

# Insect Macro Capture and Post Process

NVPC Digital Users Group

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# Challenges

Finding your subjects.

Approach the bug without scaring it. Move slowly. Cast no shadows.

Lineup your composition, strive for pleasing background and separation.

Consider your light source, angle and quality.

Dial in the proper exposure. Optimize camera settings.

Focus technique - setups vs. handheld.

Get progressively closer. Keep shooting until you attain optimal composition.

# DOF (Depth of Field)

The closer you get to your subject, the narrower the depth of field becomes.

Free smartphone apps are available as a guide for conventional lenses.

Bellows and extension tubes allow you to get closer.

Reversed lenses put the working distance within millimeters.

The following slide has info compiled by Bob Stevens. It shows the impact of various extension tubes to the minimum focus distance of various lenses.



# Equipment

Tripod? Only for optimal conditions where the subject is not moving. Expired or cold or sleeping insects; indoors or no wind. Dragonfly behavior of returning to the same perch can be taken advantage of.

Close up lenses.

Extension tubes. Bellows.

Reversing rings. Lens stacking.

True macro lens.

# Lighting Equipment

Pop up flash. Needs to be bounced or diffused.

External flash - off camera.

Ring flash.

Flash modifiers and brackets. DIY or commercial.

Continuous light; sun light; diffusion screen.

# Specialty equipment / techniques

Focusing rails; manual or motorized. Tripod conditions only.

Microscope objectives, adapters.

Focus stacking; techniques and software.

# Image processing

Choose an image.

Basic adjustments. Crop and rotate for optimal composition.

Sharpen optimally for the eyes.

Brush on sharpness, clarity, dodge and burn, etc.