

LANGLEY CAMERA CLUB



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Theme: Water Droplets



Photographing Water Droplets

Article copied from: Aroon Kalandy's Showcase <http://121clicks.com/tutorials/15-tips-to-take-water-drops-with-refractions-in-them>

15 Tips to take Water Drops with Refractions in them



15 Tips to take Water Drops with refractions in them

Macro Photography is fun. I turned to macros when I got my Tamron 90mm which gives a magnitude of 1:1 Macro Photography is close-up photography, usually of very small subjects. Many lens are there in the market with 1:1 ratio, even 5:1 ratio as the case is with Canon MP-E 65mm 1-5x Macro Lens.

I normally use Tamron 90mm for my Macro work. I explored the world of tiny wonders when I got my Tamron 90mm. It give 1:1 ratio and is one of the best in its Class. Water drop with refractions are normally seen on flowers and Leaves. But one can use anything, from needles to wires and pencils to obtain breath taking images. A small exquisite water drop is a world on its own. For taking water drops I use inexpensive materials like Syringe, Pins, Thermocol sheet, wires, etc.



I am sharing some ideas, how to take Water drops macros with refractions.

1. A macro lens is must. (I am using Tamron 90mm)
2. A natural drop on a Flower or a drop placed by a Syringe.
3. An additional Flower can be placed some 3 to 5 inches behind the drops.
4. A syringe with the needle removed is very useful for placing the drops on the flowers or other surfaces.
5. Add a bit of sugar to the water. The drops will attach itself more firmly even on slippery surface.
6. Use Aperture Priority in your DSLR.
7. Any Aperture from f 11 to 20 is useful for getting even sharpness (So I like to take these kind of images in Sunlight or bright shade.)
8. If taken in sunlit conditions you might get a flare on the drops which adds to the beauty.
9. If you use F2.8 etc, you get sort of Dreamy Images where the focus will be on a small area and you get a great bokeh.
10. Use tripod if necessary especially if you are taking images at F2.8 or so.
11. Don't get too close to the drop or the lower part will be darkened.
12. Take these images on windless days hence either the flower in the background or the drop falls off.
13. Make sure that the whole flower is reflected in the drops (You may have to move this way and that for that!!)
14. Materials like Thermocol etc come in useful for pinning flowers or reflecting light.
15. If you are taking more than one drop at a time Stacking helps. Or you may have to use Aperture from F9 to F20 to get all round sharpness.

I do hope this helps.... You can of course use different colored Flowers for effect. Drops on Feathers and such lovely objects taken without refractions are also beautiful.

Article copied from: <http://www.digital-photo-secrets.com/tip/3902/photograph-water-droplets/>

How to Photograph Water Droplets

by David Peterson



Flying Milk by Flickr user Chaval Brasil]

Cameras are excellent at capturing moments in time. But besides just capturing babies in their full, unbridled cuteness, cameras can also capture moments in time that we don't even notice. One example is wisps of smoke just before they vanish into the air. Another is falling drops of water.

I know you've seen those remarkable images - a single drop of water strikes a still pool and creates this amazing, frozen-in-time plume of liquid. If you're like many beginning photographers, you've probably looked at those images and dismissed them as something that's outside your ability. The good news is that your gut feeling was wrong - with the right setup, you can photograph drops of water that look just as cool as the ones you've seen on Flickr.



Peak by Flickr user -Kevong-

What You Need

Water droplet photography is going to work best with a good DSLR, a tripod and a macro lens. You will also need a Speedlite - preferably two, but while you're still experimenting you can probably get by with one. Most importantly, you will need a system for creating the water droplets themselves. That's where things get a bit tricky.

If you're just getting started with this type of photography, you can hack your drip system pretty easily with a medicine dropper affixed to some kind of sturdy support system, such as a tripod or a specially-built wooden rack mounted over a bowl of water. The support system you choose should be easy to vertically adjust - the distance between your dropper and the water below will dictate the shape of the drops and the way they impact the surface of the water. The depth of the bowl the water drips into will also affect the impact droplet's shape, and the size of the bowl will be important too - in most cases you'll want to avoid including its edge in the shot so it will need to be reasonably large.

The downside to having a manual system, of course, is that you'll have to squeeze the dropper yourself and then time your shot in such a way as to capture that drop at the moment of impact. To simplify this process a little, you can try filling a plastic bag with water and poking a very small hole in it--this should give you a pretty regular drip that you won't have to manually control. As you may have already guessed, this type of setup requires some trial and error. Your camera's continuous mode may help your camera to take multiple shots around the time the drop hits the water. But it might be more of a hindrance if the speed of your continuous mode shots aren't that high.



Single egg shaped water droplet by Flickr user Luke Peterson Photography

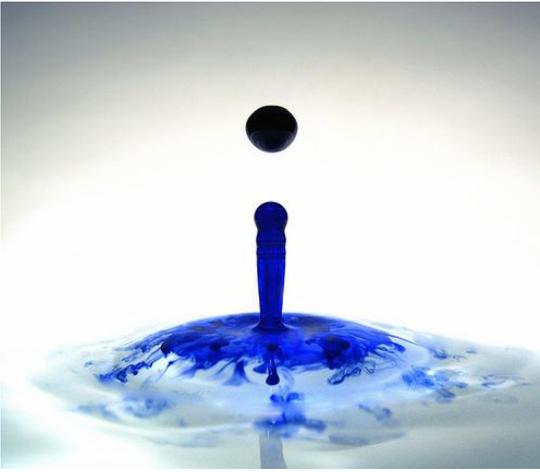
Once you've fallen in love with droplet photography, you can go high-tech by getting a "drip kit". Yes, there is such a thing: Bmumford has a good drip kit. This kind of unit gives you more control over your water droplets - you can vary their size, for example, and the intervals at which they fall, without having to muck around with a manual dropper. The company that manufactures the drip kit I've linked to above also has a product called a "Time Machine," which is a programmable unit that will automatically trip your camera's shutter in response to an event, such as a water droplet. This is a good investment for anyone who wants to do water droplet photography, or similar macro shots that require very precise timing.

Your Studio Set Up

You will need some sort of indoor studio set-up for shooting water droplets, with a good, diffuse backdrop such as a piece of frosted glass.

You will also need at least one Speedlite flash unit, preferably two. Your flash units should be set at lower power - start with 1/16th. Low power gives you a quick burst of light, and the light burst is what will freeze that water droplet mid-splash. Where you position your flash units depends on the results you are looking for, but in general terms you will want them positioned behind the water droplet in such a way that they will illuminate the water bowl where the collision between drop and surface will occur.

Also keep in mind that your studio should be very dimly lit, since you want those Speedlites to be your main source of illumination.



ink & water by Flickr user gagstreet

Camera Settings

As with most types of macro photography, you want your ISO to be pretty low, at least 200 but preferably 100. It may actually surprise you to hear that you don't need a super-fast shutter speed to capture water droplets, because your flash is going to do most of that work for you. You will need to have a pretty small aperture - $f/14$ is a good place to start - since you want your water droplet and as much of the surface of the water as possible to be in sharp focus.

Focus can be challenging with this type of photography because of the accuracy you need to capture that tiny drop of water. Manual focus is a must, and you will need to pre-focus, shoot, and then adjust as necessary. To do this, first determine exactly where the drops are falling in your bowl of water, then place a ruler or another long, thin object across the bowl in exactly that position. Pre-focus on the ruler, then take a test shot and readjust if necessary.

Creative Tweaks

Once you're starting to get the hang of droplet photography, try adding some simple food coloring to the water, or using different kinds of liquids such as milk. You can also change the viscosity of the liquid by adding some dish soap to it, or glycerin. Using a different color in the drop than you do in the surface water will give you some interesting effects. You can also use colored flash gels to change the color of the light itself.

Changing the position of the camera can give you a different sort of image - try placing the camera level with the surface of the water, and compare that to a shot from slightly above.



by Flickr user Chaval Brasil

Water droplet photography is one of those seems-intimidating activities that may surprise you. A little bit of tweaking and experimenting may produce results that you didn't expect, even if you don't have all the fancy equipment that other more serious droplet-photographers have. At the very least, playing around with these techniques and getting a few good shots will give you some extra confidence to go forth and try new things. After all, if you can capture a tiny water droplet, frozen in time, think of all the other moments you can capture and keep forever in those little digital files.

[Also take a look at some [spectacular examples of Water Droplet Photography](#)]

Other websites to visit:

13 Steps To Shoot The Perfect Water Droplet:

<https://photography.tutsplus.com/tutorials/13-steps-for-shooting-the-perfect-water-droplet--photo-1294>

How To Get Started In Water Drop Photography:

<https://iso.500px.com/how-to-get-started-in-water-drop-photography/>

Photos By Kev - Water Drop Photography:

<http://www.photosbykev.com/wordpress/tips-and-trick/water-droplet-photography/>

How to Photograph Water Drops On Glass:

<https://expertphotography.com/shoot-my-shot-colorful-water-drops/>

YouTube Sites:

How To Creatively Photography Water Drops And Splashes:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0svxk6OguoI>

Adorama Water Droplets: Ep 221: Digital Photography 1 on 1

(Photographing on Glass. Including Post Production)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ab8Zz9i8QBw>

Gaven Hoey - How to Photograph a Splash Of Water

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwExpFDUC9Y&t=3s>