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# 3 WAYS TO Take Macro-Free Close-ups

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Want to try macro? If you're not ready to buy a dedicated macro lens, here are three inexpensive ways to use your DSLR and kit lens to see how the world looks in close-up.

**1 Reversal ring.** This \$40 (or so) gadget lets you mount a lens backward, turning a normal lens into a kind of macro. It isn't always the best solution, though. Autofocus won't work, so you'll have to focus manually. Some optically complex zooms are impossible to focus in reverse; others produce poor results. Lenses without an aperture ring are hard to stop down. And reversing the lens exposes the rear element and coupling mechanisms—shield these from damage with a makeshift lenshood.

**2 Extension tube.** With a rear-lensmount at one end and a camera-body mount at the other, this device is usually used for closer focusing with long telephotos. But place one between your DSLR and a short tele or normal lens, and you can focus into the macro range. For even closer focusing, use one with a reverse-mounted lens. Try Kenko Auto Extension Tube Set DG (12-, 20- and 36mm, from \$169, street).

**3 Macro filter.** Also called a diopter, this filter (about \$20 to \$30, street) is basically a magnifier that you put in front of the front lens element. These work better with telephotos (85mm or more). As a general rule, the weaker the diopter, the better the result. The edges of the resulting images tend to be soft, so you'll need to stop down quite a bit or plan on cropping. 