

Total time:
4 hours



CREATING SKILLFUL MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTZY.COM

Difficulty Level:
Very challenging

Skill Points:

- Composing with extreme minimal depth of field
- Creating sharp images at high magnification
- Capturing a moving subject

Macro photography is not 'close-up' photography. It is defined as a photograph in which the size of a small subject is reproduced onto the negative or image sensor at 1/2 life size to 5X life size.

KEY LESSON: The simplest way to get to macro magnifications is with a macro lens. You can also use extension tubes, a reversal ring, or a bellows. Depth of field is crucial; do not use an aperture wider than f/16. Shutter speed is also crucial; use a tripod or increase ISO.

EQUIPMENT

- **Camera**
Any camera with macro capability
- **Any lens + lens hood**
Macro lens or a lens with needed accessories
- **Filter**
Extension tubes or reversal ring for low expense entry
- **Tripod + Bounce cards**
Highly suggested
- **External off-camera flash** Helpful



TIPS!

These settings can vary widely. This is a starting point.

Shooting Mode	A/Av	Metering mode	Center weighted
Shutter Speed	1/125 th or faster	Format	RAW + JPG
Aperture	f/11 to f/22	White balance	AWB (AUTO)
ISO	400 And adjust as necessary for shutter speed		
Lens	Use a tube, reversal ring, or filter if necessary. A bellows is not recommended for beginners		

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



A



B



C



D



E



ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

1- Study the sample photographs:

- A-** Begin with objects that don't move. This will help you learn how to place focus, work with minimal depth of field (DOF), and achieving a sharp picture.
- B-** Proper focus placement is critical in macro photography. For subjects that don't move, use a tripod. Keep the f/stop closed down. However, do not go to the smallest f/stop. Use the aperture just before the smallest. If the smallest f/stop on your lens is f/22 – then use f/16.
- C-** Excellent macro photography typically examines common objects from an unusual angle. This is part of what makes these photos exciting. Be prepared to get onto the ground.
- D-** The use of a tripod is difficult with moving subjects. Instead, brace the camera tightly to your face and tuck the elbows in. Set your focus ring. Use your upper body as a focusing tool by gently moving it forward and backward. When the proper part of the subject comes into focus, freeze your body, and release the shutter.
- E-** Part of the fun in macro photography is to highlight common subjects very closely. Make sure that your shutter speed is fast enough to create a sharp picture. Pay attention to your lighting, especially backlighting. Use reflectors or electronic flash if necessary.

2- Setup your camera. Drive mode and focus mode are optional to preference.

HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did your shot have a magnification of 1:1 or larger?
- Did you use the upper body technique to place focus?
- Is your image sharp and free of camera shake?
- Did you properly place your DOF window?