

# Five Ways to Blur Backgrounds on Closer Shots

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## I. Distance variations

- a. Camera is closer to subject
- b. Background is farther back from subject

## II. Lens Variations

- a. Telephoto lenses have shorter depth of field capability than wide angle lenses at the same F stop
- b. F stops wide open, 2.8, 5.6 -have shorter depth of field than F11 or F16
- c. The “Lens Baby” lens can enable you to manipulate the clear portion of your image in relationship to the blurred portions. The lens babies have a magnetic manual interchangeable aperture system. The new Lensbaby 2.0 for digital cameras has more aperture choices (4), and a sharper clear area and an enhanced optical system, when compared to the original version. Be sure to get the one that interfaces with your brand of camera, (\$100-\$150)

## III. Lens Add-On

- a. Plus Lenses are for Zoom lenses, “Reading Lenses,” for your zoom lens so they can focus at a shorter distance from the subject and blur the background more. The +3.00 or “4.00 will shorten and blur the background the most.
- b. Teleconverters for fixed focal length lenses. They run 1.4 x, 1.5 x and 2.0 x. They will multiply the telephoto effect of your lens, increasing your working distance and blurring your background more.

## IV. Non lens ideas:

- a. Matte board on a stick for outdoors. Move it far enough from the subject to blur the texture of the board.
- b. Fabric draped over a chair back or held up in the field

## V. Photo manipulation

- a. Collect blurred, evenly toned background images to “layer” in Photoshop
- b. “Cut-out” your subject and apply Gaussian blur to the background and leave the subject untouched.