Tips for Night Photography: Cityscapes
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Night photography refers to photographs taken outdoors between dusk and dawn. Night photographers generally have a choice between using artificial light and/or using a long exposure, exposing the scene for seconds, minutes, and even hours in order to give the digital sensor enough time to capture a usable image. Cityscapes Night Photography are locations that are lighted by artificial light.

First things first, scout the locations in the daytime. Decide where you want to start and where to end. Look for parking and think about safety. (Note: always shoot at night with at least one other person; a group would be better). However, you may also need to scout the area at night to see where the lighted buildings, neon signs, street lights, fountains, water reflections etc are.

Equipment Needed: Camera, wide or medium angle lens, self-timer on camera or cable release (do not touch camera during long exposure shots), tripod to keep your camera steady for long exposures, and a flashlight or some sort of head lamp or maybe even your cell phone.

Camera Settings: Ideally you should shoot in Raw (can adjust White Balance during Post Processing). Set your White Balance to Auto, and shoot on Aperture Priority or Manual. Set your ISO to 100 or 200 and your aperture to F8 or F12. (Note: if you want to get a star burst from a lighted source, shoot at F16). Adjust your shutter speed accordingly. Be prepared for long exposures.

Be aware of Movement. If you are using a slow shutter speed, any movement will be blurred. This can be an added benefit if you do not want any one recognizable or

if you want to show moving car lights.

Reflections off water, especially if there is color in the cityscape, can make your photograph pop.

Focusing: Auto focus may work in some situations, but you probably have to rely on Manual Focusing. If your camera has Live View, use it. If totally dark, shine your flash light on the area you want to photograph and see if your auto focus can adjust to that area.