



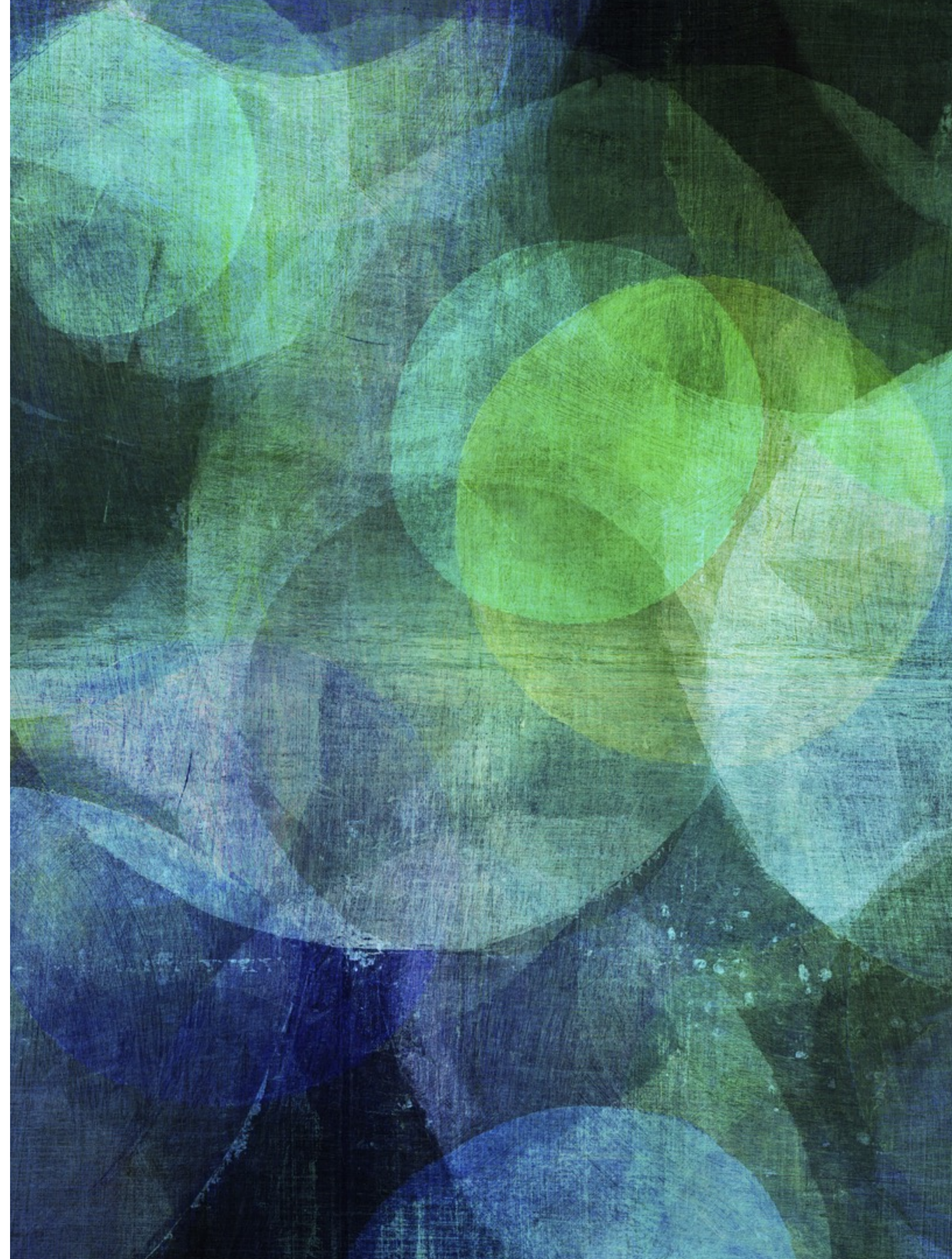
PHOTOGRAPHY ACCESSORIES

Little things that can make a big difference



CLEANING ACCESSORIES

Better than your shirt sleeve





LENS PEN

- Sold under various brands (Hama, Polaroid etc).
- Smooth felt covered tip (with lid) for cleaning your lens on one end, retractable brush on the other end.
- Always make sure to use the brush first to remove any grit to avoid scratches!
- Around £6-10

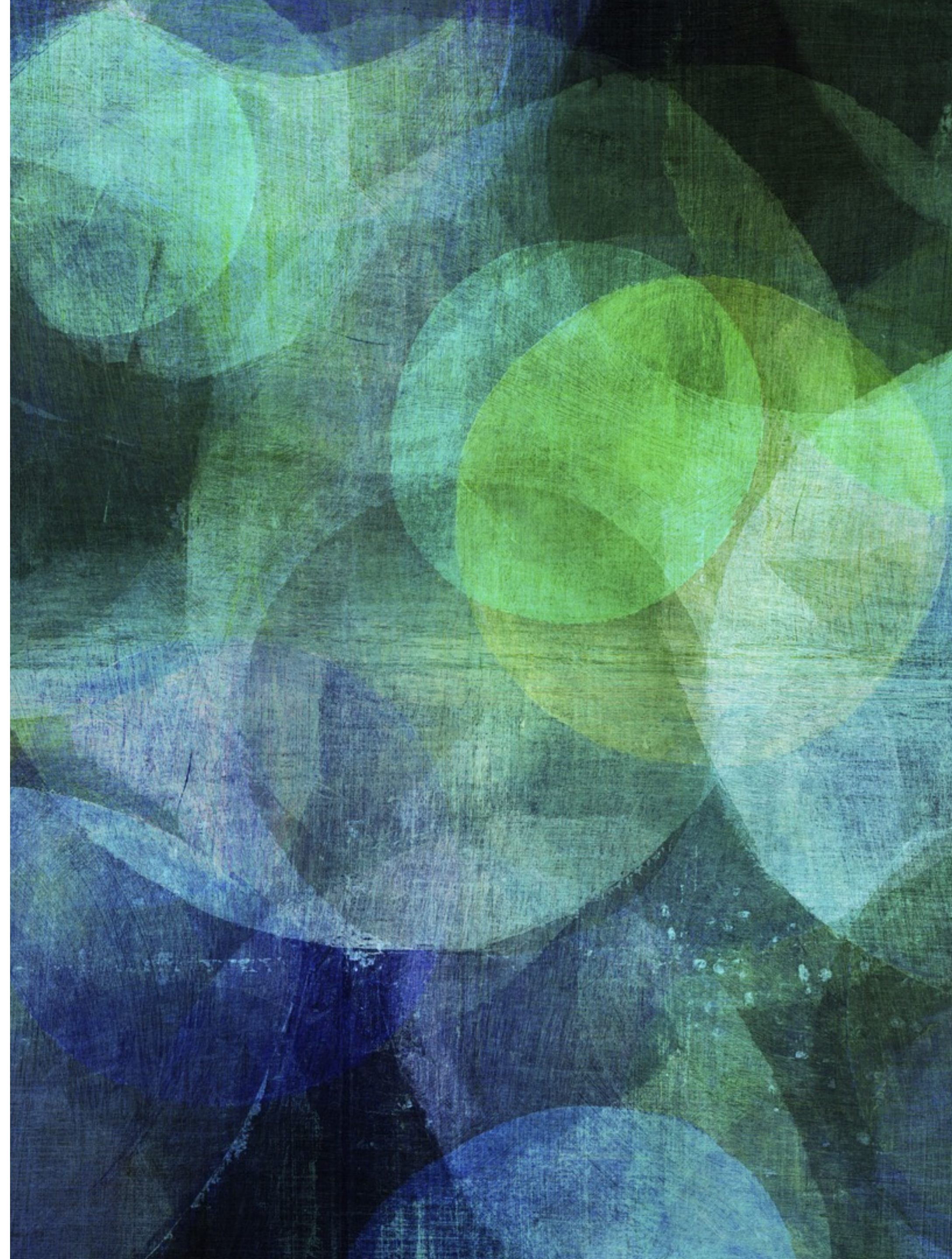


ROCKET BLOWER

- Great for cleaning your lens and camera. Including blowing dust off the sensor.
- 'Rocket' design means you can stand it up and not have it rolling around your desk or drawer.
- Around £15 for a Giottos, various clones available for less.

TRIPODS & BITS FOR THEM

Extra bits for extra legs!





L BRACKET

- Various brands, prices vary by manufacturer and camera model. Typically around £10-20.
- Screws into tripod mount on your camera to give you an Arca-Swiss style quick release plate compatible with a wide range of tripods.
- Lets you mount your camera vertically on your tripod for portrait shots without compromising the functions of your tripod head.
- Avoids having your camera hanging off-centre on your tripod for vertical shots.



BALL HEAD

- ▶ If you bought a basic tripod it probably has a “pan and tilt” style head that can move up and down and sideways.
- ▶ A ball head gives you much more freedom of movement, ideal for shooting on uneven ground or exploring different angles.
- ▶ Models like the one shown will give you an Arca-Swiss type quick release plate you can use with a L bracket.
- ▶ If your tripod has a removable head with a 3/8” size screw fitting then you have lots of options. If you only have the 1/4” screw that you connect your camera with you may need an adapter.
- ▶ Prices from £10 to lots (varies by brand and max. supported weight).
- ▶ Make sure you get one which can support the weight of your camera and lenses!



MANFROTTO PIXI

- Around £18-24
- Good quality, pocket size tripod with ball head.
- Suitable for small DSLRs, bridge cameras and mirrorless cameras.
- Small and light enough to always have in your camera bag.
- Great for HDRs, long exposures, night shots etc.
- Just find a wall, bin etc. to place it on.

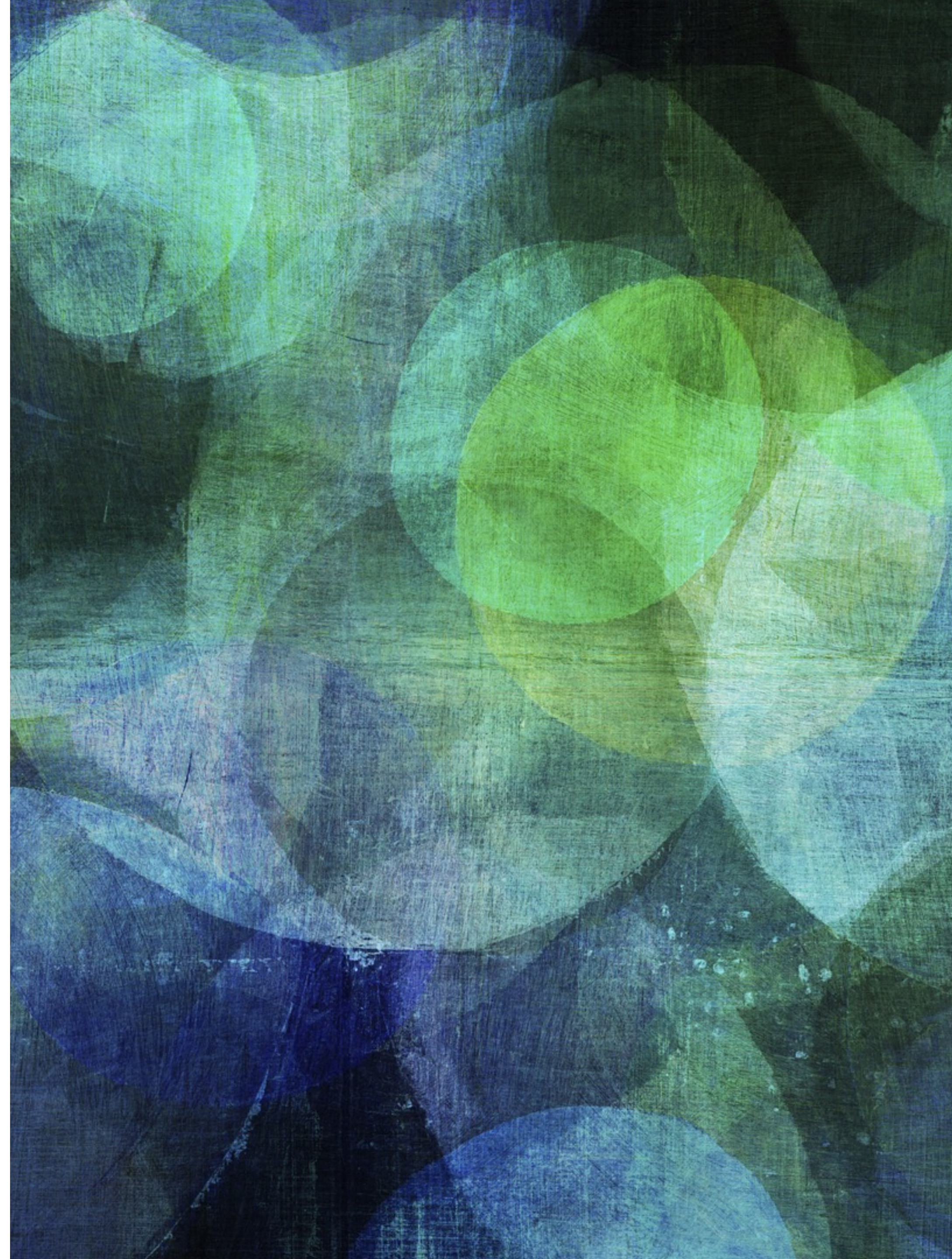


JOBY GORILLA POD

- Various sizes and weight classes (smart phone to DSLR), price varies by size but from about £20 to £50.
- Bendy legs let you attach to railings, trees, lamp posts etc.
- Not suitable for really heavy cameras or lenses.
- Small and light enough to always have in your camera bag.
- A bit more fiddly to use than a Pixi on a flat surface.

LIGHT TAMING

Bend it to your will!





REFLECTORS

- Around £10-20 but you can spend more or less depending on brand and size.
- They twist up into a fairly tiny package and then spring open when you unzip them, making them easy to carry around.
- Use to reflect and direct light on to your subject.
- Most reflectors have white, silver and gold foil faces that you can reveal.
- Use white or black sides as a background for a head and shoulders portrait.



FILTERS

- ▶ Bits of glass you screw to the front of your lens to change the way light goes into it.
- ▶ Four types you might want: ND, Polarising, Graduated and Coloured
- ▶ ND reduce the light coming into your camera so you can use a slower shutter speed (longer exposure) or a wider aperture in bright light (lower f number).
- ▶ Polarisers block light with a certain polarisation and can be used to reduce reflections and darken skies.
- ▶ Graduated filters let you darken or add colour to the sky but are fiddly to use.
- ▶ Colour filters are for use with B&W photography only and can intensify certain colours (e.g. darken skies)

FILTERS (CONT.)



- Hoya is a good brand. Prices vary depending on size and filter type, but typically expect to pay £20 - 50.
- Cheaper brands can be ok, but sometimes they are terrible. Look for reviews!
- Cheap ND filters often introduce colour casts.
- Variable ND filters won't work on wide angle lenses!
- Avoid linear type polarisers if you shoot with a DSLR as they can interfere with autofocus.
- UV filters are pointless on digital cameras.
- Save money by using step up rings so you can use your biggest filter on smaller lenses.

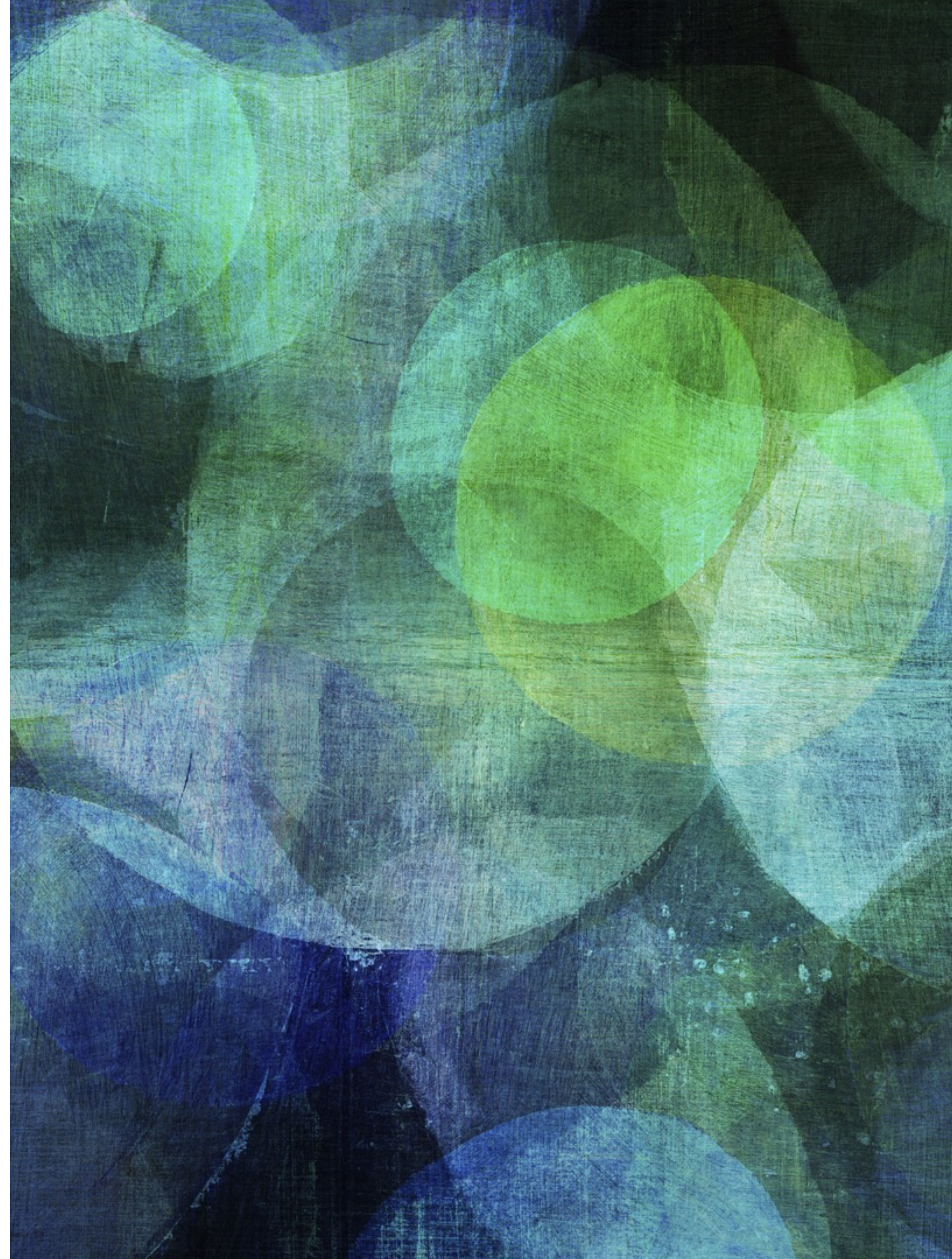


GREY CARDS

- Around £5. *Seriously don't spend more than £5 on a piece of grey plastic.*
- Use to properly set your white balance in tricky lighting conditions (e.g. in the woods during the summer or under artificial light).
- Either use to calibrate your camera's white balance or just snap a picture of the card in your shooting location if you're shooting RAW and use that to correct in Lightroom etc.

MISCELLANEOUS

Other handy bits



MONITOR CALIBRATORS

- Two consumer models you should consider: Datacolor Spyder5 EXPRESS and X-Rite ColorMunki Smile.
- Around £80-90. Professional models more expensive but overkill for most people.
- Get your prints to better match what you see on your screen.
- Make sure you're seeing colours properly in your photos with no unwanted tints.
- Needs to be paired with a fairly good quality monitor for the best results.





USB BATTERY CHARGERS

- A great way to charge your batteries while travelling.
- Plug into your phone charger or computer.
- Use with a USB power bank to charge a spare battery while out on a long shoot.
- One less power outlet to find in your hotel room if you can run it off your laptop.
- Around £10, some more expensive models can charge multiple batteries at once.
- *Make sure to get the right one for your camera's battery type!*



CUSTOM CAMERA STRAPS

- The straps that come with most cameras are uncomfortable to wear for long periods, covered in branding and not very stylish!
- All kinds of 3rd party ones available, from classy leather straps to large foam padded should slings.
- Different kinds: neck, wrist, sling to suit your camera size and shooting style.
- Some companies will custom make you a strap to your specification (e.g. Gordy's)
- Around £5 to £50 or more depending on brand, material, style etc.

MACRO-EXTENSION TUBES



- Around £15 to £100 depending on brand
- A metal tube that you fit between your camera body and lens that turns any lens into a macro lens. (No optics inside)
- Require an interchangeable lens camera. Usually work best with prime lenses but can work with zooms too.
- How much magnification you get will vary depending on the focal length of the lens and the size of the tube. Macro tubes often come in sets of three different sizes.
- Can only be used for macro, you will lose the ability to focus to infinity while they are fitted.
- *Models without any electrical connection between the camera and lens will require you to use fully manual lenses as electronically controlled aperture and focus won't work.*