

Close Up Versus Macro Photography

u3a Dacorum Photography Club

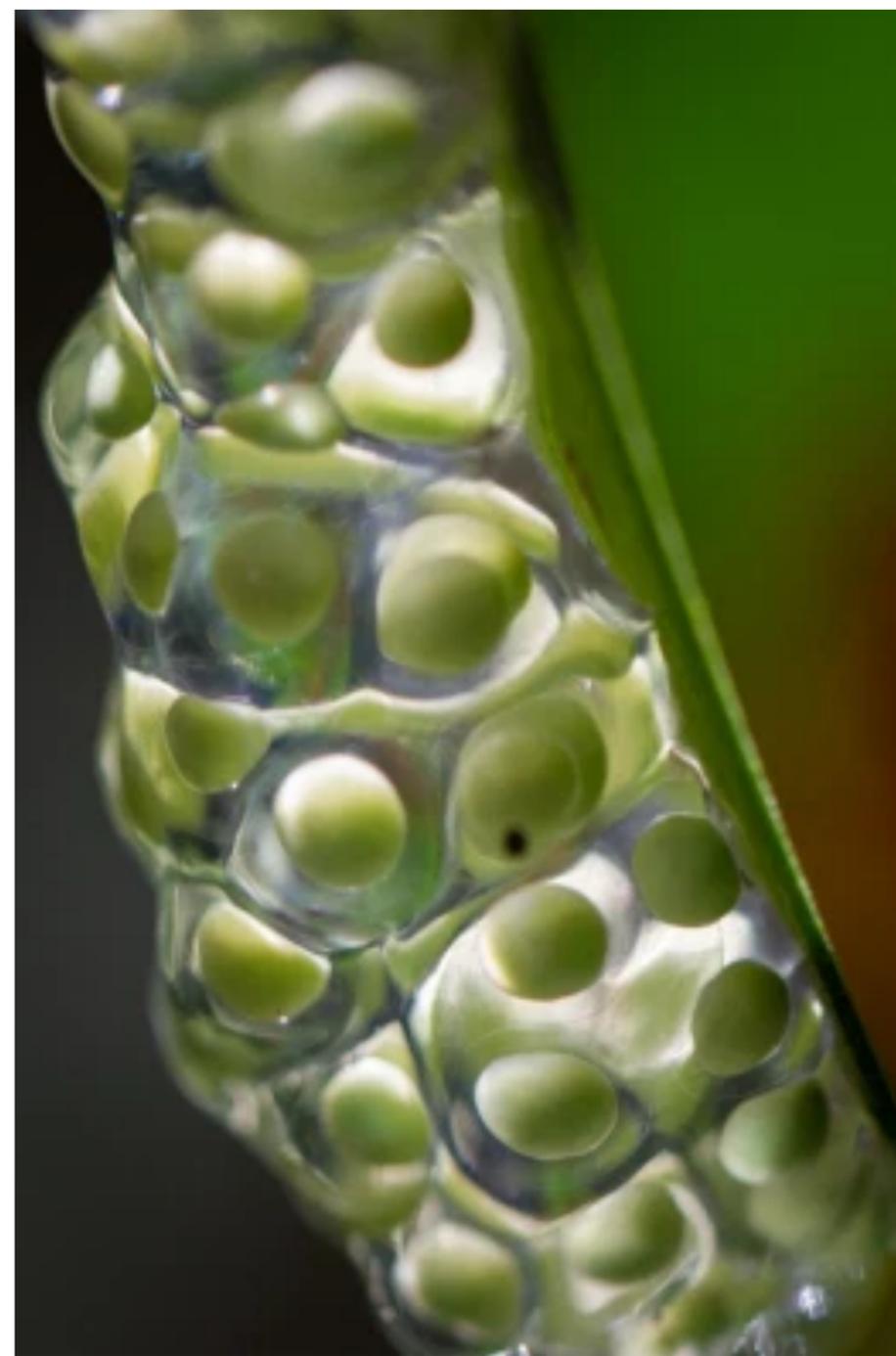
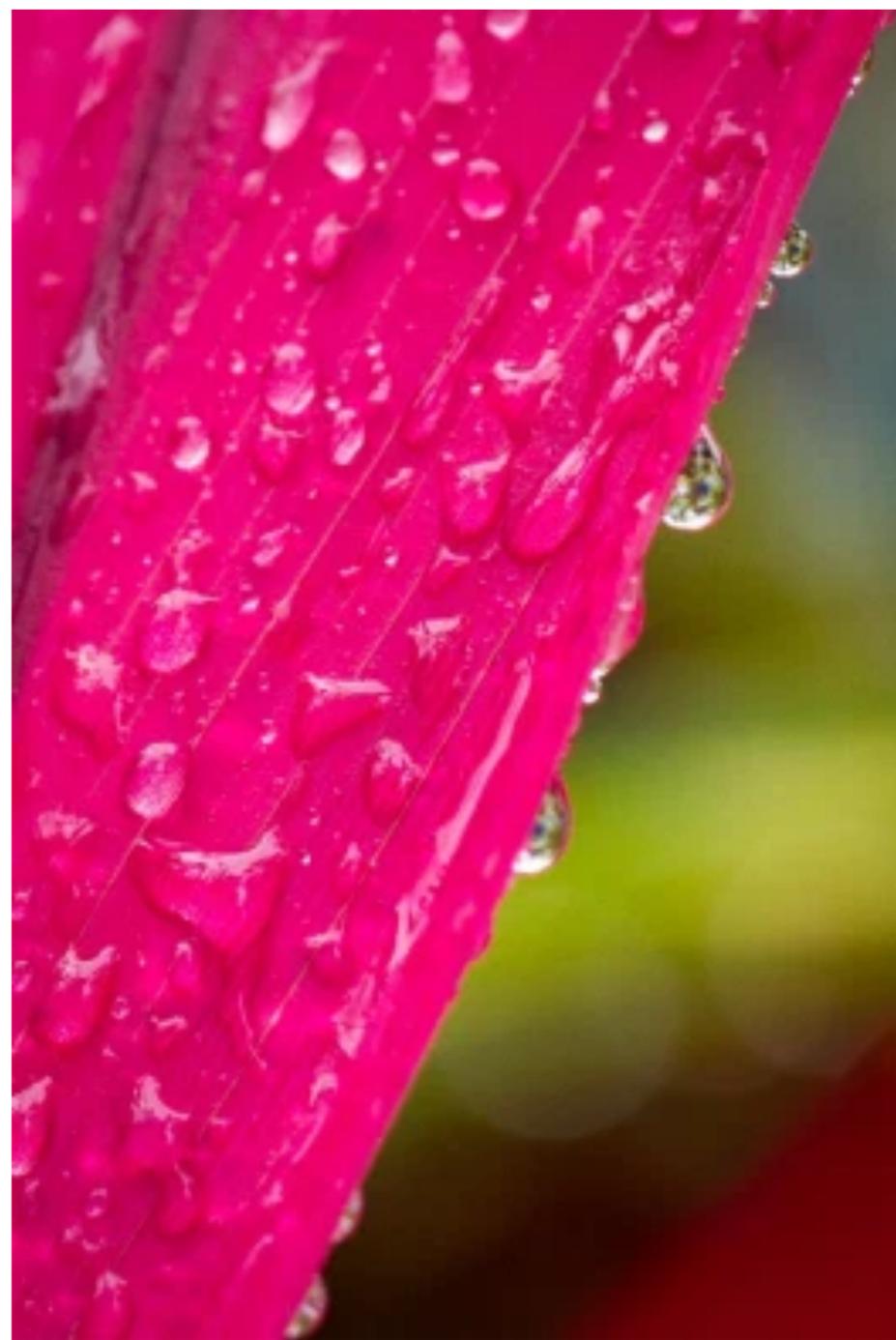
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MACRO VS. CLOSE-UP PHOTOGRAPHY

By Vicki Uthe

Here's the main difference as I understand it: With macro, you need a tripod, a non-moving subject, a lot of patience and you get in SO close to a subject that many times you need a caption to tell you what it is.

With close-up, you can shoot it with most lenses, you get very close to your subject with a zoom or by walking closer but can still tell what it is without question and you can do it successfully with a moving subject.



The two images above, shot in Costa Rica in 2012, were taken with a 100 mm Canon macro lens. At the time I was SURE I was shooting macro. I even set the lens for it. Turns out these are really just close-ups. If it were a true macro image a single water drop would nearly fill the frame as would only a few of these frog eggs. (I think they are frog eggs).

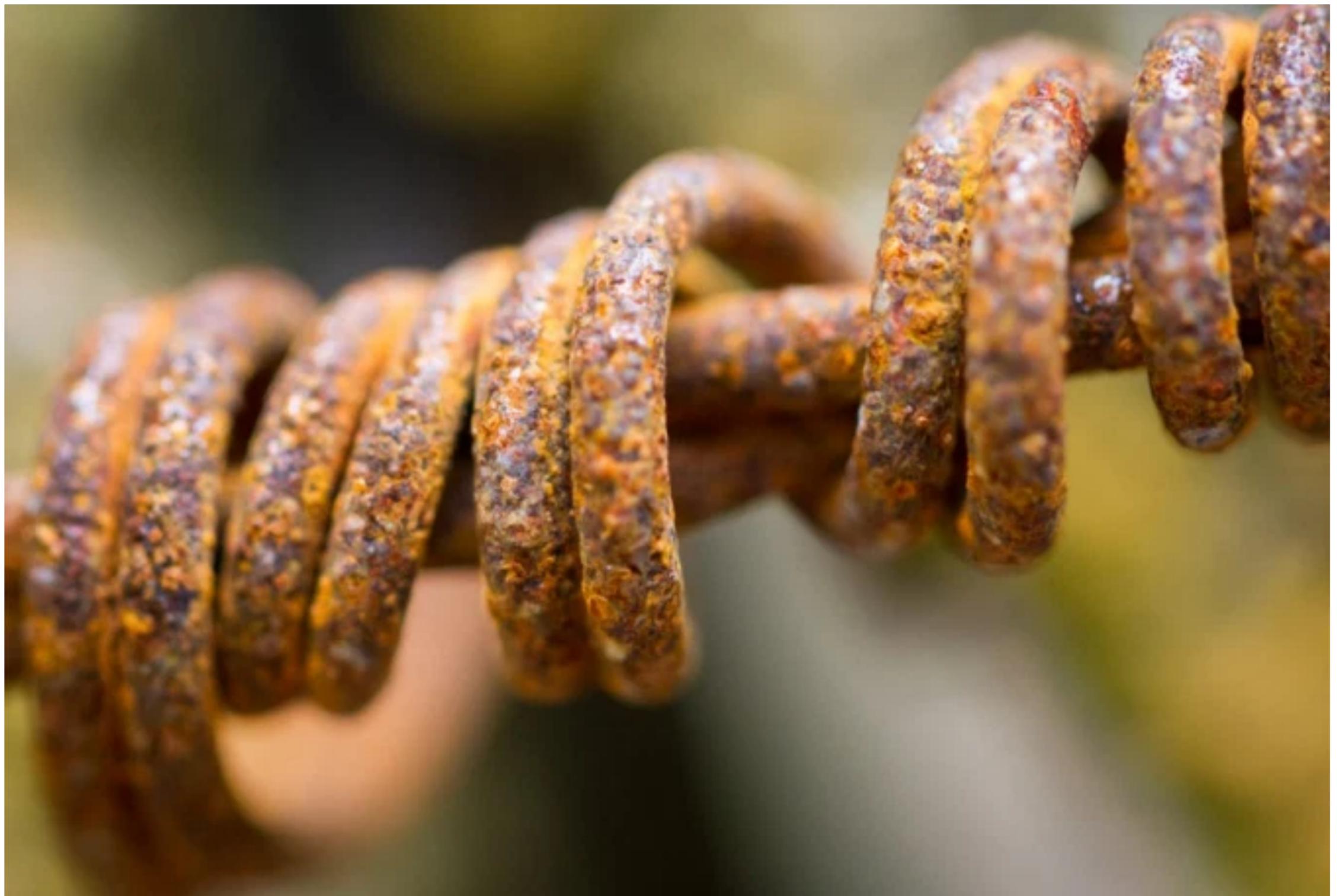
At the very LEAST a good macro image requires a tripod and a subject that is very still. A macro lens will reduce the depth of field (the space in your image that is in focus) to the width of a credit card. This means that you must be very precise as to what you are focussing on. The slightest breeze or movement will put a flower or insect out of focus.



The head of this praying mantis is one of the few images I have that could truly be considered macro. It is handheld and my subject was standing very still.



I'm not sure where the line actually is between close-up and macro. This image shows how small the depth of field (the area in focus) is. His eye is about the only thing that is sharp. Always focus on the eyes.



I really liked this image to show the shallow depth of field when your lens is in macro mode. This is rusted barbed wire wrapped around more wire. If you look close one strand is in focus while the one right next to it, and a little back, is not. I can not stress enough how crazy shallow the area in focus is with macro shooting.



I would for sure consider this one just a close-up.

This little red frog was pretty tiny sitting on someone's finger but I would still classify it as a close-up.

Here are some of my Close-Up Photos taken with a Nikon Z50 Camera with the 16 - 50mm lens.

I used a Tripod and a stone Light source, also set the camera for Close Up (Flower Symbol) and also added Fill in Flash for some shots.

Also set camera to Manual Focus as distance was only small, and tried to optimise Depth of Field.









