

Macro and Close up Photography



What does Macro mean?

Extreme close-up photography, usually of very small subjects and living organisms like insects, flowers and good for abstracts, in which the size of the subject in the photograph is greater than life size.

What makes good Macro?

Good composition

Sharpness / In focus

Good light



Three keys Factors

Movement

Depth of Field

Lighting

Movement

Challenges:

Flowers moving in the slightest winds

Insects refuse to stay still

Even if a subject is stationary—

Photographers can cause movement—
especially handheld

To avoid – Use a Tripod on static
subjects

Depth of Field

Is a measure of the range of sharpness in the photograph.

The distance between the nearest and the furthest objects giving a focused image.

3 Factors for controlling D of F

Using the Aperture – f stop

Small Apertures– large f numbers f11 – 22 – giving the greatest D of F

Large Apertures – small f numbers f2.8 – f8 – giving shallowest D of F

The distance from the subject to the camera

Focal length of the lens

Bumble Bee
1/125 at f/5.6 – ISO 800
Macro lens



Rust

1/60 sec at f/10– ISO 100

50mm Prime lens



Lighting

Always important in photography.

Natural Light – golden hour – sunrise and sunset

- Wind tends to drop
- Inactive Insects
- Nice soft colours

Dull overcast days can give brilliant results

- Acts as a diffuser of sunlight
- Limiting harsh shadows
- Distributes even lighting.

Equipment

Tripods

- **Low light conditions**
- **Static subjects**
- **Reduces vibration**
- **Hands free – use other accessories**

Flashguns

- **Can be expensive**
- **On and off camera**
- **Useful for freezing subjects**
- **Can create intense light**
- **Add diffusers**

Ring Flash

- **Inexpensive**
- **Attaches at the front of your lens**
- **Remove for more dimensional light**
- **Soft light**

Other light sources – torch on your iPhones – LED lights

Reflectors

Lenses

Most popular macro models come in focal lengths between 90 – 105 with 1:1 magnification.

Meaning – The image on the sensor is at least as large as the subject being photographed.

Don't have a macro lens

Can work fine – less than 35mm – 24 105 often has short minimum focus and can give reasonable magnification.

Close up lens

- Cheap – packs of 3
- Screw on the end of the lens
- Good introduction/start to close up photography

Extension tubes

- Can be used on any lens
- Sits between your lens & DSLR
- Allowing to focus closer
- Come in different strengths
- Give excellent results
- Good budget lenses

Opportunities

Autumn has arrived

- Abstracts –Leaves – bark – colours
- Mushrooms – fungi – toadstools
- Bugs
- Flowers

Household subjects

Rust and peeling paint

Feathers

Examples

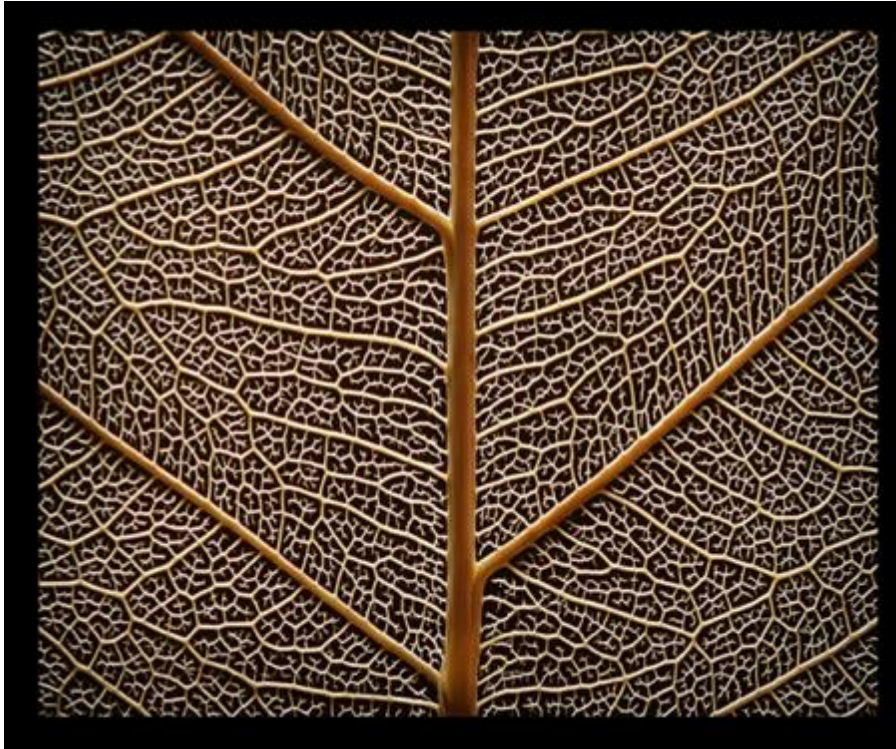


Sharp droplets / background
gradually goes out of focus
Longer DOF



Sharp leaf and drop –
background completely out of
focus – shorter DOF

Examples

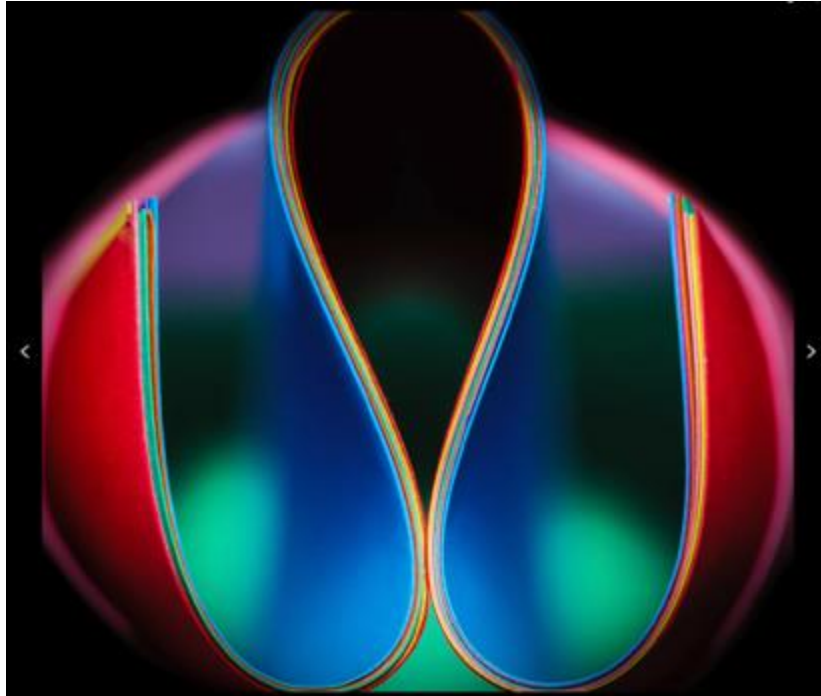


Flatness of object
makes DOF irrelevant



Soft gradation of DOF gives
a more interesting
composition

Examples



Short DOF deliberately creates the abstract element of this image



Long DOF keep flowers in focus but background visible but blurry – great composition

Practice Practice Practice

Have fun



Details for Sunday

Everyone Welcome – need to let Peter know – 21 so far

At Dancers End Nature Reserve – 1.30pm to 5pm

Cream Tea served at 4.30pm ish

£6 per head – all goes to the Charity responsible for the Nature Reserve

Groups of 7 - each with a 'advisor' – who will help you with settings / lenses etc.

All kinds of bugs and much fauna around