

Create

THE PHOTOGRAPHY SUPPLY COMPANY NEWSLETTER



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The Secrets to Macro Photography

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Macro Photography can give you a view into a world that most people never see. Most of us walk along and don't look for small items or just never see them. I am amazed at what I find every time I get close to an insect or a flower or just an ugly piece of wood. I go out to photograph.

I will provide some key tips to help you embark on the fascinating and captivating skill of macro photography.

1. You must use a DSLR or mirrorless camera.
2. And, you must use the camera in manual mode.

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3. Know the minimum focusing distance of the lens you are using. This is the closest you can be to your subject and have it be in focus.

4. Know the magnification of your lens. You can find this stamped on its side. If it says 1:1, then this means your photo will be life-size. If it says 1:2, your photo will be half life size. If you are in the market for new lenses, buy ones that are 1:1.

5. Photograph subjects that truly interest you.



Nikon D700 105mm f/4.0 1/80 ISO250

Macro Photography Equipment

Camera: Of course, you will need a camera. The camera will need to be a DSLR or a mirrorless, but you don't have to go with the newest or fanciest.

Lenses: The following lenses can produce wonderful macro images: 40mm, 60mm, 105mm. Nice to have are lenses with a silent motor and vibration reduction (V/R). Having the silent motor will less-likely frighten animal subjects, and V/R is useful if you want to shoot without a tripod.

Extension Tubes: These are circular elements that do not contain optics. They are placed between the camera and the lens to add magnification. These are usually sold in a set of three with magnifications of 12mm, 20mm, and 36mm. Make sure that you get the correct one for your camera.

Tripod: Since the depth of field when shooting macro is narrow, it's very difficult to remain steady enough to get an optimally focused shot. This is where a tripod comes in.



Nikon D700 105mm f/2.8 1/320 ISO250



Nikon D700 105mm f/3.6 1/160 ISO250



Nikon D700 105mm f/6.3 1/500 ISO200

Camera Backpack: This is imperative to carry all your equipment! These are specifically made to hold camera equipment, and are padded. I have tried other style camera bags but have found the backpack style to be the most useful especially if you're going to be hiking around looking for subjects.

Take an inventory of all your equipment (also useful for insuring it), and decide which items you want to carry with you at one time, then choose a bag accordingly. Also, look for one that can hold your tripod on the outside.

*Do you know what the image at the top of this page is? It's a mushroom living in a parking lot!

Diving Deeper into Macro

There are so many directions to go in macro photography. You can focus on using a shooting tent or specific outdoor subjects such as insects, birds, plants, or dirt. You can find macro subjects in everything!

To improve the output of your camera there are other pieces of equipment that you can add to your kit.



Nikon D700 105mm f/4.5 1/100 ISO200



Nikon D700 105mm f/3.4 1/400 ISO250

1. **Macro Rail:** to use on your tripod to provide the ability to move your camera very precisely.
2. **UV Filter:** Used on your lenses to protect your camera and lenses from moisture, dust, and UV rays. Make sure you get the proper size for your lens!
3. **Reflector:** Reflectors come in white, silver, gold, black, and I'm sure other colors. Black is technically not a reflector since it's used to block light or add shadows. The other colors are used to redirect light to your subject.
4. **Syringe:** Wierd item to add to the list, right? Well, if you want to add drops of water to your subject, this is the way to do it.
5. **Macro Bellows:** This looks like an accordion and is placed between the camera and the lens to increase magnification. This works like extension tubes but is easier to use since the focal length can be changed easily. However, this is more expensive than a set of extension tubes.