

# DAACS Cataloging Manual: Beads

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# ***DAACS CATALOGING MANUAL: BEADS***

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# INTRODUCTION

Many aspects of a bead's manufacture, decoration, etc. are apparent only under magnification. Therefore, DAACS analysts examine every bead with a microscope in order to accurately record manufacturing technique and decoration details.

Much of the information in this document is summarized from the following two publications. They should be consulted for further information:

Karklins, Karlis.

1994 "A Classification System for Drawn Glass Beads." Paper presented at Society for Historical Archaeology Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, Vancouver, B.C. Revised Dec. 1998.

Karklins, Karlis.

1985 "Glass Beads: Guide to the Description and Classification of Glass Beads." Parks Canada.

## 1. MAIN BEAD TABLE

### *1.1 Artifact Count*

Do **not** batch beads or bead fragments.

### *1.2 Completeness*

Choose either "Complete" or "Incomplete." The default is "Incomplete."

### *1.3 Material*

The default is Glass. Other options listed are:

- Bone
- Clay
- Copper/Copper Alloy
- Gold
- Leather
- Plastic
- Porcelain
- Shell
- Silver
- Stone

### *1.4 Manufacturing Technique*

Choose from the following list of manufacturing techniques:

- **"Blown"**: Blown beads were made in one of three ways:
  1. Blowing a bubble of glass with slight hollow projections at either end. These projections were broken off when the bubble cooled, creating the bead perforation, and the jagged edges were usually fire-polished.
  2. Essentially the same way as above, except that the bubble was blown into a two-piece mold in order to create a design or special shape.
  3. A series of bubbles was blown into a heated glass tube, which was then broken into individual beads. The edges of the beads were often then fire-polished.

- **“Cut/Carved”**: Use “Cut/Carved” for bone, shell, or stone beads.
- **“Drawn”**: Drawn beads are also known as tube, cane, and hollow-cane beads. Drawn beads were made by drawing out a long tube from a hollow gather of molten glass. When cooled, the tube of glass was broken into individual beads. The broken ends were then often heat rounded or tumbled. Several decorative techniques were used for drawn beads. For example, beads were often made out of several differently colored layers of glass, and rods or lumps of colored glass were often used to create stripes. Spiraled beads were created by twisting the long tube of glass during the drawing process. Various shapes were created by using molds or grinding facets into the surface of beads.
- **“Mold Pressed”**: Mold-pressed beads were made in one of two ways:
  1. A glass rod was heated and then pinched in a tong-like two-piece mold. Any excess glass was forced out at the seam, while a pin pierced the glass to create the perforation.
  2. Two halves of melted glass were pressed together and fused in a two-piece mold. Mold seams were often ground smooth, although the “orange peel” surface is often seen on these beads.  
\*Note: This category does not include beads that were made by blowing glass into molds. These should be cataloged as Blown beads.
- **“Molded, Prosser”**: Prosser-molded beads are similar in manufacture to Prosser-molded ceramic buttons. Two types have been recorded. As Karklins describes: “One is spherical with a broad, raised band about the equator; the other is in the form of a short cylinder. On both, one end is rounded and smooth, while the other is flat and rough or pebbled. The perforation tapers toward the rounded end” (1985:104). Material is Porcelain. Date Range: post 1840
- **“Wound”**: Wound beads were made by winding a melted rod or strand of glass around a metal mandrel. After cooling, the beads were stripped from the mandrel. Wound beads were often decorated with inlays or appliqué, or pressed to impart a design or uniform shape. The surface of a wound bead usually exhibits swirl marks around the bead’s axis.

### ***1.5 Bead Structure***

There are two options for Bead Structure in DAACS:

- **“Compound”**: Two or more layers of glass
- **“Simple”**: A single layer of glass

\*Note: Some bead classification systems list “complex” and “composite” as Bead Structure types. These are described as simple or compound beads with decoration. In DAACS, however, we are only using compound and single, and describing any decoration in the Decoration table.

## ***1.6 Bead Form***

Bead form is determined from the bead's cross-section and whether or not the bead was twisted during the drawing process. For DAACS, we are using these terms to describe not only drawn beads, but other types as well.

- **“Straight Curvilinear”**: Beads with a round or oblate cross-section and straight bodies.
- **“Straight Polyhedral”**: Beads with a polyhedral cross-section and straight bodies.
- **“Twisted Curvilinear”**: Beads with a round or oblate cross-section and twisted bodies.
- **“Twisted Polyhedral”**: Beads with a polyhedral cross-section and twisted bodies.

**\*Note:** Almost all wound beads will be “Straight Curvilinear”. Occasionally, a round bead will have facets ground into its surface – in this case, the **Bead Shape** should be “Round” and the **Bead Form** should be “Straight Polyhedral.”

Some bead classification systems include “Ribbed or Ridged Curvilinear” and “Ribbed or Ridged Polyhedral” as Bead Forms. In DAACS, only use the above-described “Straight” or “Twisted” forms, and record any ribbing or ridging in the **Decoration** table.

## ***1.7 Bead Shape***

Choose from the following list of bead shapes:

- Alternating Twist
- Barrel
- Collared
- Conical
- Cornerless Heptagonal
- Cornerless Hexagonal
- Cornerless Octagonal
- Cylindrical
- Doughnut
- Ellipsoid
- Flat
- Heptagonal
- Hexagonal
- Melon
- Octagonal
- Oval
- Pentagonal
- Raspberry

## ***1.8 End Treatment***

Enter any end treatment seen on a bead. Choose from the following list of options:

- **“Cut/Sawn/Ground Flat”**: Cutting/sawing/grinding will produce flat ends and sharp corners, unless the corners have been heat treated and slightly rounded. Saw marks and grinding marks are both sometimes visible. Grinding tends to produce finer marks on the ends, while saw marks can look like file marks across the ends.
- **“Rounded”**: Rounded edge, usually the result of heat treatment or fire polishing.
- **“Unfinished”**: Rough ends.

### ***1.9 Heat Treated***

Beads were often heat treated to smooth their edges. Remember to look at each bead under the microscope – if the edges of a bead look at all smoothed, enter “Yes” for *Heat Treated*. For many of these beads, the *End Treatment* will be “Rounded” and *Heat Treated* will be “Yes.” Occasionally, one sees beads that have clearly been heat treated in some drastic fashion – ex. when beads have melted together or have melted into irregular shapes. If you can identify a particular method of heat-treating, such as heating in a pan with charcoal and sand or heating using the “a speo” method, enter this information into the *Notes* field.

### ***1.10 Bead Color***

Munsell the color of the bead. For glass beads, use the Munsell Color Range System. For clay beads, use the Munsell Soil Charts.

If the bead is eroded, dull, or lightly patinated, wet the surface of the bead before trying to determine color.

### ***1.11 Number of Facets***

Count the number of facets on the bead. If the bead is not faceted, enter “0” in this field.

### ***1.12 Diaphaneity***

Diaphaneity is the amount of light that can pass through the body of the bead. Only measure diaphaneity for glass beads.

- **“Opaque”**: Light does not pass through the body of the bead. Some light may pass through along the edges of the bead, but only to a small extent.
- **“Translucent”**: Light easily passes through the body of the bead, but the glass is not clear.
- **“Transparent”**: Very clear. Objects can be seen through the bead.
- **“Not Applicable”**: Use for non-glass beads.

### ***1.13 Mended?***

Choose “Yes” if the bead has been repaired. The default is “No.” Ignore the “N/A” option.

### **1.14 Post-Manufacturing Modification**

Choose “Yes” or “No.” The default is “No.” Ignore the “N/A” option.

*Post Manufacturing Modification* is a field seen in all of the different artifact categories. Use this field when an artifact appears to have been physically modified in order to change its original function. Karklins describes how a bead can be ground to remove its exterior layer or to modify its form (1998:4). Note: Burning should not be cataloged as *Post-Manufacturing Modification*.

Catalog the object as it would be cataloged in its original form. Enter “Yes” under *Post Manufacturing Modification*, and describe in the notes how the object has been modified.

### **1.15 Conservation**

The default is “No Conservation.” If a bead has been conserved, enter “Yes” into this field and describe the conservation in the *Notes*.

## **2. DECORATION**

### **2.1 Decoration**

As of 10/28/03, the three decoration types observed on beads in the DAACS Project are:

- Ground Facets
- Monochrome Stripes
- Nodes

### **2.2 Color**

- Munsell the color of the decoration. If there is more than one decoration color on a bead, enter a different record for each color.

### **2.3 Description**

- Write a brief description of the decoration. Include, for example, the number of stripes on a bead or where the facets on a bead have been ground.

## **3. CONDITION**

Enter in either “Yes” or “No” for each of the following categories:

- *Burned?*
- *Patination?*
- *Weathered/Eroded?*

The default is “No.” Ignore the “N/A” and “N/R” options.

## 4. MEASUREMENTS

Measure the length, width, height, and weight of each bead. Measure the size of each perforation using spreading-jaw calipers.

## 5. IMAGES

Image each notable or unusual bead. If possible, take both a front/back and a side view picture.

## 6. CASING INFORMATION

DAACS has defined “casing” differently than Karklins does in his Classification for Glass Beads.

Karklins describes casing as follows:

“Beads made by the hand-drawn method were often cased in clear glass to increase their brilliance. This was frequently done for translucent graying white and opaque Indian-red beads but apparently never for transparent blue, opaque black or opaque white beads. The presence of this layer, often microscopic, should be noted but does not qualify an otherwise monochrome bead for inclusion in one of the four multilayered categories described above” (1998:8).

DAACS uses casing to describe any of the layers one might see on a bead. **Therefore, all compound beads should be described in the Casing Information Table.** The type of bead cased in the manner Karklins describes above should be listed as a simple bead, with the clear casing described in the Casing Information Table.

For example, a bead with a green interior layer and a red exterior layer should be cataloged as follows:

<b>Bead Casing Layer</b>	<b>Bead Casing Color</b>
1 (interior)	Green, Intense Medium
2	Red, Intense Medium