

Total time:
2-5 hours



Difficulty Level: Challenging

Skill Points:

- Photographing at night using available light
- Using moving light sources
- Using long exposures
- Mixing light sources

HOW TO SHOOT GORGEOUS NIGHT SHOTS



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The real expertise in night imaging is selecting an appropriate subject and determining the proper exposure.

We will concentrate on 4 types of night photography: The cityscape, the motion blur, the artificial light boost, and the dusk mix shot.

KEY LESSON: Night photography requires a few extra pieces of equipment. If there is any wind, you might want to attach a 5 to 10 lb. weight to the tripod to eliminate vibration. Always bring a flashlight. Always shoot in manual mode. Always use manual focusing.

EQUIPMENT

- **Camera:** Any camera with a "Bulb" setting
- **Lens:** Wide-angle to moderate telephoto (14mm-100mm)
- **Tripod & Remote Shutter Release:** Necessary, must be sturdy
- **Sandbag:** Recommended
- **Misc:** Flashlight, non-reflective black card, masking tape



TIPS!

Shooting Mode	Manual
Focus mode	Manual
Metering mode	Center-weighted
ISO	As low as possible; Start with 400

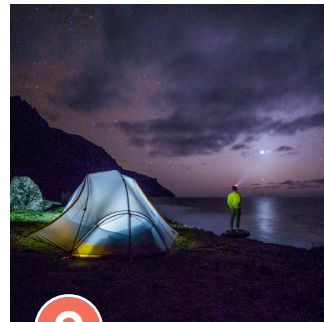
SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



A



B



C



D



ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

1- Study the sample photographs - from left to right:

- A-** Look for plenty of artificial lighting. Plan on shooting as soon as the Sun is set until 1.5 hours after sunset. You want some light, and color, left in the sky. Set the white balance to "Auto". **Tip:** Always bring a black card. You can stop the exposure by holding it in front of the lens should something interrupt like the headlights of a car. Simply remove the card when the interruption is over and continue the exposure.
- B-** Find a location that mixes traffic with city lights. Set your starting exposure time for 10 seconds and the ISO at 400. Set the aperture as necessary. Vary the shutter speed to adjust exposure first before changing the ISO. Do not go above ISO 1600. Expose for the highlights. **Tip:** Experiment with shutter speeds between 1/2 second to 15 seconds. Use a wide-angle lens.
- C-** This shot should be taken from 1 hour after sunset until you're done. Expose for the night shot, and then use artificial lights to highlight subjects within your composition. Use ISO 800 to begin, and your widest aperture. **Tip:** Try different artificial light sources. Try different white balance settings.
- D-** A dusk/night mix shot requires you to shoot an image right at sunset, and then tape your black card over the lens. At some point after sunset, fire your second shot by removing the card to expose for the night shot. Set your ISO to 400 and the aperture to the widest setting. Experiment with exposure time. **Tip:** Practice covering and uncovering the lens without affecting the camera exposure. Once the card covers the lens- exposure stops. Tape it in place. In the reverse, remove the tape, let the camera settle, and remove the card from in front of the lens.

2- For all four shots, practice manual focusing in the dark.

HOW DID YOU DO?

- Are your shots sharp? Focused? Free of camera shake? Does the cityscape have some color in the sky?
- Did you capture an accurate exposure in your motion blur?

READY! SET! GO! ACTION CARDS - GENRE: NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY