

Tips for Photographing Flowers Under Water

By Mufty Mathewson

What You Need

- Any clear liquid...distilled...sparkling...ginger ale...champagne...all work but so does plain tap water.
- A transparent container suitable for both the object and the image you want to capture. Large round glass vases work best although experimenting with different sizes and shapes will change your composition.
- A "pin frog" to hold the flower blossom can be purchased at a local craft store.
- Simple flowers work best. Waxy ones such as an iris, rose, or a gerber are preferred. It can last up to 3 to 4 days depending on the 'waxiness' of the blossom.
- Use a macro camera lens or your best close-up lens. A tripod and shutter release are recommended.



Set Up

- Thoroughly clean the inside surface of the glass.
- Measure the height of length of your stem and cut it to fit into the vase making sure it is covered with liquid.
- Rinse the stem of the flower(s), then attach it to the "pin frog."
- Gently slide the holder down the side of the bowl so not to break the glass.
- Fill the vase slowly with tap water or sparkling water and avoid direct pouring on the blossom.
- Let the vase sit for 24 hours and you will see many bubbles emerge as the flower releases carbon dioxide. Hint: use a spatula to remove any unwanted bubbles that cling to the side of the glass.



