



Fake Spotters

How to Take Photos for Authentication/Appraisal

1. Make sure your camera is set to autofocus (AF).
2. Select the macro/close-up mode on your camera, which is the flower icon/button. This is to enable you to take nice, clear, close-ups.
3. Normally, it will be better to take your photos in an indoor setting.
4. Ensure that the object you are taking the photo of is placed on a level surface (ideally with a white, or light, colored background) and that it (and/or the feature/ flaw you are photographing) is parallel to (or lined up with) the camera lens. This is to help ensure that the photos are not taken at tricky angles, which can make it difficult (or impossible) for our DSAs to authenticate accurately. If the item is a bag, especially a slouchy one, you may wish to gently fill it with acid-free tissue paper, or clean fabric, first; to help it keep its shape and stand a little more upright.*

5. Whilst holding the camera, line yourself up with the object and make sure you and the camera are nice and still (it may help to breath out and then hold your breath!).
6. Put your finger on the shutter button, but before you press down the button completely, press the button only halfway down and hold it there. This will enable the autofocus to work. The camera will then, automatically, focus on the item/feature in question.
7. Ensure that the part of the item/feature/ flaw the camera is focused on is the correct part. If it's not, release the button and try again, until it is. If the camera still can't autofocus properly, try moving a little nearer, or further away, from the object.
8. Now you are ready to take the photo, by continuing to fully press the shutter button down.
9. Take plenty of photos (100, or more, if necessary) and then select the best, clearest ones, of each feature/flaw, to send to us. Around three clear, level, straight-on photos, of each feature/flaw, is normally ideal.
10. Don't delete the rest of the clearer photos immediately, though, just in case we need a few more.

* However, in the case of slouchy bags, please also send us at least one photo of the bag unstuffed, to give us a better insight into the leather type.

Trouble Shooting Tips

If you're still having problems, please try the following:

- If your photos look overexposed/washed out and/or the features unclear, even after following the instructions above successfully, it may be due to the flash. Try turning the flash off and using a 100 watt bulb (or the equivalent) in an overhead lamp, instead.
- If you're still having problems, check which kind of white balance (WB) setting you have on your camera. Depending on your camera, there may be an option for white balance (WB) in the main menu, or there may be an AF-WF button. If you can, try choosing the indoor, or tungsten, lighting setting.
- Finally, if you haven't done so already, you may wish to consult your camera's operating manual, or search YouTube for your make and model of camera and/or the problem you're having, to see if there are any videos that may be of help.

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