



Abacus Bead Value Chart

A printable reference for the soroban (Japanese abacus)

REFERENCE • ALL LEVELS

Name: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

How to use this sheet

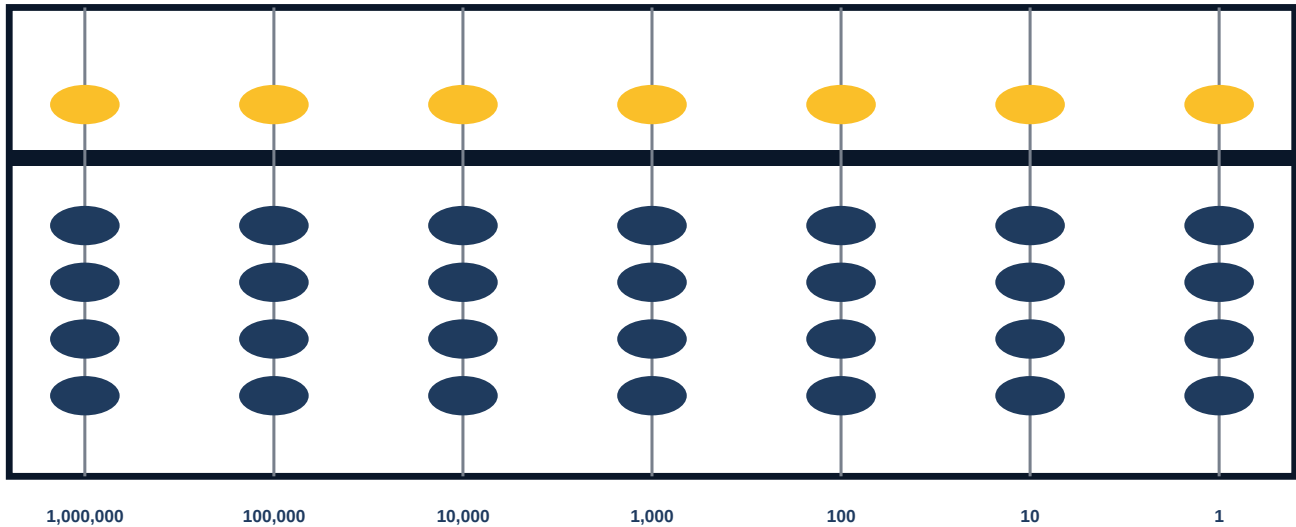
Print this sheet and keep it beside your abacus while you practise.

Each rod is one place value. The single bead above the bar is worth 5.

The four beads below the bar are worth 1 each. Beads count only when pushed to the bar.

Single bead above the bar = 5

Four beads below the bar = 1 each



Making each digit on one rod

Digit	Beads pushed to the bar
0	no beads touching the bar
1	1 earth bead up
2	2 earth beads up
3	3 earth beads up
4	4 earth beads up
5	heaven bead down
6	heaven bead down + 1 earth bead up
7	heaven bead down + 2 earth beads up
8	heaven bead down + 3 earth beads up
9	heaven bead down + 4 earth beads up

Complement pairs to memorise (they make every calculation faster)

Friends of 5: 1+4 2+3 Friends of 10: 1+9 2+8 3+7 4+6 5+5