

Supermacro on a budget

Field testing the „Brightin Star 60mm f2.8 Macro 2X”, a fully manual lens available for all major mounts, including MFT. List price below US 200.

What's in the box?

A user manual in Chinese and English, a warranty card, a microfiber cloth to clean the front glass element and the lens itself, embedded in a foam mould.

Build quality

Very solid feeling fully metal lens barrel, internal focussing.

Overall length is ca. 12 cm, diameter ca. 70 mm, weight 630g, filter thread 62mm. The length varies a little, according to the mount.

The front is protected by a flat glass element. I don't know if this element features any coating but it could be sensitive to flares if hit by light in a low angle.



Handling

The lens features a wide focus ring with good grip. From infinity to 2x magnification the whole internal shifting of the glass elements and tubes is very smooth and well controllable with help of a DOF and magnification scale. The whole range is covered with a 180° turn of the focus ring. The focussing action is internal and the front element does not rotate.

The aperture ring allows settings from f2.8 to f16. The scale has markings for full f-stops with a maximum aperture of f16. The different aperture settings don't have clicks or stops what makes reproducible results very difficult. Also „blind“ aperture changes while shooting need a lot of experience to get it right. I prefer clicks so that if I change the magnification and want to adapt the amount of light hitting the sensor while looking through the viewfinder I can feel what's going on. Accidental changing of the f-stop settings may also be a problem. Another reason is that most of us ambitious macro photographers use a diffuser design that is restricting the sight onto the lens barrel.