

The new Miyuki Tila™ beads

Diane Fitzgerald

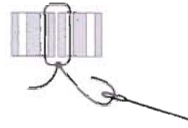
It's been almost 75 years since two-hole beads have had much popularity. Now, the Miyuki Company of Japan has begun production of a flat, square bead with two parallel holes. The bead is about 5mm x 5mm and about 2mm thick and comes in a glorious range of shimmering colors. They can be used to create beautiful beaded textiles for all types of jewelry and accessories such as purses. The fabric created invites the sense of touch, especially when their flat smooth surface is contrasted with other beads such as twisted hex beads, seed beads or Delica (cylinder) beads. The beads can be strung, woven, embroidered and even used for mosaic tile work. Their biggest advantage though is that they won't twist when one wants to create a flat fabric of beads.

Currently there are few two-hole beads on the market. Two-hole beads, and even a few multi-hole beads, were last widely manufactured in Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic) and Germany in the 1920's-30's. At that time two-hole beads were made of press-moulded glass in a variety of shapes and colours. In contrast, the new Tila beads are manufactured similar to other Japanese extruded beads such as seed beads, Delicas and hex beads.

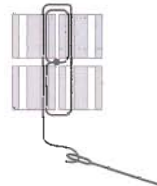
Tila beads are available in 30 luscious colours with more colours to come later. Current colours include the deep tones of bronze, iridescent green, red, wine and blue and in both matte and shiny finishes and transparent and opaque. Lighter colours include whites with shiny, matte and lustre finishes and other colours

Instructions for square stitch using Tila beads

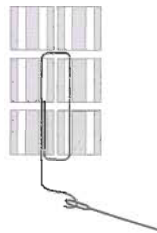
- 1 Tie 2 Tila beads together with a square knot (Fig 1)



- 2 Add 2 Tila beads and pass upward through the left hole of the second bead added above. Then pass down through the right hole of the first bead and the bead below (Fig 2)



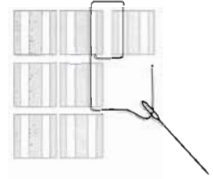
- 3 Repeat step 2 for desired length (Fig 3)



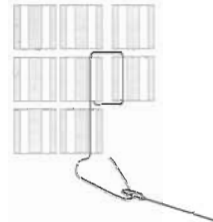
- 4 Pass upward through the left hole of all the Tila beads in the right column, then down 3 (Fig 4)



- 5 Add 1 Tila bead and pass down through the previous bead and the next bead (Fig 5)



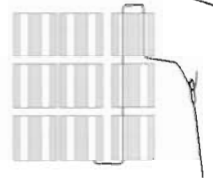
- 6 Add 1 Tila bead and pass through the bead just exited from the top and the next bead (Fig 6)



- 7 Repeat step 6 for desired length (Fig 7)



- 8 At the end of the row, pass up through the left hole of the new Tila beads and down through the right hole. Repeat steps 5 to 8 (Fig 8)



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For more pattern ideas, go to the Miyuki Company site:
<http://www.miyuki-beads.co.jp/english/tila/>

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Bead postcards 4 designs

Findings in bulk: earring hooks, earring clips, gold plated headpins, screwclasps. assorted jewellery boxes, purses
Prices for these may be negotiated.

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scheduled to be available in bead stores by early autumn. There are about 1,180 beads per 100g.

Their name, Tila, has a familiar ring to both English and Japanese beaders: 'tila' sounds like the word for 'flat' in Japanese while in English the word suggests the 'tiles' which these beads resemble.

I've collected two-hole beads and jewellery made with two-hole beads for years (cf. article in BSGB Newsletter 87) so when the samples arrived my fingers itched to create something with them. In beadwork, many stitches work well with Tila beads – peyote, square, herringbone and single-needle ladder for starters.



Fig 1 Tila bead collar with herringbone stitch using matte bronze Tila beads and size 8/0 bronze hex beads. The inner edge is finished with size 11/0 seed beads

Fig 2 Tila bead bracelet with peyote stitch using five colours added in a diagonal pattern – black, matte and shiny bronze, and matt and shiny iridescent green Tila beads. It uses a total of about 200 Tila beads.

Fig 3 Tila bead sample card

Fig 4 Earrings with single-needle ladder stitch using matte grey Tila beads and bronze Delica beads.

Fig 5 Tila bead purse with square stitch using five colours added at random – black, matte and shiny bronze and matt and shiny iridescent green Tila beads. Size 6.25" x 3.25" (15.9 x 8.3 cm) A total of approximately 900 beads were used in a mix of the five different colours

Fig 6 Shaped Tila Bead Necklace with Square Stitch

