



Flash aided macro shots using a Panasonic Lumix LX3

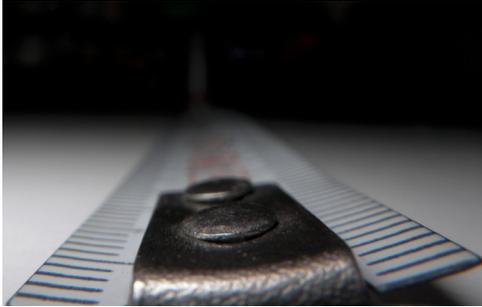
A Panasonic Lumix LX3 can focus at such a short distance as 1 cm (0.4 inch). That's great. But if you need to fire the built-in flash, things are not so bright any more: the lens casts a shadow over the object (as in the top left picture). The result to strive for is something like the second picture from the top (which is shot using my "invention").

Richard Beal published some very interesting notes on how to use an LX3 in macro mode (<http://homepages.tig.com.au/~parsog/panasonic/04-macro2.html>). At first, I did not understand how he held his diffusor, so I experimented on my own.

Here is the present status of my experiments.

You will need a white plastic can (like an old medicine can), a strip of aluminium foil and a strip of semi-sturdy paper.

Carefully shape the foil (towards the outside) and paper into a roll that will be able to pass through the neck of the can. Put the roll into the can and let go - hopefully the paper will coil out to press itself (and the foil) onto the inner walls of the can.



Now, no light will go astray via the walls of the can, all of the flash energy will pass through the bottom of the can as a softer, diffused light.

Hold the can in front of the flash

When you want to use the flash for macro shots, just hold the

prepared can in front of the flash, and the bottom of the can will be at approximately the same level as the lens and no shadows will be generated.

The result is very promising!

