

## Focusing

When you are going to take a macro picture, when you will start a glimpse of your prey inside a viewfinder or on your digital camera monitor, you have to remember some important things that concern preparation and focusing:

1.1) first of all make sure that your instrument is already well planned and ready to take picture in relationship to light conditions, a lot of times you will have available only a release, your prey won't wait stops, it will run away!!!

1.2) about focusing, if you use a manual focusing, train you to focus objects that are placed to a closer distance, you will have a little depth of field, and also using the best of your diaphragms (f:16 / f:32) it will be concretized in a small space. In these cases I think that it is better to advance and to withdraw with camera, rather than to focusing with lens; you will be so next to your subject that you will realize as simple trunk movements will be enough to focus your subject in your viewfinder



**fig.1: focusing results simpler moving whole camera rather than focusing with lens**

1.3) if you use an autofocus, at the beginning the automatism, will initially be very useful ..., but you need to have read well camera manual (as previously recommended); a lot of cameras, in fact, allow to set a focal plane. In such case the best setting it that of the central area focusing even if usually bugs are very small also for the best autofocus equipments.



**fig. 2 setting a central area focusing for different digital cameras**

Often in compact digital cameras autofocus automatisms - in case of a field to be taken back with many focal plan - get crazy, as they cannot find a point of reference. In this case it is opportune to stop and to focus an "easy" subject with macro lens camera ... your wrist clock will be a good subject. In such way the automatism will take back its setting and you will have the opportunity to tray focusing again .



**fig. 3 : to focus on an easy subject to jump the autofocus**

Another expedient - to use above all with flash introduction - it is based on a focus stopping. You need to check on manual instructions if such function is present. Almost all digital compact cameras have a function that stops automatic focus when a release shutter is pressed to its half run..

In such case flash presence will allow you to close diaphragm (at least to F. 8) and to take a picture with a certain depth of field; after that you have to focus on your wrist clock ...after focusing you have to stop it pressing a release shutter at its half run, so you must hold your release shutter to approach to a subject that results more difficult to focus to a distance more o less equal to the one between camera and your clock.

**fig.4 : a stopping focus device allwos to u sto bypass all problems due to autofocus**



After reaching such distance it is time for you to conclude with shot and.. to hope that your eye and a minimum of depth of field will do all the rest.

Some "best photographers" would twist their nose about such "empirical" expedient... but if we take a picture with a compact digital camera we won't have problems of film cost...so that why do not try it?

1.4) if you own a small compact digital camera, the best suggestion - in every case - it is to know very well your equipment . Thus you will know very well your camera limits



**fig. 5 : a composition with subjects placed on a diagonal framing**

After to understand these rules clearly and after your experiences, about focusing and exposure, you have also to pay attention to composition; for instance: a picture in which your subject lays down on a stem of grass it can be inserted in a picture in thousand different way. If you will portray it so that a diagonal is present inside the

frame this it will attract the attention on the subject, it will be better still if diagonal will cross frame from right to the left: this is the way according to which our brain is prepared to reason, way in which us westerners write (from right toward left) and with which all of us are ready to read "informations".

In any case, when your capture will allow you, as soon as after having take a first picture (to do not to lose capture) you have also to pay attention to a composition.