

Theme: Close Up/Macro

Title	Comments	Result
Through the Lemon	This high key image is simple, light and bright with good colour and composition, however it is not sharp and is also a little grainy. The membranes between the segments and the walls of the juice sacs make a fascinating pattern and having these sharply in focus can create a spectacular image. Depth of field is always a challenge in true macro photography, but can also be an issue in close up photography, however it is important to get it right. Trying some diffused lighting on this side of the lemon would reduce the contrast and make it easier to focus as well as reduce the grainy appearance. Cutting finer slices would also do this, as this one appears to be quite thick. It's worth doing this again to see if you can improve it.	A
When Life Gives You Lemons	This image has slices of lemon where the walls of the juice sacs are very sharply in focus, showing the viewer how delicate and attractive they can be. These slices are relatively thin and the patterns in the rind can be seen as well. The slice in the bottom left corner is completely out of focus and doesn't really need to be there. The slice in the top right corner is more open than the others and has the seeds with interesting shapes and texture, so this area tends to draw the eye. It would be worth doing a little reframing to see if you can strengthen the image. It would also be worth retaking it with the slices in different positions.	MERIT
Hiding	You have done well to get the face and leg of this little spider in focus, and even the strands of web are sharp. The image is well composed and the pink of the flower provides a perfect background. The soft area in the foreground isn't an issue and actually allows the palps to be seen quite well. Good work for seeing this little spider and being quick enough to catch it – they often don't stay around long enough to get a shot.	MERIT
Rainy Day Spider	This image is simple with lovely soft colours, but has been let down by the shallow depth of field that the photographer has to deal with in macro photography. The spider has some areas that are sharp and other are soft. In a situation like this it is better to focus on the eyes and keep them as sharp as possible – in this instance the palps and the abdomen draw the eye because they are sharper and brighter and so stand out more. I suspect you wanted to keep the droplet on the bottom right in the image, but this has put the spider quite high up. Cropping on the left and bottom would balance things and strengthen the image.	A
Succulent Beauty	These flower buds make a very attractive subject with their soft colour and interesting patterns and textures. The entire flower head is sharp which makes it stand out well against the soft background. Although the rest of the plant is not in focus the patterns and colours of the foliage can be seen easily, and add interest. The point of focus is the large central bud and it is	MERIT

	placed a little high in the image. If you have cropped this image it would be worth adjusting by adding a little more space at the top.	
Sunshine Pop	This indeed a pop of colour and stands out well in the image. The depth of field is shallow and as a result the near parts of the flower are not in focus. This is always an issue with a subject with depth that would look better if it was sharp all the way through. Taking the image at a higher f-stop isn't always the answer as this can cause diffraction and actually decrease sharpness. Focus stacking at an aperture of f/8 will usually give a good result and with a stationary subject is always worth trying. There is a little too much room on either side of this image and cropping to a portrait format would create a stronger composition.	A
Multi Grain	This is a novel idea for a macro shot. It is a perfect subject in that it is completely stationary and has a flat surface that can be placed parallel to the sensor so there are no issues with depth of field. It is perhaps not as attractive to the viewer as other subjects such as flowers and insects, but in spite of this it has created an interesting image that adds another dimension to what is an everyday object and for the purposes of this competition falls within the definition. Well done for thinking outside the square.	A
Mushroom gills	This is a well composed and beautifully presented image that is pin sharp throughout. There are subtle colour graduations in the background that actually add to the image. Great work – well done.	HONOUR
Ready to eat	This is a beautifully presented image that is colourful and pin sharp with the exception of the nearest segment which is slightly soft. I would experiment with reframing to give just a little more room at the top. It is however a great image – well done.	MERIT
Steel Wool	This presents steel wool in a most unusual way and actually makes it a very interesting subject, especially with the addition of colour. Unfortunately it is disconcertingly blurry throughout and not easy to look at. Definitely retake this and try to get more of it in sharp focus, and you will have a fascinating image.	A
Bedtime	This is a pleasant and restful image with a soft background that matches the colour of the bee's eye. There is a nice diagonal created by the stalk. The bee itself is not as sharply in focus as it could be. There are some small 'objects' on the back of the bee's abdomen which could possibly be a crumpled wing, making me wonder if this bee was not in good shape; the foreleg looks a little unusual and it is hard to see the other legs. I would give consideration to cropping this into portrait format; it would also be worth cropping a little at the bottom to give better balance. Experiment with this to see what you think.	HC

The Colour Green	Green indeed – and almost the same shades of green. This is a great shot of the little frog and is so sharp every little bump and lump can be seen. If this is to be used as a Nature image it has to be left as it is – if not I would consider cloning out the light area in the bottom right corner to remove it as a distraction. Good work.	MERIT