

Macro Photography

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Macro – Shooting Close Up

- Extreme close up shots of anything!
- Usually need to edit out pieces or crop final product using an editing software like Photoshop

By Definition

- Traditional macro photography is shooting with image-subject ratios of 1:4 or closer
- This means that the image being captured on the sensor is $\frac{1}{4}$ the size of the real object
- 1:5 is typically how close you can get with a regular lens

Challenging

- Macro photography is very challenging
- Fill the frame with element – zoom in close and see a common element in an entirely new way

Tips and tricks

- Stabilize the camera so there is no shake
- Shoot at slower shutter speeds to capture as much detail as possible
- Your lens should have an image

Patience

- This style of photography requires patience
- Use a macro lens for best possible results
- Use a high ISO

Depth of Field

- Use a shallow depth of field so that your camera is focused on what is immediately in front of it
- If your lens won't auto focus, switch to manual focus

Slow Shutter Speed

- Using a short depth of field requires a slower shutter speed to compensate and allow more light into the camera
- Because of this a tripod is a must to stabilize the shot

Challenges

- Sometimes the lens won't want to focus – it may not be able to lock onto the image
- You may not be able to get physically close enough to get the composition you are hoping for

Point and Shoot cameras

- Point and shoot cameras have a “macro mode”
- It is the tulip and can work very well
- Experiment with your own camera to determine what you can accomplish

Point and Shoot Technique

- Set to macro mode
- Set zoom for the closest camera-subject distance
- Disable your flash
- Compose using only your LCD
- Use a tripod

DSLR Cameras

- Also have a “macro mode” but it is not recommended to use it
- Use Aperture Priority or Manual Exposure for more creative control
- Consult your manual

DSLR Technique

- Turn on manual focus or macro focusing if you have it
- Turn on image stabilization
- Set exposure mode to aperture priority with a small f stop (f/16, f/22)
- Disable flash

Lighting for Macro

- Always make sure the flash is off
- Be aware of light sources and how they affect your subject
- Make sure nothing is blocking the on the subject – your camera, you, etc.
- Consider using external light sources or diffusers to soften the light

Lighting Impact

- Lighting has an enormous impact on shot
- Conditions to think about
 - Open sun and direction of sun
 - Available shade
 - Overcast conditions
 - After it rains

Experiment with Light

- Try side, back and diffused lighting
- If shooting on a background use black
- Black velvet cloth is best because no light will be reflected

Composition

- Don't forget to compose your images
- Most macro pics look best with a border around them for a finish piece