



Flower Photography
April 2023

Beginner Basics

- **ISO:** Use a low ISO between 100-200 to maintain a sharp picture.
- **Shutter Speed:** Use a fast shutter speed of around 1/125 to reduce blur from camera shake or use a tripod.
- **Aperture:** The right aperture depends on the subject, but for small subjects, a wide aperture between F/1.8 and F/7 or higher will give you a shallow depth of field with background blur. Narrow apertures of F/11 or higher are best for large subjects like bouquets and big flowers where you want the entire subject in focus.
- Many photographers shoot in aperture priority mode to get the right depth of field. (Adobe Article)



Scouting Flowers

- Garden Photography: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MeCXcP2Xo1k>
- How to Photograph Flowers Outdoor: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtN0htsCjMU&t=94s>
- How to Photography Flowers Indoors: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjK8RBYYQ7Y>
- How to Shoot Moody and Dark Still Life With Flowers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjK8RBYYQ7Y>



Online Macro Tutorials

- **Complete Macro Class For Beginners:** <https://www.masterclass.com/articles/complete-macro-photography-guide-for-beginners>
- **Macro For Beginners (Video):** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YT19-VWe1xg>
- **Everything You Need To Know About Macro Photography:** <https://photographylife.com/macro-photography-tutorial>
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Smart Phone Flower Photography

- **Still Life Photography:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYh3uqG_7qM
- **Tips for iPhone Flower Photography:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYh3uqG_7qM
- **iPhone Macro Photography:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2oc4h-Sd2w>



Total time:
2-4 hours



Difficulty Level:
Challenging

Skill Points:

- Composing in macro
- Using backlighting
- Working with shallow depth of field
- Environmental challenges

CREATING STUNNING FLOWER PHOTOGRAPHS

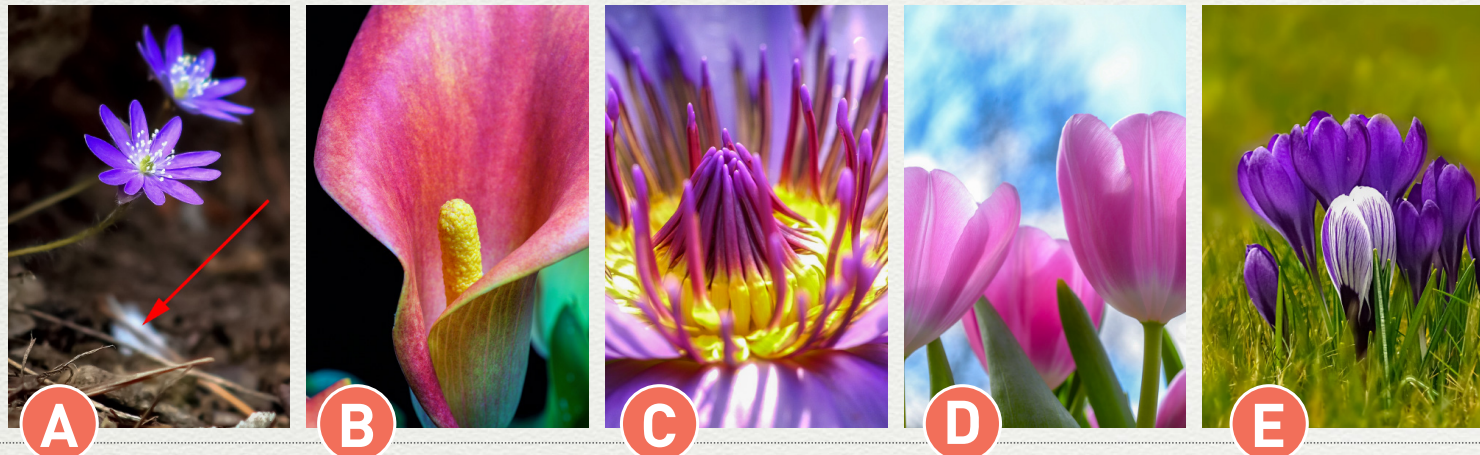


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Flower photography requires a keen eye to details. It also works best with some specialized gear. However, you can start with a set up as simple as your smartphone camera.

KEY LESSON: A primary concern to great flower photography is composition. These are the main composition tools in flower photography: camera position (POV), lines within the flower itself, a flower juxtaposed against other flowers or a background, depth of field, a focal point, and backlighting. Study the sample photographs.

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



EQUIPMENT

- **Camera**
Any camera including a smartphone camera
- **Lens + lens hood**
Any close focusing or macro lens.
- **Filters**
Close focusing filters allow any lens to focus closer
- **Tripod + Field Support Clamp** <Internet research
Optional but highly suggested.
- **Flash**
Optional but comes in handy as a fill light
- **Bounce Cards**
Can be used in lieu of a flash and as a windbreak



ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Study the sample photographs: look for eye snags surrounding the flower (see red arrow in photo A). Study the flower (A) closely and determine the composition based upon the Key Lesson and the sample photographs.
- 2- The wind is your enemy. Shoot on a calm day or create a windbreak. Use the field support clamp. Shoot early or late in the day when the sun is low. There is usually less wind in the morning.
- 3- Setup your camera with these general tips: **Shooting Mode:** Manual or Aperture priority / **Drive Mode:** Single shot / **ISO:** 800 and adjust as needed to facilitate a proper shutter speed / **Shutter Speed:** 1/250th / **Focus Points:** Single center focus point for extreme close ups and all the focus points for wider group shots / **Metering:** Matrix/Evaluative / **Focus mode:** Single shot / **Aperture:** from f/5.6 to f/16 depending on the desired depth of field / **Format:** RAW (preferable) / * If using backlight, use the electronic flash for fill-flash or front fill bounce cards
- 4- Choose your camera position – Consider: Composition, how close you can focus, backlight or front fill light use, wind , etc.

HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did you properly place the focus for the composition?
- Did you frame the shot tight enough?
- Is your image sharp and free of camera shake?
- Did you make use of the shape or color of the flower or surrounding flowers?
- Did you compose using the tools in the Key Lesson?

READY! SET! GO! ACTION CARDS - GENRE: FLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY

Total time:
4 hours



Difficulty Level:
Very challenging

Skill Points:

- Composing with extreme minimal depth of field
- Creating sharp images at high magnification
- Capturing a moving subject

CREATING SKILLFUL MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY



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Macro photography is not 'close-up' photography. It is defined as a photograph in which the size of a small subject is reproduced onto the negative or image sensor at 1/2 life size to 5X life size.

KEY LESSON: The simplest way to get to macro magnifications is with a macro lens. You can also use extension tubes, a reversal ring, or a bellows. Depth of field is crucial; do not use an aperture wider than f/16. Shutter speed is also crucial; use a tripod or increase ISO.

EQUIPMENT

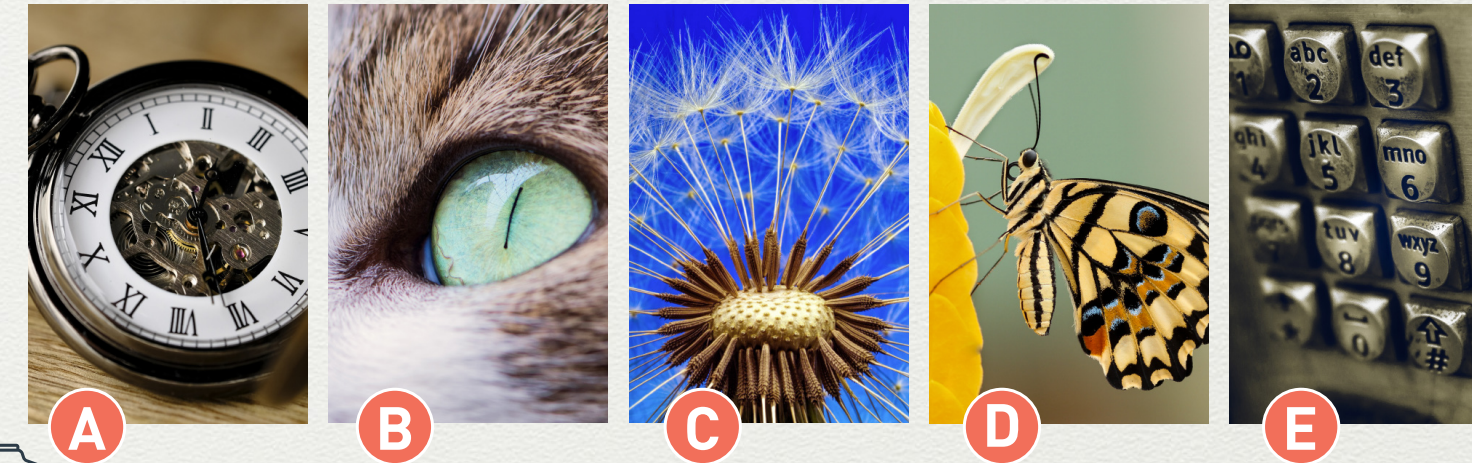
- **Camera**
Any camera with macro capability
- **Any lens + lens hood**
Macro lens or a lens with needed accessories
- **Filter**
Extension tubes or reversal ring for low expense entry
- **Tripod + Bounce cards**
Highly suggested
- **External off-camera flash** Helpful



TIPS! These settings can vary widely. This is a starting point.

Shooting Mode	A/Av	Metering mode	Center weighted
Shutter Speed	1/125 th or faster	Format	RAW + JPG
Aperture	f/11 to f/22	White balance	AWB (AUTO)
ISO	400 And adjust as necessary for shutter speed		
Lens	Use a tube, reversal ring, or filter if necessary. A bellows is not recommended for beginners		

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Study the sample photographs:
 - A- Begin with objects that don't move. This will help you learn how to place focus, work with minimal depth of field (DOF), and achieving a sharp picture.
 - B- Proper focus placement is critical in macro photography. For subjects that don't move, use a tripod. Keep the f/stop closed down. However, do not go to the smallest f/stop. Use the aperture just before the smallest. If the smallest f/stop on your lens is f/22 – then use f/16.
 - C- Excellent macro photography typically examines common objects from an unusual angle. This is part of what makes these photos exciting. Be prepared to get onto the ground.
 - D- The use of a tripod is difficult with moving subjects. Instead, brace the camera tightly to your face and tuck the elbows in. Set your focus ring. Use your upper body as a focusing tool by gently moving it forward and backward. When the proper part of the subject comes into focus, freeze your body, and release the shutter.
 - E- Part of the fun in macro photography is to highlight common subjects very closely. Make sure that your shutter speed is fast enough to create a sharp picture. Pay attention to your lighting, especially backlighting. Use reflectors or electronic flash if necessary.
- 2- Setup your camera. Drive mode and focus mode are optional to preference.

HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did your shot have a magnification of 1:1 or larger?
- Did you use the upper body technique to place focus?
- Is your image sharp and free of camera shake?
- Did you properly place your DOF window?

READY! SET! GO! ACTION CARDS - GENRE: MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY