired finished braid length, and subtract 6 inches from the finished braid length, then divide the remainder in half. This will give you the necessary length of braid on each side of the teardrop section.

Example: 16 in. braid - 6 in. = 10 in. ÷ 2 = 5 in.
Using 8/0 beads 5 in. x 7 beads per in. = 35 beads

When preparing the two warp cords with teardrops, load each of the warp cords with 35 seed beads, 37 teardrops, 35 seed beads. The remaining six warp cords do not need to be counted as the braid will be finished when you run out of beads on the two warp cords with teardrops.

Design Tips According to Adrienne

When choosing cord color, remember that darker colors recede while lighter colors become more noticeable. I generally recommend to use one color cord for the entire braid even if the beads are high contrast colors. Choose a cord that is as dark as the darkest beads in the braid. When making a black and white braid, only use black cord, even for the white beads. If a white cord is used for the white beads then the white cord will become visible in the braid, the black cord will visually recede.

Braids are more interesting if you select project beads with a variety of finishes. I like to use a combination of shiny, metallic, faceted and matte beads. Shiny, metallic and faceted beads have a reflective surface, so when they are combined with matte beads it gives the eye a place to rest. Using only shiny beads actually fatigues the eye.

There are always exceptions to the rules so don't be afraid to experiment and follow your gut.