

Ultimate

Photo Tips

Creative Closeup Photography

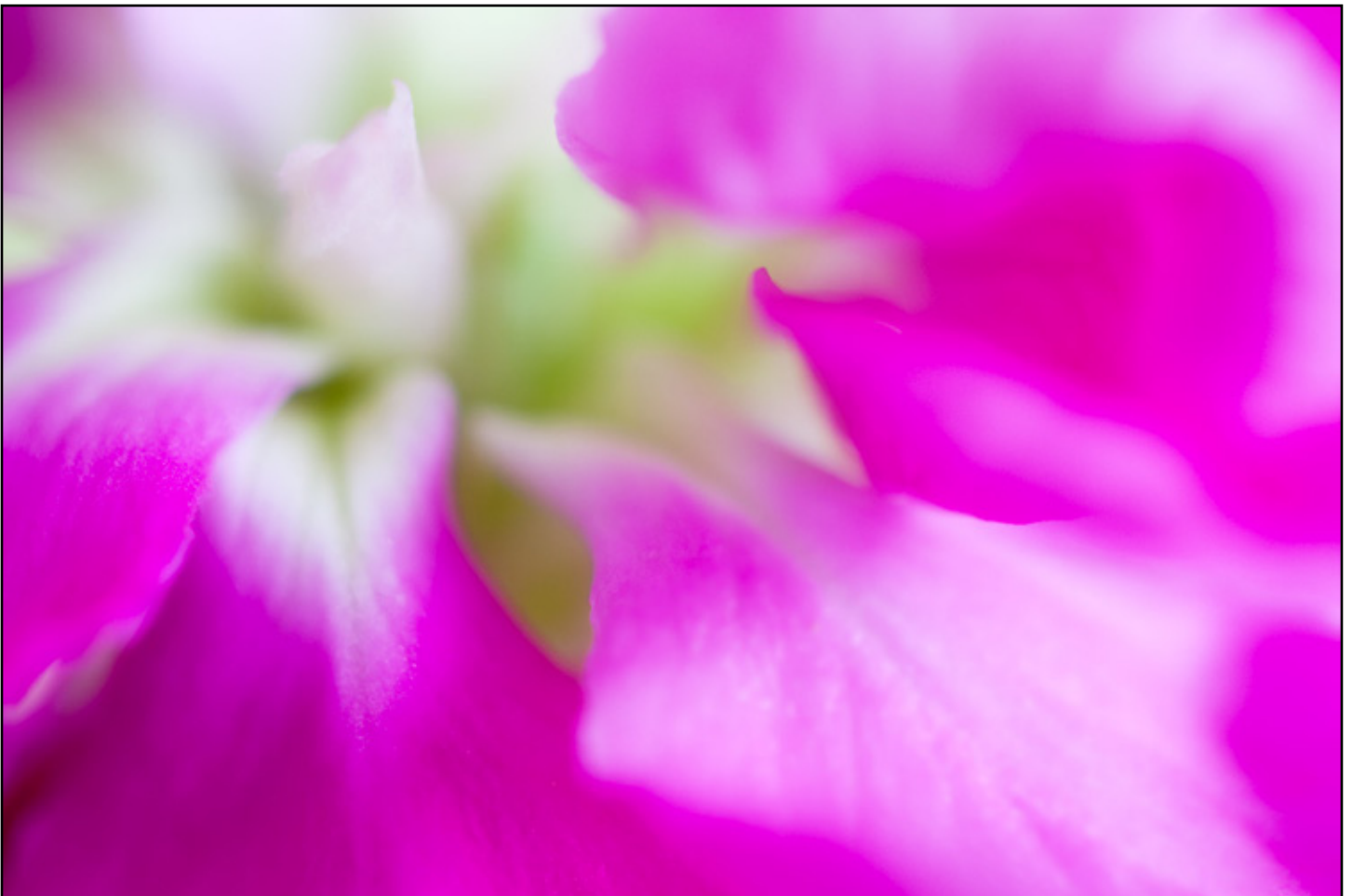
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EQUIPMENT

- Macro lens
- Close-up filter
- Extension tubes
- Teleconverter (multiplier)
- Tripod
- Focusing rail
- Cable or remote shutter release
- Mirror lockup
- "Plamp"
- Lightbox for inside or outside studio
- Lensbaby with macro attachment



COMPOSITION

You have only a small working distance between camera and subject. This magnifies any relative movement between the two.

Simplify your composition through:

- shallow depth of field
- getting in closer to the subject or cropping
- changing position or recomposing
- reducing the number of colours

Background colour impacts mood. Contrast provides drama, and harmonious colours and tones produce a quieter image. For flowers, greens look natural.

Watch out for:

- central placement of flowers
- distractions and intrusions
- hot spots and “black holes”
- mergers



DEPTH OF FIELD

The closer you are to your subject, the less depth of field you have. Use a lot of depth of field to show off detail. Use a shallow depth of field to give a more artistic interpretation.

Watch out for mid-range DOF which can look accidental (not sharp enough).

Selective focus draws attention to one spot.

LIGHTING

Use reflectors to bounce light into the shadows.

Use a diffuser to soften harsh light and reduce contrast.



Top Ten Tips

1. Shoot in aperture priority mode
2. Use manual focus
3. Defocus to catch hot spots and black holes
4. Explore through the lens to find your composition
5. Use mirror lockup and a remote shutter release
6. Look through the viewfinder while placing reflectors
7. Focus on the closest point to the lens
8. Shoot parallel to the lens for sharpness throughout
9. Use live view for focusing
10. Hold a flower behind your nature subject for a soft background in a matching colour

Each close-up image is the result of a process:

Choose a subject you are drawn to.
Think about the "story" you want to tell.
Find your composition.
Choose your depth of field.
Eliminate distractions..
Refine the composition
Correct the light with reflectors and/or diffusers.

**For my complete, illustrated eBooks on
Creative Closeup Photography, please visit:**

<http://ultimate-photo-tips.com/close-up-photography.html>

