

Creative Camera Hacks

1. **Plastic bag for hazy effect** (<https://petapixel.com/2013/03/26/shoot-hazy-and-ethereal-photos-using-a-sandwich-bag-and-colored-markers/>)



Can add color by coloring on bag with marker:



2. **Vaseline/chapstick for hazy effect**
Plastic wrap over lens, smear Vaseline/chapstick around edge, leaving center clear.



3. **Free lensing** (<https://expertphotography.com/freelensing-photography/> OR <https://www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/content/how-freelensing> OR <https://www.lightroompresets.com/blogs/pretty-presets-blog/8520587-how-to-get-started-with-freelensing>)

Freelensing is a technique where you take photos with your lens not firmly mounted on your camera body. When using the lens in a normal way, the only areas you can blur are the foreground and the background. If you remove it from its mount, you can select specific areas to be in focus regardless of where they are in the frame. It is basically an inexpensive way of getting the similarly unique effect of an expensive tilt-shift lens, where the focus plane is thrown out of whack with the added bonus of natural light leaks.



4. **Macro by reversing lens** (video on youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywx8yhM3ST0>)
Set Mode dial to Manual. Set aperture to f/11. With camera still on, press the depth of field preview button (locks aperture – b/c otherwise it opens to max aperture opening) and the lens release button at same time and twist lens off. Reverse the lens. Move in close to subject and use Manual Focus. This will be tricky, so be patient.* Change your shutter speed to help control exposure – remember not below 1/60th handheld, boost ISO if needed.



*They do make very inexpensive reversing rings that you can use to actually mount your reversed lens on your camera – if this cheap macro option tickles your fancy... Make sure it is for the correct camera and lens size (here is one I bought for our cameras to use with the kit 18-55 lens:

<https://www.amazon.com/Fotodiox-Reverse-Adapter-Mounting-Threads/dp/B001G4PA36>)



5. Custom bokeh shapes (<https://expertphotography.com/how-to-create-custom-bokeh-effect/>)

Bokeh has been defined as “the way the lens renders out of focus points of light.” Bokeh size and blurriness depends on a few different parameters. However, bokeh shape only depends on the aperture. Bokeh shape is the same as the aperture shape. In order to create a custom shaped bokeh, you need to create a custom shaped aperture.

- You can do this very simply by cutting a circle the size of your lens out of a piece of cardboard or construction paper (black ideal, but you could use the thick cardboard of a cereal box, or...). To get the size right, just trace around the circular front of your lens.
- Then, cut out a *small* custom shape (heart, star, etc) in the center of this circle. An Exacto knife makes this easier (place a piece of the cardboard underneath while cutting so don't damage the surface), but can fold the cardboard in half to cut out half the shape and open it to reveal the whole shape.
- For the lights: city lights, throw up your own Christmas lights, etc.
- Tips:
 - You have to use the widest possible aperture to create the custom bokeh. When you are using the custom bokeh filter, you are actually changing the iris of your lens. To ensure that your DIY filter is the dominating shape, you need to make the aperture on the lens bigger than the cut out in the cardboard.
 - Manual focus is another trick. As the light intensity going in to the camera is lowered by your cardboard, auto focus may fail.

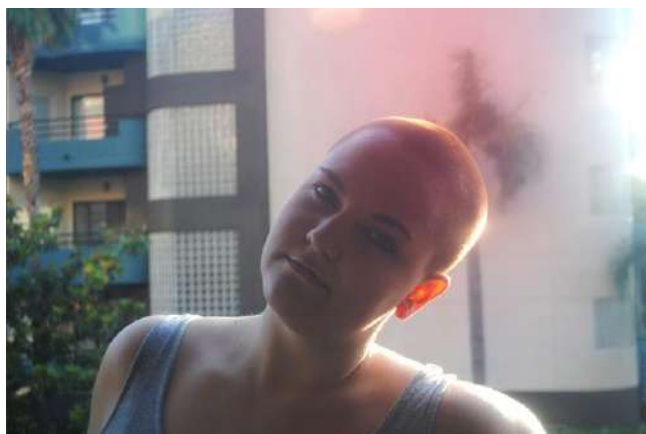
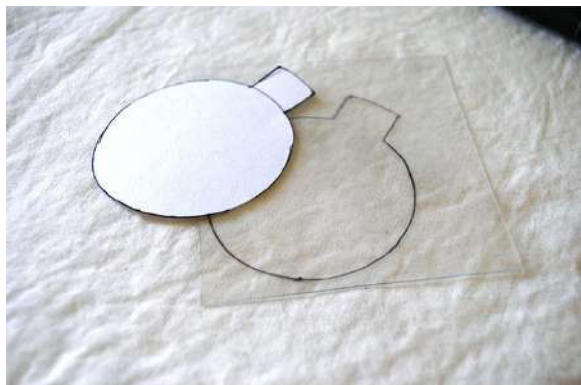


And: Tinfoil bokeh wall (can combine with custom bokeh hack above)



Crumple tinfoil, put up on wall, put mirror down as reflective surface to set toy/product on, shine a light on the tinfoil (can add color over light if want color). Shoot wide (aperture) on camera (zoom might help on lenses without really wide aperture). Might need to set camera on stable support (ideally tripod, but also books or... ?) – can use timer setting if needed.

6. Color filters



7. Lens flare w/ CD



8. Create shadows on subject: Shine light (or use hard sunlight) through objects with interesting patterns



9. More ideas: <https://www.architecturendesign.net/easy-camera-hacks-how-to-improve-photography-skills/>