

Focus Stacking Using Lightroom and Photoshop

Workshop presented by Bill Roberts 2015

Focus stacking is about overlapping shots with sharp sections to create an all in one sharp image.

Whilst you may be tempted to maximise the band of sharpness on each shot to be stacked by using a small aperture such as f32, be aware that diffraction softening can and does occur.

Use a lens at its best performing f stop and adjust increments to suit that, rather than adjusting increments to minimise exposures needed.

It is important to shoot a larger area than you wish to appear in your final image, in order to compensate for potential shifts and distortions and for any cropping during post processing.

Using Live View (Canon)

Finder → applications → canon utilities → EOS utility → camera settings / remote shooting →

live view shoot.

Lightroom

Import from camera → adjustments such as white balance as needed.

Select all images then go to Photo → edit in → open as layers in photoshop.

Photoshop

Select all layers → edit → auto align layers.

Crop as necessary.

Select all layers → edit → auto blend layers → stack images → layer → flatten image →

duplicate background layer → layer → smart objects → convert to smart object.

Adjustments as necessary (levels, curves, saturation etc).

Focus stacking software.

Lightroom and Photoshop. Helicon Focus. US\$ 250 approx. Zerene Stacker. US\$ 290 approx.

Focus stacking websites.

cambridge in colour.com extreme-macro.co.uk www.mdavid.com.au

www.alfonso.com.au/blog (6 steps to macro focus stacking).