

# Lens Ball photography

Like most things, there is a learning curve with this. The image in the ball is always the subject.

Refraction of the light through the Lens Ball acts like a lens and turns the image upside -down!

## Essential equipment

- Camera body
- Kit lens
- A Lens Ball

## Desirable equipment

- Macro or telephoto lens
- Wide angel lens
- Old socks or sleeve to:
  - store the ball
  - prevent scratching
  - prevent potential fire hazard of the magnifier effect
- Tripod
- Ball holder
- Alternative support items
  - Twigs
  - Pebbles
  - Plumbing washer
  - an iPhone Sim Card opener (it's nice and thin)

## Example settings

	Base case, normal light	Wide Angle, Sunset	Telephoto and Macro
Lens	medium telephoto	17-40mm	70-300mm
Focal distance	100mm	20mm	210mm
Focusing*	spot focus on the image inside the ball	spot focus on the image inside the ball	spot focus on the image inside the ball
Mode*	Aperture priority	Aperture priority	Aperture priority
Aperture	f/3.2	f/4.5	f/5.6
Shutter	1/200 <sup>th</sup>	1/60 <sup>th</sup>	1/640 <sup>th</sup>
EV	Zero exposure compensation	-1 to -3 EV	Zero exposure compensation
ISO	ISO 100	ISO 500	ISO 500

\*Note the Focusing Mode and Aperture are the constants in Lens Ball photography:

- Aperture priority mode is always used to control the depth of field and bokeh.
- Focusing is always Spot focusing because the image in the ball is the main concern.

## **Steps to success**

- Change the upside-down image from a distraction to an asset.
- Combine with a reflection of the lens ball or background to compliment the upside-down image.
- Flip the whole image in post if background is sufficiently out of focus and is suited to this treatment
- Flip just the Lens Ball in post.
- Choose the placement of the Lens Ball carefully to compliment the background and upside-down image.
- Control the background
  - Angle of view
  - Focal length
  - Bokeh

## **What works best?**

- If you need to zoom in to get a normal image of the subject, you are not close enough to your subject for a Lens Ball
- The subject should fill the frame with a wide-angle lens
- The light source should be behind you
- The ideal is the Lens Ball in shade and the subject in sunlight/well lit.
- Avoid reflections in the Lens Ball

## **Where to place the lens ball**

- Close enough to the subject
- Where it will sit naturally and look normal
  - In a chain link
  - Tree branch by the trunk
  - Rocks/pebbles/ground
  - Any dimple