

AUTUMN LEAVES

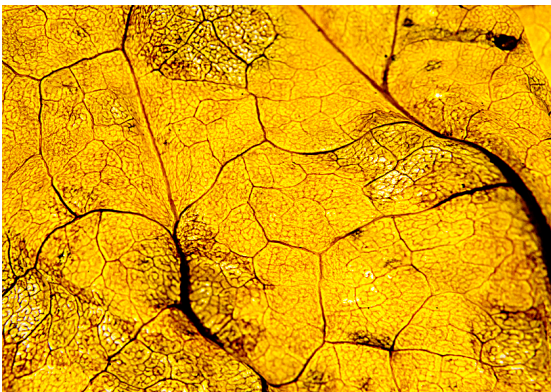
A really simple technique that can deliver stunning effects.

You will need:

- A light box (in our case a S.A.D. lamp) or you can improvise with a large torch.
- Old yellowing cabbage leaf and/or a range of different leaves, petals etc.
- A table or floor mounted tripod that enables your camera to be held steadily over or alongside the subject

Find in interesting combination and shoot away. You might need to do a bit of processing. For the example shown, we cropped our leaves to produce an interesting angle and 'boosted' the veins in the cabbage leaf (with contrast and clarity) to provide interest and emphasise 'leading lines'.

Experiment and have fun!



Close up made easy...

For the purpose of these techniques, we recommend that you use **Aperture Priority Mode** or **Manual Mode**. You will want to maximise the depth of field so that the whole image is in focus and this will require a **small aperture** for best results (> f11).

The downside to a small aperture is that this will also reduce the amount of light that enters the camera. To compensate, and give you a good exposure, the camera (or you) will need to **slow the shutter speed** this, of course, adds the risk of camera shake and a blurry image.

You have two options to avoid this. You can **increase ISO to 800+** but run the risk of too much grain affecting the appearance of your image or, better, use a tripod. Ideally use a **remote shutter release** or, the no-cost option, use the **self-timer at 3-5 seconds** – both will avoid any camera shake at the point of exposure.

Of course there are many ways to achieve a good image, but many are more complicated and costly. We hope that with the simple suggestions above you can get an image to be proud of.