

Night Shooting

General tips :

- 1) Tripod... Tripod... Tripod
- 2) manual setting - Bulb... or a long exposure setting generally between 10 and 30 seconds or more
- 3) Release cable or timer and lock up mirror if you have the ability to do so (live view locks up the mirror)
- 4) Use lowest ISO possible to reduce noise in most instances
- 5) Turn OFF your image stabilization on your lens when on the tripod
- 6) have an alternate light source - flash, flashlight, sparklers, glow sticks etc

Aurora - aka the Northern Lights:

- High ISO - 1600 or more
- Focus on infinity
- short exposures (5-10 sec) to get “ribbon” effects
- wide angle or fish eye lens is best

Car Trails + Streaks :

- Low ISO (100-200)
- watch backgrounds
- longer streaks require longer exposures
- streets with curves give greater interest
- oncoming white streaks - outgoing red streaks

Long Exposure:

- Low ISO (100-200)
- increase exposure time by 5-10 sec increments
- a very long exposure will create daylight effect
- dawn or twilight will leave a bluish tinge to photo adjust white balance to Kelvin setting (8000K)
- lights in pictures will “ star”

Fireworks + Lightning:

- Low ISO (100-200)
- Manual focus on a distant object or infinity
- Daylight white balance to get colours in fireworks
- wide angle lens is best
- for multiple “ explosions” on single shot cover lens between fireworks / lightning strikes while lens open

Lens Spin:

- ISO doesn't matter - lower ISO gives more time
- aim for 5-15 sec exposure
- turn lens while open, stopping at end before lens closes will put last object solidly in picture
- creates streaks across picture, slow turn shorter streaks, fast turn longer streaks

Moon Shots:

- Moon is very bright and moves very fast across the sky mid range ISO depending on moon brightness
- Manual focus or some cameras will focus on edge of moon
- 5-10 sec exposure
- telephoto lens if want just moon
- <http://photoephemeris.com>
- moon rise and moon set plus times and angles

Painting with light:

- Low ISO (100-200)
- Use flash off camera or flashlight to light scene, can use coloured gels over light source
- move quickly through your image and DON'T stop moving !
- do not fire flash directly at camera unless you want a bright " star" in the shot
- Use side lighting to create depth to objects

Star Trails or just stars:

- High ISO (3200)
- best time is at least 3 hours after sunset
- Wide Angle lens
- Focus manually on a bright star or object
- For circular trails must focus on the North star as centre of shot
- the trick *** a series of 30 second exposures stacked in photoshop gives best shot with least amount of noise
- 15 min of star trails is approx 1-2 inches long in a picture

Iphone / Ipad App- Redshift - to find the north star

North star is at the end of the little dipper.. Find the big dipper, follow the two stars that create the edge of the " spoon" toward the little dipper, the brightest star at the handle end of the little dipper is the north star

PHOTOSHOP;

- Stacking of images..... goto : file - scripts-load files into stack
- The load layers dialogue box opens... check the box " create smart object after loading layers"
- then browse for your images and hit "ok"
- If you own CS5 - added step .. Goto pull down menu under layers - smart objects- stack mode - mean