



# MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

# INTRODUCTION

- TECHNICALITIES
- TOOLS
- TIPS

# TECHNICALITIES

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YOU CAN'T ESCAPE THEM

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# TECHNICALITIES

- TRUE MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY IS SHOOTING 1:1, SO THAT 1MM ON 35MM FILM IS 1MM IN REAL LIFE
- IN PRACTICE, IT IS SHOOTING SMALL OBJECTS CLOSE UP, OR ZOOMING IN ON SMALL SECTIONS OF LARGER OBJECTS TO REVEAL DETAIL
- ALL CAMERAS HAVE A MACRO MODE, DESIGNATED BY A LITTLE FLOWER. DSLRS USE MACRO LENSES.

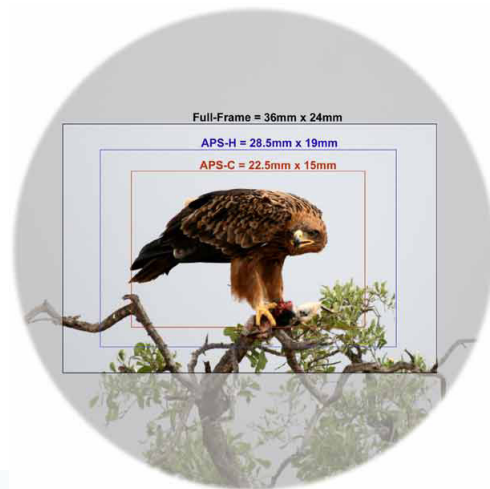


# TECHNICALITIES



- CAMERAS/LENSES WILL INDICATE HOW CLOSE THEY CAN BE TO THE SUBJECT AND STILL FOCUS.

- THE ABILITY OF A CAMERA TO FOCUS IS BASED PURELY ON THE OPTICS, BUT ISN'T AFFECTED BY THE APERTURE.
- THE CROP FACTOR OF THE SENSOR DOES AFFECT HOW "MAGNIFIED" THE SUBJECT WILL APPEAR IN THE FINAL IMAGE



# TOOLS

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WHAT THUMBS ARE FOR

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# TOOLS

- TRUE MACRO LENS



- TRIPOD



- SHUTTER RELEASE TRIGGER



- RING FLASH OR OFF CAMERA FLASH



- MACRO ADAPTERS



# TIPS

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NOT JUST FOR STOCKBROKERS

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# TIPS

- As a general rule you should use an f-stop no wider/larger than f/16 to get all or most of the main subject in focus. If you are photographing a subject that can't be arranged more or less on the same plane, you will have to decide which parts of it you want in focus.
- Experiment with wider/larger lens apertures, which will throw more of the subject out of focus and may produce pleasing artistic effects.
- Get creative with macro photography by shooting the subject from an unexpected angle. Try different lighting, as well, using front lighting for deeper color saturation and side lighting to highlight texture.
- Macro photography is really successful when the image has a main point of interest and that point or subject is composed well within the frame. Choose a simple background so it doesn't compete with the main subject for a viewer's attention.
- Shooting flowers, leaves, and insects outside can be a challenging. A perfectly composed shot can be quickly ruined by just a whisper of a breeze. Stop unwanted subject motion and blur. Before you set up your shot, try planting a stick in the ground and tether the flora to it for stability. Use the fastest shutter speed possible and use a ring flash or flash units mounted to your lens if shooting at a low aperture.

# TIPS

- To shoot some kinds of insects like dragonflies, the best time is early morning when they are still slow and sluggish from the dark and chill of the night.
- A good sturdy tripod is essential. You have two options. You can buy a tripod with legs that splay wide enough to allow a very low position, or you can buy a tripod that has a reversible head stem that allows the camera to hang facing down under the tripod.
- If shooting outdoors, macro photography is effective on bright days when you don't have to use a very slow shutter speed. A bright, overcast day works especially well, as it will also light your subject evenly.
- It is usually impractical to use your camera's built-in pop-up flash when doing macro photography. The length of the lens, with or without all of its macro attachments, will cause a shadow from the camera's flash. One solution is to use an external flash. The best type of external flash will have a head that rotates and elevates.
- Autofocus doesn't always work well when shooting extreme close-up photography. Switch to manual focus and you'll get more consistently sharp macro pictures. This will also allow you to set the focal plane on the subject if you are trying to throw some of it out of focus.

# TIPS

- Shoot with as low an ISO as possible, as high noise ratios in faster ISOs will affect the detail in the image.
- If using a point and shoot camera, compose the image through the LCD screen rather than the viewfinder, if the camera has one. If you don't, a subject centered in the scene won't be centered in the photo, unless it's an electronic viewfinder.
- To get a deeper field of focus on a subject, use a shorter lens with a wider angle of view. This will give you more depth of field and include more of the background for context.
- To get as sharp an image as possible, use the fastest shutter speed possible. This will help avoid any blurring due to camera shake.



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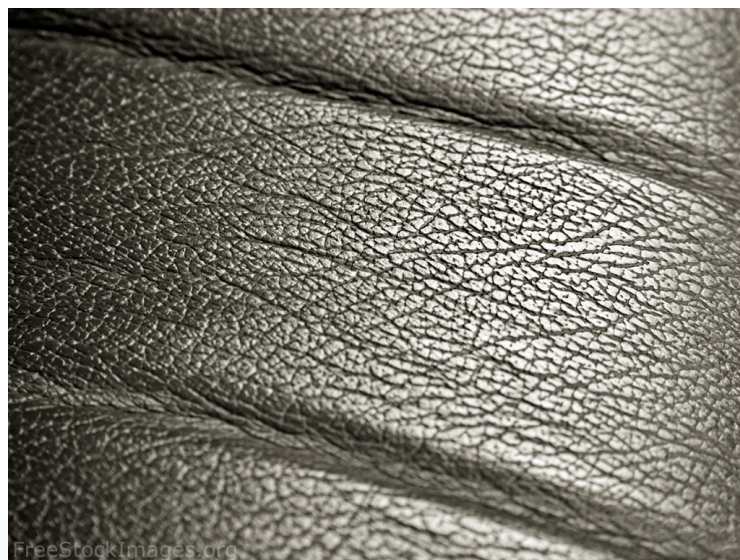


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THE END

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