

DC-LX100 II Macro, bokeh

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■ Rendering on the Lumix to be superior: cleaner 'bokeh-balls' and smoother transitions.

Fra <https://www.cameralabs.com/panasonic-lumix-lx100-ii-review/>



To compare the rendering between the LX100 II and the Sony RX100 VA, I shot this beer bottle with previous versions of both cameras (which have the same lenses) from the same distance and with both at 24mm; the Lumix is on the left and the Sony on the right. This was from a distance of 5cm, which is the closest focusing distance for the Sony.



Above are crops from the previous comparison with the Lumix at 24mm f1.7 on the left and the Sony at 24mm f1.8 on the right. As you can see above, the depth of field looks very similar on both models, despite the LX100 sporting a slightly longer actual focal length and bigger sensor, not to mention a fractionally brighter aperture of f1.7 to f1.8, but my crop of the upper left corner reveals the actual rendering on the Lumix to be superior: cleaner 'bokeh-balls' and smoother transitions.



In the previous comparison above I had to shoot at the lowest common denominator, which was at a distance of 5cm to accommodate the Sony. But one of the key advantages the Lumix enjoys over it – and indeed most models in this class – is an even shorter minimum focusing distance of 3cm. To illustrate what you can achieve at 3cm, I moved closer to the bottle in the composition and took the shot above, which is clearly superior to anything the RX100 III, IV or VA can achieve at their closest focusing distances of 5cm. Indeed the very close focusing coupled with more attractive rendering are key benefits of the LX100.



My second macro comparison between the Lumix and the Sony was made at their longest respective focal lengths of 75mm for the LX100 (above left) and 70mm for the Sony (above right). Both models share a closest focusing distance of 30cm when zoomed-in (same as the G1X III), so there's no compromises on subject distance in this comparison. Note in practice I found the Lumix could focus a bit closer though.



Here's a cropped view of the defocused areas where I think the difference in quality is striking. Here the benefit of a longer actual focal length on the LX100 is quite apparent with a noticeably shallower depth of field. But again it's the quality of the rendering that's really striking here, with the out-of-focus lights on the LX100 looking far superior to those on the Sony. Based on these comparisons, I know which model I'd prefer to have to for shooting macro: the Lumix LX100 beats the Sony RX100 III, IV and VA not just on reproduction at wide angle, but on quality at both ends of the lens range.