

# Tips on Macro Photography

By Bob Spalding



True macro images are those that show the subject at a 1:1 to 10:1 ratio, or life size. To get closer than a 1:1 is called Microphotography, and it requires additional equipment. Macro Photography requires either a dedicated Macro Lens and/or Extension Tubes.



Most Lens manufacturers produce several types of Macro Lens. The most common formats are 200 mm, 180 mm, 100 mm, and 60 mm. A less expensive alternative is to use Extension Tubes.

These Extension Tubes also may be added to your Macro Lens to allow you to even shoot even closer.

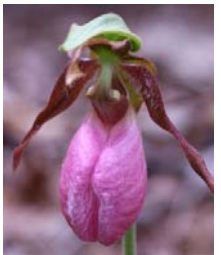


Listed below are some general tips in shooting Macro:



Use Manual Focus – When shooting up close, many times your camera cannot focus correctly on Auto Focus.

Use a Tripod for extra stability.



Watch your Depth of Field (DOF). What do you want in focus: all of the subject or just part of it?

Watch the wind. It is hard to take a sharp photo of a small object such as a flower, if it is blowing in the wind. You may want to use a faster shutter speed to help with a slightly moving subject.



Watch your light. You may need to use a flash, diffuser or reflector to get the light wanted

Working Space – The closer you move in, the less working space you have. This is where a telephone macro lens will help.



Do not forget Photo Composition – Be sure you have a defined subject. Try to follow the Rule of Thirds.