

Bead and Density Charts

Bead Chart		
Hook Sizes	Inch	Millimeters
22	1/16"	1.5mm
20	5/64"	2mm
18	3/32"	2.3-2.5mm
16	7/64"	2.8-3mm
14	1/8"	3.3-3.5mm
12	5/32"	3.8-4mm
10	13/64"	4.5-4.6mm
8	13/64"	4.5-4.6mm

Density Chart	
Steel	7.85 g/cm ³
Lead free wire	8.5 g/cm ³
Brass	8.73 g/cm ³
Lead	11.33 g/cm ³
Tungsten	19.28 g/cm ³

This bead chart is a general rule of thumb to help match the right bead to the right hook. This does not include cones or eyes of any kind (dumbbell or bead-chain) due to the difference in sizing for those. When it comes to other weights besides beads please reference the recipe or go into a local fly shop and compare the weight you want with the hook you want to use it with.

The density chart is there so, as a tyer, you can see the real difference in density between common materials used to weight flies. The one thing to note when it comes to density is the smaller the quantity (i.e. smaller than 5/64" or 2mm) the difference in density diminishes considerably. Meaning you get the most weight difference between larger beads over smaller beads.