

Beading with Berkley® Fireline®

Misti Cleveland © 2015

Fireline® is the beaders choice for bead weaving because of its strength, durability, and smoothness and easiness of threading onto a needle. It is gel-spun polyethylene, UV-fade resistant, and resists abrasion.

There are several factors to consider when choosing the right Fireline® beading thread for your project. There is bead type, bead hole-size, bead weight, color, and even flexibility. Below is a guideline to help you take out the guesswork.

Fireline® Guide

First of all, decide which color you would like to use. Fireline® comes in Crystal (white) or Smoke (Smoke is not color-fast). With darker beads or for a more antiqued look with lighter colored beads, I recommend using the Smoke. For a clean look with lighter colored beads, use the Crystal. Try both & see what you like!

Next, decide the test weight of the thread. In general, the larger & heavier the bead, the greater the test weight should be. Keep in mind that Czech Seed Beads tend to have smaller holes than their Japanese counterparts. Chinese & Indian Seed Beads are not uniform, and are not recommended for bead weaving projects because of that.

I. Fireline® (Monofilament)

A. 2 lb. test

Description: 0.08mm diameter, threads on size #12 needle
Suggested use: stringing and weaving size 15/0 Japanese seed beads & Czech seed beads (which have smaller holes than other seed beads), freshwater pearls and peyote stitch

B. 4 lb. test

Description: 0.13mm diameter, threads on size #12 needle
Suggested use: stringing and weaving small gemstones, pearls and crystals, also works well with 15/0 Japanese seed beads

C. 6 lb. test

Description: .15mm diameter, threads on size #12 needle
Suggested use: stringing and weaving most jewelry, including small to medium gemstones and crystal beads

D. 8 lb. test

Description: 0.18mm diameter, threads on size #10 or #12 needle
Suggested use: stringing and weaving small to medium gemstones and crystal beads use smaller thread if making more than 3 passes

E. 10 lb. test

Description: 0.2mm diameter, threads on size #10 or #12 needle
Suggested use: weaving size 11/0 Delica Seed Beads and stringing larger holed beads or crystals