

Backyard Macro Photography

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Backyard Macro Photography

Macro photography allows for eye level close up miniature by seeing subjects from eye level. It's a great way to immerse your viewer in the realm of tiny subjects. A view from directly overhead works sometimes, but, always ask yourself, "What would this subject look like at eye level?"

Steady your camera & lens. Even if you have autofocus, and a fast enough shutter speed to hand-hold your shots, you'll still be better off with help in steadying your shots. If you don't own a tripod use anything to steady your camera. A beanbag, or a bag of gardening soil, or even your own hands or knees, depending on how low or high your subject is. You don't necessarily need a tripod, (although one is highly recommended!) but you do need stability.

While stability can help make your pictures sharper, the biggest advantage is actually that it makes your photos much easier to compose and set focus, compared to hand-holding.

Have fun! Think as creatively as you can. The world of macro photography opens up an incredible new realm of artistic possibilities, for subjects, angles, backgrounds, scale, and many other things. You can step into your backyard and photograph nature, or you can create your own miniature scenes from scratch! The possibilities are endless, and let's be honest, it's a great way to occupy your mind for a few hours, "get in the zone", and shut out whatever chaos is taking place in the world around you...

You Don't Need the Best Macro Photography Lens

Every photographer will inevitably ask what the best lens for macro photography is. The truth is, it doesn't matter. Here's the secret that no lens company will tell you: literally every "dedicated" macro lens ever made is extremely sharp, especially when the aperture is stopped down a stop or two. (And, when you're focusing extremely close, don't worry, you'll always want to stop down for depth of field, anyways!)

If you're hesitant to buy something "cheap", or if you're just feeling indecisive overall, think of it this way: What if you're not sure you love macro photography yet? Why spend a ton of money, if it might turn out that you are going to barely ever use the lens?

Just buy the affordable lens, and see if you actually like doing this type of photography. Then, if it turns out you really love macro photography, and you decide later that you want to buy a really expensive macro lens. Did you just waste your money on the affordable lens? Not at all! Because, if you truly love a photography subject enough to spend a lot of money, then you should probably have a backup!

Although you don't need to spend a fortune, there are a few extremely cheap options that are recommended to avoid.

Avoid any brand that isn't a well-known photography lens brand. If it's a new, generic name you've never heard of before, either don't buy it, or ask someone who is into macro photography.

Go on eBay and find that random old whatever brand macro lens is available for \$75, or for a few hundred dollars. Get the one that looks beat up, with no glass defects, and a working aperture & focus ring.

You could try extension tubes or close-up filters, for your existing lenses, but you should first test your existing lens at its standard closest focusing distance to see if it is sharp at that range, because when pushing the optics to focus even closer with a tube or filter, things may get either a little softer,

Why You Do Need A Tripod For Macro Photography

Another reason to discourage newcomers from making their first macro lens a fancy, cutting-edge lens with stabilization and autofocus is this: it's much easier to frame your shots and set focus from a tripod.

You don't need a fancy, expensive tripod, but avoid the cheap junk that is just going to wobble and droop;

Macro photography is a craft that involves extreme precision. You could try to hand-hold your shots and use autofocus & stabilization, but you might spend forever capturing 100 images, only to get one perfectly framed, sharp image.

Spend few extra dollars on a rock-solid, but not necessarily enormous, tripod. If it's a larger model, make sure that you can reverse the center column to mount your camera up-side down, so that you can get low to the ground

Simple Tools for Better Macro & Close-Up Photography

Changes in season, new growth, and tiny things — inanimate or alive — all get photographers thinking about macro and close-up work.

Focus Rail

As you get closer to your subjects the magnification increases, our natural body movements create blur due to camera shake, use a tripod.

As you get closer, the amount of depth of focus diminishes greatly and precise focus becomes more difficult. Autofocus may not be optimal at this point. Switch to manual focus and use your LCD to do the focusing. The LCD will offer you a zoom in capability that your viewfinder may not. Even then, you may not find that you have enough close tolerance in your manual focus to get what you want because of delays in focus by electronic focus rather than mechanical gearing.

To resolve this and provide you with the solution to pinpoint correct focus comes the focus rail. It's really hard to get optimal macro focus without one of these.

It mounts to your tripod and provides micro geared rails that move independently in two directions to allow for precise composition and focus. There's no shaking, no "bob and weave" button stabbing, and the result is better images, more consistently and quicker. The precise scale also assists significantly if you embark on the more challenging practice of focus stacking.

Extension Tubes

While extension tubes were initially designed to increase the distance between the rear element and the focal plane when used with macro lenses for increased magnification, they can work with most lenses allowing them to focus closer than they can normally.

A good extension tube is made of metal and has very strong lens and body mounts. It also has all the electronic contacts needed to control the lens aperture open and closed as well as focus signalling. Be careful there are a lot of tubes on the market that are complete junk, here are some very specific recommendations.

You can always use extension tubes from the maker of your camera. They will cost a bit more, but will work correctly all the time and not have the tendency to not mount the lens properly

Extension tubes have no glass, so they have no negative impact on image quality, providing that they are built well and are properly lined to prevent internal reflections. This is another factor in which cheap tubes will let you down. Tubes come in various lengths to change the distance between the lens and the focal plane. The longer the tube, the greater the change in magnification, but also the greater the reduction in depth of field, which can make focusing more difficult. Remember the focus rail? It really makes a difference when you are using extension tubes. Tubes can be used individually or stacked for more magnification and closer work.

Extension tubes are typically not a high demand item, so expect to have to order them in to your local store .

Please don't be fooled by cheap imitations. They will cause frustration and you may just give up completely.

Wired Remote Release

It probably sounds a bit silly that something so inexpensive and simple can make such a huge difference in your macro and close-up photography, but a simple cable release can be the difference between sharp and blurry.

Since you typically need very small apertures to maximize the very small depth of field, you will in cure longer shutter speeds bring your own light for the subject.

Regardless of your approach, you do not want to touch the camera at any point in the exposure. Some People like to use a self-timer, and it works, but you lose immediacy, particularly when your close-up or macro shot involves a live critter that cares not at all about how long your self-timer will take to fire the camera.

This is where a simple wired remote is your image-making tool. There are no batteries to die, no radios to fight with and no need to be 100m away from your camera. You simply plug the cable into the electronic release port on your camera and when you are ready, push the button on the remote release. The shutter release is instantaneous but there is no camera shake because nothing is touching the camera.

You can order the remote cable release for your camera from the manufacturer. They are not expensive,. Since they are basic devices, Just check what type of release port your camera has and get the proper release. many just use a standard 3/32" (2.5mm) mini stereo connection. This wired remote release also works on almost every camera that uses that style of release.

By adding these simple tools to your gear bag, you will significantly improve the ease and the success of your close-up and macro photography. All are less expensive than a single macro lens and all are usable if you do not even own a macro lens. If you bought a 50mm lens and find that the look really does nothing for you, try mounting that lens on a set of extension tubes and open up new options for yourself.

Macro photography lighting is easier than you think

With such small subjects, adding light can be a lot easier than you think. An on-camera flash can be "bounced" to the left or right, onto a white diffuser to add soft, directional light to your subject. You might need to set the flash to a pretty bright setting if it isn't shining directly on the subject.

More Macro Photography Tips

Even if your macro setup doesn't get to "true macro" of 1:1; even if your tripod is actually a bag of dirt, you can still get outside and spend hours having fun, creating beautiful images. Fill your background with a color!

A really cool thing about macro photography is that you can fill your entire background with very small things.

Especially if you're achieving 1:1 reproduction, or close to it, you could be photographing one single flower and use just one other flower in the background to create an entire background of color!

Give shy subjects as much distance as possible (with a longer lens)

The problem with wide-angle and normal focal length macro lenses is, of course, that you have to get your lens extremely close to the subject in order to get towards 1:1 reproduction. In some cases, you might be putting the subject just inches or centimeters from the front of your lens!

For some subjects like bugs, you need to give them space. To achieve this, and still maintain a good macro, you'll need a longer focal length lens. A 90mm, 100mm, or 105mm lens is a good starting point, and an extremely common focal length for both name-brand and third-party lens makers. Especially when used on an APS-C or Micro Four Thirds camera, these lenses will give you plenty of "working distance", as it's called.

Also, there are 150mm, 180mm, and 200mm macro lenses available for those who would like to achieve the greatest working distance possible.

You don't need to photograph every subject at 1:1

Just because your lens is capable of 1:1 reproduction, doesn't mean you must photograph every single subject so close-up. A lot of subjects only need 1:2 or 1:3 magnification in order to fill the frame, and leave room for context/environment!

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Bio

My name is David Wright.

I have many years experience writing procedures on how to test high tech electronic equipment. Re wrote technical manuals so that the average person could understand them.

Set up numerous training programs to train Junior techs.

My documenting skills are excellent paying attention to details satisfying the toughest ISO auditors.

I have enhanced my writing skills by successfully completing a course in Writing for Children's literature.

Completed course from AWAI in Copy writing service ,B2B copy writing, Seo management , Email marketing and web design

This has helped me write how to articles and Information Books that you will find on my website Discount E Books <http://www.discount-ebook-s.com/>

I have had a Camera in my Hand since 1965 Gone pro In 1999

Took the course from ICS in Photography

I am now at a point in life I would like to share my knowledge with the world and the best way I know how is by Print either electronically or Hard copy paper.

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