

Night Photography

Gear:

- Sturdy Tripod
- Remote Trigger/Cable Release
- A good Torch
- Extra Batteries and fully charged batteries
- Warm clothing & Gloves (Tip: quick access finger tips make camera control easier)
- Snacks

Technique Tips:

- *Mirror Lock Up* – is a command that will help eliminate shutter vibration when taking your shot
- *2 Second Timer* – No cable release, use 2 sec timer to allow camera vibrations to dissipate after pressing the shutter button
- *Image Stabilisation / Vibration Reduction* – Best to turn off while on a tripod
- *Bulb mode* – takes an exposure for as long as the shutter is depressed. Often found after 30" in Manual or Shutter Priority modes, or as an independent 'B' mode
- *Shooting Raw files* – they are larger files, but full of valuable information that is crucial when it comes to achieving the best results with night photography.
- *White Balance* – Auto white balance will not always work. Try manually setting your white balance using the camera pre-sets or creating a custom white balance.
- *Noise Reduction* – Consider the use of in-camera 'High ISO' and/or 'Long Exposure' noise reduction. Do tests first to determine their usefulness and effects.
- *'500 Rule'* – To achieve stars as points of light without trailing, use the formula:
500 / focal Length = Max Shutter Speed

Fireworks Recipe

- Manually focus your lens
- ISO = 100
- WB = Auto or Experiment
- Aperture = f8
- Average shutter speed of 4 seconds or Bulb (more control over the time the shutter is open)

Equipment and Settings Guide for shooting Stars - 10 key points

1. Tripod – Must be sturdy
2. Wide Angle Lens – Capture more of the night sky
3. Turn off Auto Focus – Manually focus to infinity
4. IS / VR – Turn off image stabilisation
5. White Balance –WB can range from Tungsten to daylight
6. Noise Reduction – Consider the use of in-camera 'High ISO' and/or 'Long Exposure' noise reduction
7. ISO – Set to 6400 or higher
8. Shoot Raw – For better post production control
9. Aperture – Set your aperture to your smallest numbers (usually f4 or lower)
10. Shutter Speed – Use the 500 Rule to determine longest shutter speed for focal length of your lens

Useful Apps & Resources

Photo Pills – Milky Way Positioning
Lunar Cycles
Timing for star trails
Night AR
Plus lots more

Dark Sky – Helpful for finding dark skies, avoiding light pollution from cities

Great website for night sky photography info - <http://www.lonelyspeck.com>