

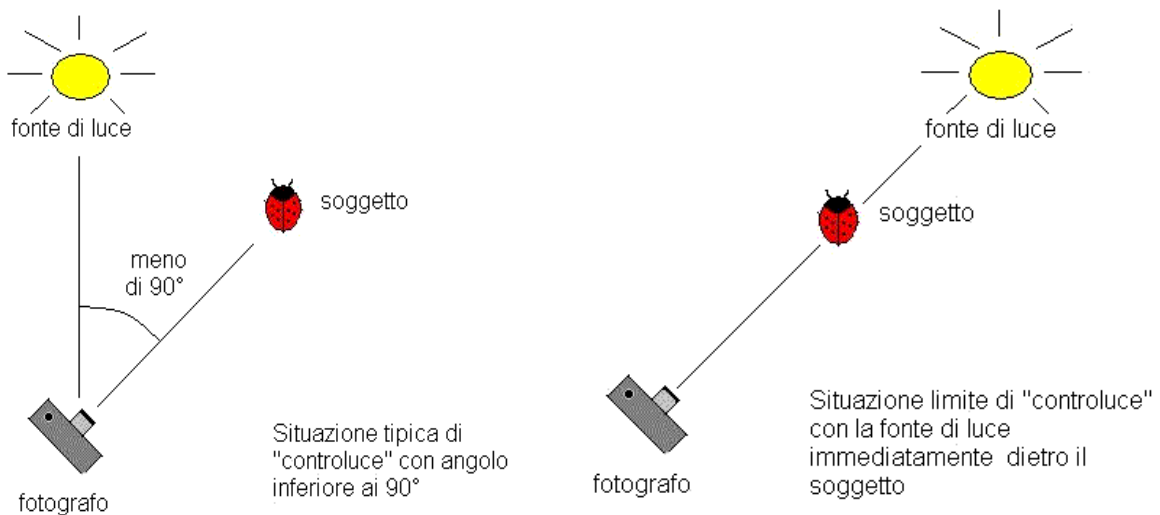
## I tutorial di [www.photomacro.it](http://www.photomacro.it)

### BACKLIGHT

To understand backlight concept it is opportune to effect a direct experience that allows us to verify "on field" what the considerable effects are in a picture when light source is found behind a subject or it impress it from a certain angle; you try to take a picture of a person that is found in a room with a window on his shoulders. The result that you will get will probably be an image in which it appears as a simple silhouette to the figure of the person and they will be evident only contours. Face will for instance result totally dark and their details will be hardly seen. It could think therefore that to take backlight picture can give not satisfactory results, but knowing how to manage "backlight" technique will allows us to get creative results and particular effect.

In macrophotography - particularly - backlight will occur when we will try to photograph a subject when it is placed back to sun .

We can state that "backlight" occurs when the angle formed among sun (or light source), photographer and subject result smaller of  $90^\circ$ . It seems difficult to understand, but a figure will be a good demonstration.



**FIG. 1 BACKLIGHT DIAGRAM**

It happen when there is a location a contrast between a strongly illuminated zone and that where subject is placed, this will result for contrast darker. Photographic automatisms of instrument cannot read this difference so that they will read light only on background.

Our picture will have a dark subject with a strongly illuminated background this situation happens when we are going to take picture of subjects placed near us as animals, bugs or flowers.

**FIG. 2 SUBJECT REMAINS DARK**

How can we obtain images of effect under the mentioned conditions?

There are two solution types, if we use a flash or not - obviously - always in case subject allow its use.

The first solution consists of forcing camera to take picture using a flash...also in full day; this situation will give us a source of additional light, that acts in opposite direction to that natural one and that allows to clear a subject. It means that using a flash we can illuminate subject with a bundle of light in order to allow camera to have enough light to gather details that would be otherwise confused and "dark."



Which does disadvantage is?

In this case a flash use will necessarily distort colors that will appear more faded; instead artificial illumination will allow us to realize a picture using a very rapid exposure times that will also avoid blurred pictures.

**FIG. 3 BACKLIGHT COMPENSATION WITH THE FLASH USE**

The second solution is offered us by cameras - also compact digital ones- that they allow us to disconnect automatisms

and to take picture in "manual " mode. It could seem difficult to take picture in manual mode because it is difficult to individualize a correct couple diaphragm - time...but there is an escamotage.

You need to verify, using firstable a camera in automatic, a diaphragm - time couple that ours digital camera "decide" to use. We have to remember a suitable\_couple - for instance 1/500 + F 5, and without forget these values we set it using in\_manual mode for instance respecting the opening of diaphragm (f 5) and modifying only a release time. Obviously in this case our aim is that to pick up more light for\_"to brighten up" some details that would otherwise be "dark"... therefore we will plan a slower release time (in our example 1/300 rather than 1/500).

A long term release time will allow sensor to pick up light for a longer period of time and consequently also to pick up a bit of extra light that allows us to brighten details up.

**FIG. 4 A BACKLIGHT REALIZED WITHOUT FLASH AID**

Obviously the same result will be gotten modifying rather than release time, a diaphragm that will be in such case more opened

Using this technique it is possible to respect a subject colors, that won't be distorted by the flash...but as already anticipated, such solution is possible solo having a camera that allows to take a picture using "manual" mode or semi automatic one.

