

Macro Photography



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Chapter 2. Macro Overview

Getting up close with nature: a tutorial on Macro Photography

Macro photography can be done anywhere with any subject, but many photographers enjoy macro photography in nature's amazing landscape. Whatever your subject, as long as you're magnifying it significantly, ideally at a 1:1 magnification, you have yourself a macro image. In this tutorial learn how to take macro photographs and see for yourself the up close beauty that only a camera lens can behold!



Chapter 3. Camera Equipment

In order to practice macro photography you will need to consider what camera equipment you have, and what you may need to be successful with macro.

Point and Shoot vs. DSLR cameras

Capturing a macro image is possible with point and shoot and Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) cameras. Deciding which is best for you is the first step.

Point and shoot cameras are smaller, more compact cameras, which can be great as an everyday camera. Today there are many brands like Canon, Nikon, or Sony, that can provide you with what you need for a good macro image. Basically, if the point and shoot camera has a "macro" or "super macro" setting, you're ready to start taking macro photographs!

Point and Shoot Cameras are good for those who:

- Want to spend less money.
- Enjoy a lighter camera.
- Prefer more automatic camera functions.
- Are just beginning to learn photography.

DSLR cameras allow for interchangeable lenses on the same camera body. The benefits of this type of camera provide the photographer with more lens options, which vary in focal length depending on the desired subject. DSLR cameras are suitable for a wide range of photography needs.

Lenses

For macro photography, you want to consider using one of these three lenses:

- Short macro lenses (35mm-60mm)
- Intermediate macro lenses (90mm-105mm)
- Long macro lenses (150mm-200mm)

DSLR cameras are good for those who:

- Want more lens flexibility.
- Are intermediate or advanced photographers.
- Can spend a little more money.
- Who want to explore the world of macro photography to the fullest extent.

Chapter 4. Working with camera settings

There are many camera brands which come with many different layouts for camera functions. Despite these variables, there are basic camera settings that will ensure a good macro photograph.

Chapter 5. Camera Specifications

These camera specifications will ensure the optimal macro image.

For Point and Shoot Cameras

1. Find the "macro" or "super macro" mode on the camera. This is likely an automatic mode, so you don't have to worry about changing settings for the overall exposure.
2. Depending on the camera's macro setting however, you can adjust the aperture setting depending on your depth of field preference.
 - a. Choose a small aperture (or big number, like f/16) if you want everything in focus.
 - b. Choose a large aperture (or small number, like f/2.8) if you want only your main subject in focus.
3. Compose your photo, keeping in mind the best angle for your point of interest and what is in the background.
4. Focus on your subject using auto or manual focus.
5. Click!

For DSLR Cameras

1. Decide which of the three macro lenses, short, intermediate, or long, you are going to use.
2. Adjust the aperture setting depending on your depth of field preference.
 - a. Choose a small aperture (or big number, like f/16) if you want everything in focus.
 - b. Choose a large aperture (or small number, like f/2.8) if you want only your main subject in focus.
3. After deciding your aperture setting, finish exposing your image properly using the ISO and shutter speed settings.
4. Compose your photo, keeping in mind the best angle for your point of interest and what is in the background.
5. Focus on your subject using auto or manual focus.
6. Click!

Chapter 6. Key elements to create a great macro image!

Considering your camera specifications, now you're ready to learn the final elements that can make a great macro image.

- Use a tripod to reduce potential motion blur.
- Choose a time of day that allows for optimal light, or use a flash.
- Invest in a macro lens attachment for your point and shoot camera if the camera model allows for it.
- Try different backgrounds in your composition.
- Shoot in manual focus setting for more control over the subject in focus.
- Take a lot of pictures!

