

Pinhole for Digital SLR



By Michael from [gommit - foto](#)

Digital photography has reached its perfection. No matter what camera you choose nowadays it will give you the tool to create perfect pictures. Let me better say it will allow to create technically perfect picture. We are not talking composition here.

After reading a lot about the heroes of photography like [Joseph Niépce](#), [Louis Daguerre](#) and [William Henry Fox Talbot](#) amongst others, going back to the early 18th century I got the idea to introduce some imperfection into the digital photography.

Before any project there is a plan and the collection of information. If you just search for “[pinhole for digital camera](#)” you will find all you need to know. It is actually pretty easy to produce a pinhole one can use at a digital SLR camera.

My pinhole manual tries to show you how you produce a pinhole in pictures. You can figure out from the pictures what needs to be done.

There are apps calculating the optimal pinhole size you need for your camera. If you do not work with laser technology at home – forget it. Just use a small needle make a dent into the metal sheet and grind it away to get a round hole small enough. In the last picture I did a scan and blowed up the picture to estimate the size of the pinhole. There is no scientific precision here.

From the chip to the cap it is typically 50 mm. You can check from the mark at your camera (picture 17. and 18.) The circle with the vertical line through it “ ϕ ” marks the location of the front plane of your sensor in your camera. My pinhole size has been calculate as 0,264 mm. But do not worry. Whatever you do it will work and be fun.

You are encouraged to experiment with different materials and different methods to get to your pinhole. I tried various materials. For me the soft drink can worked best.

Once you sacrificed one of your body caps and produced your pinhole the actual fun starts. I put some examples on our website.

I used for all the pictures a tripod – no exception. All exposures took from a couple of seconds up to half an hour and more.

I used a remote control in bulb mode and just estimated the time for the exposure.

Most importantly I used my oldest SLR for the experiments. Even the pinhole is small your sensor of the camera is in the open. Please remember that.

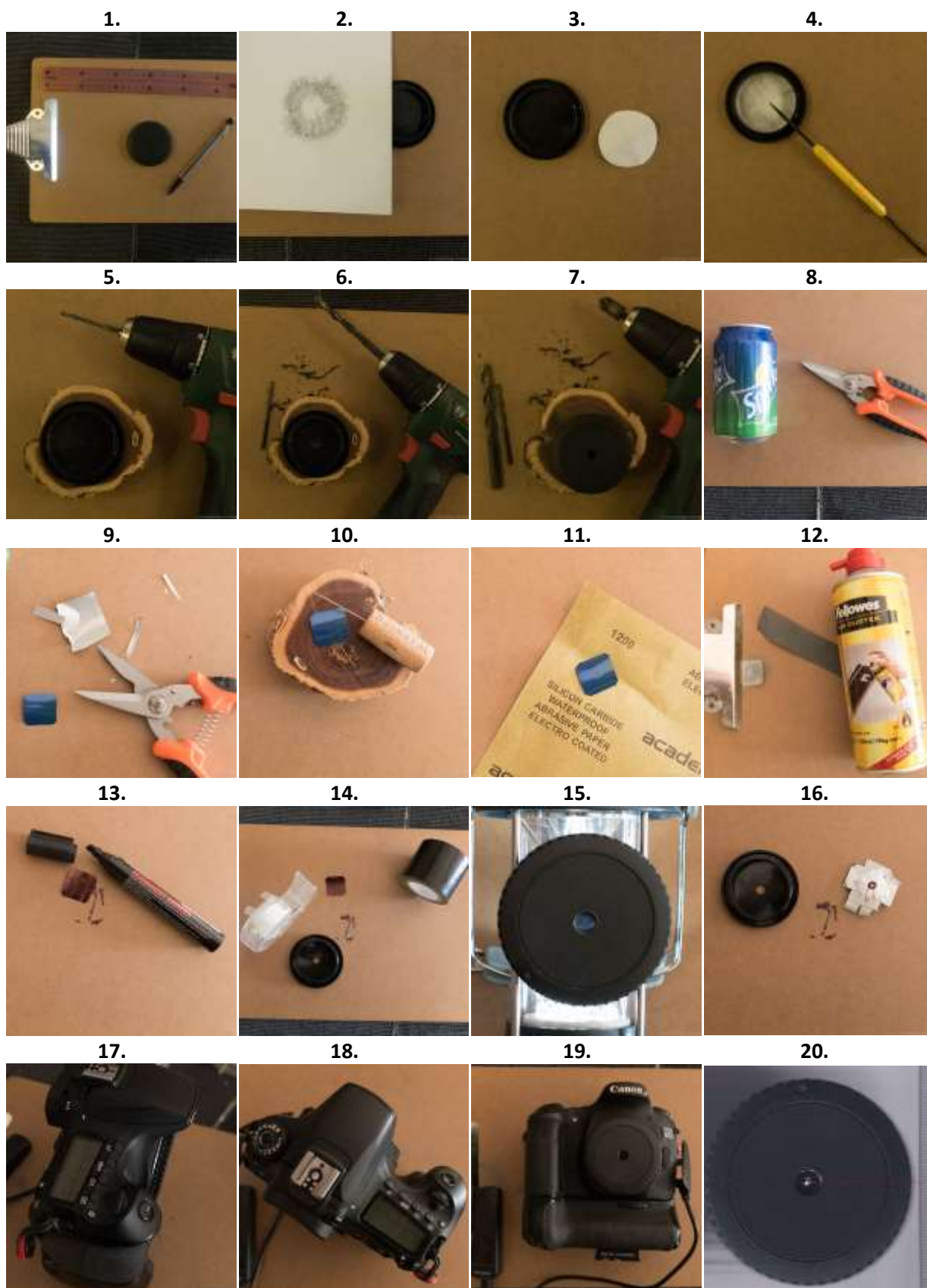
The aperture is massive – anything between 150 and 200 on my configuration. My pinhole was most probably not exactly 0,364 mm, so I can't really tell the aperture. But if you start with F 150 to calculate your exposure time, you understand why tripod and remote.

[The Pinhole Project on gommit-foto.de](#)

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