

The DIY photographer: Lighting close-ups

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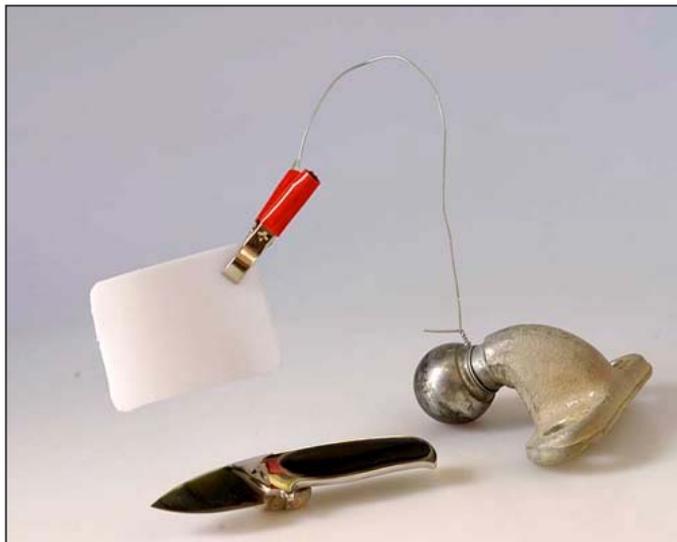
When shooting detail work on an infinity curve, you may find little dark places on your subject that could benefit from some additional lighting.

In the case of the knife picture, a bit of light reflected into the half circle cut into the metal between blade and handle would have helped this image a lot.



Usually the problem is that getting a reflector board or light into position is awkward – there may not be space to put something, or you cannot get a reflector board situated in such a way that it is out of shot.

In cases like these, I use a small reflector of paper sprayed white, silver or gold, depending on what kind of highlight I want to introduce. Getting these little reflectors to stand up, however, is usually another story.



One really good solution is to buy some electronic clamps such as the ones used to 12V camping appliances. Pull the plastic off one handle and you'll see a little bridge of metal underneath.

Bend a piece of stiff wire double so that it just fits underneath the bridge, and force it in. This will prevent the clamp from rotating under load.

Next, wind the other end of the wire around a heavy

object. Now you can place this contraption just out of shot, and bend and twist the wire until your reflector bumps some light into the area needed.

Another nifty material is thin aluminium plate. It bends easily into any shape, you can spray it any colour you like, and you can easily cut it with a pair of tin cutters into any shape you want.

Simply bend it into a foot and stand it close to where you need more light.



*Happy shooting until next time!
Jaco Wolmarans*