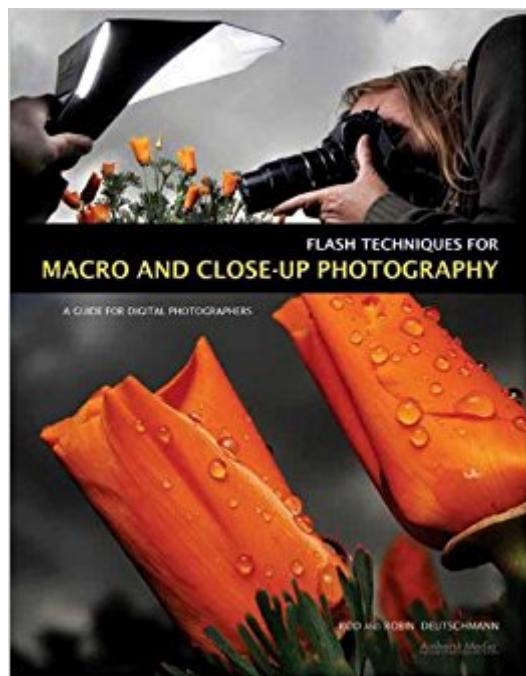


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# Flash Techniques For Macro And Close-Up Photography: A Guide For Digital Photographers



## **Synopsis**

A presentation of the varied solutions to the many unique challenges faced in macro and close-up photography, this work discusses issues such as selecting a specially designed lenses and positioning flashes in order to avoid casting shadows. While tackling the main issues that this advanced application presents, such as correct focus, maximum depth of field, and optimal lighting, this guide walks through numerous indoor and outdoor shoots and includes step-by-step sequences and techniques for single- and multiple-light setups. Advanced amateurs and professional photographers will learn how the pros conceptualize and carry out their lighting strategies to ensure expertly lit small and close-up photography from this indispensable guide.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"Photographers and instructors Rod and Robin Deutschmann explain how to photograph small subjects for macro or close-up images using an off-camera flash." [www.BookNews.com](http://www.BookNews.com)

Rod Deutschmann and Robin Deutschmann are award-winning fine art photographers, veteran newspaper editors, and acclaimed photography instructors. They are the coauthors of "Off-Camera Flash." They live in San Diego.

This book is a big disappointment. The photos are so lackluster that they actually detract from the

text itself. The writers love to expound on personal vision and creativity, and that's fine, but most of the photos are taken during the worst times of the day with high noon sun. The backgrounds are distracting and the photos are poorly focused. If that's their personal vision I would not be advertising that in a book. I'm half way through the book and it's been a chore to get that far. Apparently the reader is supposed to ignore the subpar photography and take the authors' word for it that they are very knowledgeable about macro photography. I think the authors believe that poor lighting and composition can be solved just by using a flash. I'm a complete beginner at macro and if the images in the book were mine they would end up in my computer's recycle bin. I can do better. Please, dear reader, look elsewhere if you want a good instructional book on macro photography. I recommend Closeup Photography in Nature by the Gerlachs or John Shaw's Closeups In Nature.

First of all, before I go into my actual review of the book, I would like to point out some interesting observations. At the time of this writing, there are six reviews of this book that rate it 5 stars. Of the six reviews that are 5 star raves, NOT ONE OF THEM are Verified Purchases. I find that interesting. Among those 5 star reviewers, D Waiters, Eric L and Adam Richards have reviewed a combined total of 58 books. Of the books reviewed by these individuals, virtually ALL OF THEM have been for books published by Amhurst Media - the publisher of this book. It looks just a little suspicious. These individuals are clearly only promoting a book by a company that they have a deep interest in. As a result, these reviews have no credibility at all. Now, on to my review. I'm a semi-pro freelance photographer with over 30 years of experience. I bought this book thinking it might give me some tips on using off camera flash in my macro work. It turned out to be a real disappointment. The book is profusely illustrated yet close examination of the photos revealed many of them that were poorly composed, badly focused or just irrelevant to the subject being discussed. Very little of the book is actually dedicated to using flash in macro work. The first 60 or so pages of the book is introductory information that could have been distilled down to a few pages. Furthermore, much of the information is just plain bad advice. Early on, they say that macro work has its own very stringent set of rules. Break the rules ever so slightly and your image falls apart. This couldn't be further from the truth. Some of the most creative pieces ever produced are a result of the artist breaking the rules and thinking outside the box. Several pages were wasted on outlining gear such as extension tubes, reversal rings etc. I'm sorry, but reverse mounting of a 50mm lens with an extension tube or two is not going to produce a better image than using a good macro lens. At the end of that chapter, the authors even admit that the best thing is to just buy a macro lens. So why did they fill the previous pages with worthless advice? The most bizarre piece of advice was

when the author recommended making a flash extension pole by pounding the legs off of a light stand. Why destroy a perfectly good \$40 light stand when you can make a good light pole out of a \$9 painting pole with a Kacey pole adapter (and your pole won't be all smashed up from removing the legs either). It looked as if the book was written with very little thought. (It seems to me that much of their photography was shot without thought too) The spread on page 62/63 shows a pot of flowers being photographed in a staged rainstorm. The final photo was great but they took 3/4 of the 2 page spread showing the final images and only 1/8 of the spread with three tiny images showing the technique. Wasn't this book supposed to be about technique? So, why did technique images take back seat to the final image? I think you get the message. I don't like being so harsh in a review but truthfully, there is very little in this book worth reading. I would say that the book is only 10 to 15% substance and 85% fluff and filler. When I bought this book I read all of the rave reviews and I took them seriously. When I started reading the book I then knew they couldn't be true. As it turns out, they aren't at all true. I think I'll cut my losses and list it on eBay.

Very basic instruction. Author recommends photographers abandon raw and shoot jpeg, and advises against post processing. It harps on manual shooting, doesn't discuss ttl flash systems at all and explains little in the way of using external flash with sync speed, etc. Basically, this book is for the photographer that just bought a camera and kit lens combo at a big box store and wants to take pretty pretty flower pics. If you're advanced, this is not for you. There's no content in here you won't already know but if you're new to photography, well meh. I guess you might benefit.

It mentions the book as being equally adaptable to film photography, but this did not play out like that. It's still good material and I will gain some usable knowledge from it.

Great book!

If you, like me, are in the Macro photography field, then make you a big favor and don't waste your money with this book. I have dozens of photography books but this one is the worst of them all. It shows a bunch of photos of a couple giving a course to students, shows very bad flash techniques and doesn't even mention the most used flash systems for macro photography like Flash Rings, SpeedLite, SpeedLight, Twin Lite, etc. just a bunch of flash diffusers. The macro photos are pathetic and many of them are "really" out of focus with a legend that says that you can make them to suggest a subject... what was that? I really regret to have spent my money on this crap. Really a

bad bad book.

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