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photography tips

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Taking photographs of any kind of crystal or rock is really quite a straightforward process and can be done without any fancy equipment such as professional photographers use.

All that's required is a little patience and imagination.

To ensure that the colour and texture of your chosen crystal feature strongly in your image then using natural light is best.

Placing your crystal near a window will give an even and cool light. Depending on how sunny a day it is this may cause some shadows to be cast by the crystal.

By holding a white piece of card or even tin foil on the shadow side will dramatically soften this and give you an even spread of light. The card acts as a reflector and so you should aim to have it facing the source of light with the crystal in between.

As for taking the picture, with this subject close is the way to go. Resting the camera on the same surface as the crystal can give you a nice

perspective and eliminate the dreaded camera shake. Or holding the camera directly over the crystal can give a pleasing effect. Digital cameras are perfect for this as you can review instantly and change position if need be until you get the results you are after.

Most digital cameras will happily do everything if you let them but controlling them isn't too difficult. There are two main factors which control the picture taking process. – Aperture and Shutter Speed. The aperture controls how much of the image is in focus and the shutter speed controls how movement is captured. With crystals you have an easy subject that won't run away which makes your job easier.

Because you need to get in close, the focus is important here. A high aperture number (such as f11 or f22) will make sure all of the crystal is in focus. You can see these numbers on your camera screen. Taking several shots and comparing, say, f2.8 with f11 and you will see how much the focus changes. Play around with different angles too such as those mentioned earlier and you will be well on your way to better pictures.

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