

## Night Photography Notes

1. Use a tripod and cable release. An alternative is rest the camera on a wall, bench or similar and use the self timer.
2. Use a low ISO to reduce noise (graininess)
3. Shoot in RAW if possible as it is easier to pull back a photo to what it should be.
4. Use manual settings
5. Use Live View to focus.
6. Take a torch to see what you are doing .
7. Make use of water with reflections.
8. Use tungsten light setting to counter orange tint or convert it when process RAW file.
9. Use a high ISO to test composition then calculate exposure with lower ISO. Example  
If ISO 3,200 gives exposure of 3 secs then bring it down to 200 ISO then :-  
$$\frac{3200}{200} \times 3 = 48 \text{ secs.}$$
10. Use the histogram on the camera as the screen can mislead. The histogram should be more to the left than usual but not that much.
11. Exposure guide – This is using an ISO of 100 with an aperture of f2.8.
  - Fireworks – 1 sec
  - Floodlit building  $\frac{1}{2}$  sec
  - Subject lit by firelight –  $\frac{1}{2}$  sec
  - Typical street scene with normal illumination –  $\frac{1}{2}$  sec
  - Shop window –  $\frac{1}{8}$  sec
  - Brightly lit scene maybe with Christmas lights  $\frac{1}{15}$  sec
  - Neon sign + brightly lit theatre districts  $\frac{1}{30}$  sec
12. Use the Bulb setting for very long exposures.
13. Pick your locations in advance for architecture and if you want to get light trails find busy spot.
14. Use the lens sweet spot. If you use the extremes of aperture you will not get as sharp a shot.