

PSYCHO BALLS

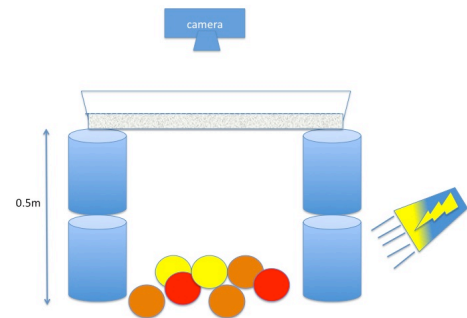
A really simple technique that can deliver stunning effects.

You will need:

- Some coloured balls (tennis or ping pong ball size) or coloured sheets of paper
- A glass bottomed bowl
- Tins or a glass table to balance the bowl
- Oil (cooking is fine) and water
- A torch or off-camera flash
- A table or floor mounted tripod that enables your camera to be held steadily over the subject



There are several ways to set this up, but the general idea is to have the coloured items about 0.5m away from the glass dish. If you don't have a glass table you can suspend the dish either by using tin-towers (e.g. baked bean tins) or something to secure it safely.



Put about 5cms of water in the bowl and drop on some oil. Give it a stir to break up the oil globules into a range of different sizes. Then, when the oil has settled light the balls/paper from beneath the bowl. Find your shot and click away. As for other set ups, the end result may benefit from a bit of processing e.g. crop, contrast and sharpen.

Experiment with colours and shapes 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.