

# MINIATURE WORLD - MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY

Hints when doing your photo shoot....

**WHAT YOU NEED:** DSLR or mobile phone, macro lens, tripod, flash, railway figures/toys

**FIGURES AND PROPS:** Model railway suppliers are the best place to find tiny figures. There are hundreds of different model people available, including ones you just would not expect! There is no reason to compromise on creativity. Figures can be purchased online or from hobby stores. You can also purchase scale objects such as cars and work man's tools.

**LIGHTING:** Natural light provides realistic results, but if you're looking for something more dramatic try using a TTL flash with an off camera cable or even wireless off-camera flash.

**HANDHELD OR TRIPOD?** Shooting hand held gives the freedom to move about and try different compositions, but using a tripod makes things easier once you have settled on a composition.

**LOCATION:** You can find miniature locations in the most unlikely places. Remember to think about scale when you are looking for suitable locations.

1. Find a miniature scene. The first and perhaps most difficult step are finding a suitable location for the tiny figures. Try to think differently, because you are working on a different scale. Conversely, use normal everyday objects in the scene to add a surreal element to the shot.
2. Place the Figure. Some settings make it easy to position your figures but if you are shooting on create or another a smooth surface, making the figures stand by themselves requires more thought. Blu-Tack and glue sticks are two solutions just make sure you only use a tiny amount so you cannot see it under the model's feet.
3. Setting your Lens. Most lenses have a focus limit switch that limits focus between two distances. This makes focusing easier since the lens does not go through its entire range to lock onto subjects. Set your lens appropriately according to the distance you are away from the subject or try focusing manually.
4. Choose your Camera Settings. If you are shooting with a flashgun on a cable, set the flash to TTL mode and the camera to Manual mode. This will produce dramatic side lighting. Depth of field is very shallow at such close focusing distances, so experiment with different apertures in order to get as much in focus as you want. Aperture priority mode is good for this.

**POST PRODUCTION:** In-camera you can experiment with the creative filters and use the *Miniature Effect*. Move the rectangle to the area that you wish to remain in focus. The rest of the scene will fall out of focus creating a miniature world.

