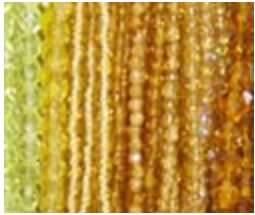


FREE TIPS/TECHNIQUES available at www.bfranklincrafts.com

Knowing your Beads (April 07)

Information courtesy of Sierra Pacific Crafts



Fire Polished

Beads are machine cut faceted glass beads made in the Czech Republic. Glass making in the Czech Republic is an age old cottage industry. These beads are still made in small quantities by hand. Due to the way the glass is made, there may be slight color variation from one batch to the next.



Pressed Glass

Come in a variety of colors and shapes. The shapes are formed when molten glass is pumped into the molds.



Semi-Precious Stones - [Learn more](#)

Natural stones that are polished and faceted although some are available in rough cut or nugget form. Examples would be turquoise, citrine, amethyst and jade.



Seed Beads

Glass beads come in various sizes and hundreds of colors. Can be used as spacers, accents in strung jewelry and for beaded embroidery. #11 is the most common size although size 15 is smaller allowing for more detail. Toho and Miyuki are among the most common brands.



Swarovski Crystal Beads - [Learn more](#)

Meticulously crafted in Austria to the highest standards of quality, Swarovski® crystal sets the standard. Swarovski® crystal is machine-cut, providing flawless consistency, and the rich color and captivating sparkle make any design unforgettable.



Magnetic Hematite

Manmade magnetic hematite colored glass beads are a fun and popular item. These are great beads to incorporate into your jewelry designs.

Wood Beads

Wood beads are a great choice if you need to create inexpensive, but beautiful jewelry. Consider combining wood and bone beads for a truly unique and rustic look! Wood beads combine nicely in designs that use natural fiber stringing materials, such as cotton or suede. Wood and leather also come together nicely!



Pearls

A smooth, lustrous, variously colored deposit, chiefly calcium carbonate, formed around a grain of sand or other foreign matter in the shells of certain mollusks and valued as a gem. Pearls come in a variety of shapes and colors and in both freshwater and saltwater.



Crystal

A glass, silica, lime and soda composition with lead added to brighten and intensify the colors and clarity. Most are machine cut. Swarovski however are a higher quality precision cut crystal. Crystal is available in bicone, round, drop, cube and rondelle along with fancy shapes such as butterflies, hearts and flowers.
