How to make cool photos

Posted by SovS - 2004/04/23 23:58

Hi I think that this is a good thread to start for people that want to take great pictures but are incapable of doing so (like me).

So how do you exactly get great clear, sharp, colour corrected pictures? And how do you zoom into minis like they do in www.coolminiornot.com

All I have at my disposal is

1. Daylight lamp
2. Digital 4mb camera

What should I do? i.e. Light placement, distance to mini from camera, etc. etc.

Hints anyone? I think this will be good for everyone to know!

Oh and how do you post pics on the thread? Do you need someone to host the pic? (ie. What does attachment do?)

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How to make cool photos

Posted by Chandler - 2004/04/24 05:20

OK - Thi is how I work it.
I get a BIG piece of neutral coloured card, that ISN'T predominant on the mini and I curve it along the tabletop and up the wall. This creates a neutral background that's easier to edit in PSP or similar.

I have a couple of clip on lights that I attach to the table and position diagonally either side. Lighting from one side only can create unwanted shadows sometimes.
If I can, I try to shoot outside with matural lighting.

Camera - 4MP, 2MP etc doesnt really matter. What you MUST HAVE on your camera is a Macro facility. This allows you to get real close. I have an 'OK' digital camera, but I can focus to within 1" (2.5cm) of a mini. I have created some cool DF & Mini shots with this.

One thing I have also tried is putting a mini on a revolving cake stand and taking 8 pictures at different angles and then creating a GIF animation showing all sides of the mini. Nice, but a big image!

I'm sure that other will advise you too, but his is how I work.

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How to make cool photos

Posted by Tom - 2004/04/25 05:33

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the first thing i will tell is to NOT use Flash when you take a DF decoration

the colors are respected only if you do not use flash
for that you have to put your camera on something very stable to avoid movment and get a vague picture

use the macro as well and a rather strong ligh for all the room

most of the photo we can see on internet have been made with a flash and they are not good.
Tom

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How to make cool photos
Posted by MyLordVoid - 2004/04/25 11:52

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These are Some Excellent Tips, I Have Not Invested Much Time in Taking Pictures of Games Sets Etc in the Past Because I Never Had Stuff Turn Out the Way I Would Wish... Now after a Move into a Tiny Apartment Big Set ups are Unlikely until After My Wife Finishes School... (Then I Have Been Promised a BIG Game Room.....) But then I Will Have to Experiment With Pictures... (Ironically Everything is In Storage that is Not Costumeing, Books or Food, But Somehow My DF and Other Game Supply Collection Keeps expanding.....)

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How to make cool photos
Posted by SovS - 2004/04/25 12:47

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No most cameras have a Macro function or is it an attachment?

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How to make cool photos
Posted by MyLordVoid - 2004/04/25 13:37

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Depends on the Camera...

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How to make cool photos
Posted by Dante - 2004/04/25 21:24

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SovS--

Here are a couple of tips for you:

1.) Invest in good lighting. It doesn't have to be totally expensive--I paid something like $8.97 each for my two 500-watt Photoflood bulbs.
2.) Look into a lighting "kit" which usually comes with three telescoping tripods with metal dish reflectors to "bounce" the light. Cheapest I've seen was about $149, without the bulbs.
3.) Setup a nice background for your minis like I did here with this close up shot:
http://www.purgatorio.com/ebay/gaming/cube1/photos/newcu001.html
(that's a gelatinous cube I made by the way).
Here's another example of a nice setup I took:
http://www.purgatorio.com/ebay/gaming/hero_quest_bits_sm.jpg

I use a macro lens that attaches to my digital camera. The digital macro on my cam won't get close enough and I'm fortunate enough to be able to add lenses to it to compensate.

One of the most important things to learn about is called "depth of field". If you look at my pics you'll notice that only the subject is really clear while the farther you look into the background, the more subtle the blur is. This occurs naturally when you focus your lens on your subject (with most digital cameras today).

You can also use Chandler's advice on using a "colored card" although I'd recomment going with bright white as other colors will affect the color quality of your images. I use bright white foam core board in a lot of the background for my images to "bounce" the light from behind (while pointing my photofloods at the scene at 45 degree angles from the left and right and positioned at about a foot higher than the gaming table).

Using the photofloods and "relfectors" (white foam core boards) will help reduce the need for using your flash. A flash will wash out the colors of the DF pieces as Tom mentioned. However, in some instances your camera may automatically switch to flash mode (if you have this option). You can always correct the brightness in a graphics program.

Hope this helps!

-Dante

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How to make cool photos

Posted by Tom - 2004/04/26 06:54

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Hy Dante
where can i get this nice FLEXIBLE Gelatinous Cube
i am looking for one for a long time

did you take your last photo with a flash ?
because i beleive that the colors of the cavern aren't so good :rolleyes:

friendly

Tom

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How to make cool photos
Posted by SovS - 2004/04/26 10:16

Cool gotta try all this new stuff ! :)

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How to make cool photos
Posted by Dante - 2004/04/26 20:34

Hi Tom,

I can't remember if I used a flash or not on the pic you're referencing.
My focus there was to highligh the miscellaneous Hero Quest pieces I
was trying to auction off on ebay.

Check your email also--I just emailed you regarding your other question.

-Dante

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How to make cool photos
Posted by Dante - 2004/04/26 20:43

Oh yeah--one more thing I forgot to mention: (to Tom and SovS)

With respect to lighting and photography of your DF pieces, think about what you intend to do with the pics. The examples I listed in my posting above were shots that were meant to promote pieces other than the DF pieces, hence the really bright, clear lighting.

If I were going to shoot some "scenic" photos of adventures to show off my collection, I would tone down the lighting a bit to make the pics a bit more eerie, and would probably use colored filters or after effects with my image editing software. (I know Tom's got a thing about bright lighting on DF pieces) ;-}P~

Eternally,

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