

## Photographing DI Pins - 501

1. Photograph them on a cloudy day outside, or in the shadow of a tall building. You want to use indirect light if possible. I even use my screened porch which has a lot of light.
2. Do not use a flash if you can avoid it. If you can not avoid a flash, photograph the pins at a slight angle so the flash does not bounce directly back into the lens. I can straighten the image.
3. Place the pins on a neutral gray paper, I use a large gray envelope I have, or a white piece of paper if you do not. Use a solid color with a smooth surface, but do not use a shiny surface and do not use a fabric like felt that has a rough textured surface. This tends to photograph with highlights and shadows making it very difficult to outline easily.
4. I use a piece of foam core behind the gray paper to stick the pins into. I try and just stick them in enough to hold them in place if they will not stand on their own. I do not want them too close to the paper! I want them to sit above it as far as possible. When you put the pins all the way down the color of the pin edge bleeds onto the paper or blends into the shadow around the edge of the pin making it difficult to outline for the website. Remember, I have probably at least three hundred pins to outline and the difference can mean five minutes per pin or fifteen minutes per pin and longer depending on how detailed it is. Or in hours, twenty five hours to 75 hours of work, plus.
5. I place the pins on the paper below me – either on the ground or a low table so I can be above the pins. Do not try and photograph a bunch of pins at once. You need to focus on a few at a time preferably, for best results. When you look through the camera viewfinder look closely at the pin/pins and see how the reflection appears in the pins. You will see washed out areas and darker areas with deeper color. As you move more directly above the pin, or slightly to the right, left or above, you will see the washed out reflection disappear as your “shadow or reflection” causes the color to appear darker or richer and deeper in color. Usually this is good but sometimes it is not – like when you have a highly reflective surface like silver or gold reflecting black from you being above the surface, or the background reflecting a dark color on the pin. Adjust your position above the pin for best results. Easy huh?
6. Make sure you are not so close the camera will not focus! The image needs to be in focus.
7. Look at your results and see if you like them. If not, try reshooting them changing something to fix it. Or, you can always send me the pins.... I can do it.
8. I can work with dark images, but, I can not put detail back into a washed out image so it is better to be slightly dark than washed out.
9. Email me your images. I can work with almost any format you send.

Good luck.

Thanks,  
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