

General Guidelines For Macro Photos

- Use soft light from multiple directions
- Check for glaring reflections on shiny objects
- Use bracketing. Use spot or manual metering. Exposure can be hard to judge.

Focal Length

- Close up, you can get extreme perspective effects.
- Use a slight telephoto to avoid the problem.

Aperture

- Narrow to keep as much in focus as possible. Depth of field is a problem at these short distances.
- Don't focus on the nearest surface.
Put the **focus point** is one third of the way into the full depth of field

Shutter Speed

- Usually slow for narrow aperture
- Use a timer or a remote release (“bulb”)

Tripods

- A must for serious work
 - Steadies the camera
 - Allows for bulb or timer shutter release
 - Allows a series of shots with same frame

When Setting Up, Consider

- Must get close or very close.
- Texture, surface material (Best light direction to emphasize/minimize texture?).
- Surface reflection potential
- Need to capture small details
- Other items in the photo, products or props
- Appropriate background color/texture

Flash

- Usually either washes out the image or is aimed at the wrong spot.
- If a flash is necessary:
 - Use an off-camera flash (at 45 degrees?)
 - Use something to diffuse the light
 - Use a ring flash

Glass and Ceramics

- Present a problem: glare spots
 - So avoid direct flash
- Two soft light sources to prevent shadows
- For contrast, a dark background, possibly fabric, is often used.

Plastic

- Can be very reflective with the same issues as glass (Typically shows larger points of reflecting light than metal)

