

(K)Night Photography



- Welcome to Willingham Photography Club's Night Photography Talk

Think first

- How do we take images at night
 - Preperation
 - Make sure you have all the equipment prepeared before you leave the house and you know where it is on you or where in your bag the equipment is!
 - Understanding
 - What are you taking an image of, are you in the right enviroment, is the weather suietable.
 - Safety
 - Make sure your safe to take those images.

1. Equipment

- Your Camera
 - Understand the controls of how your camera works
 - Can you flip up the mirror, does it have access to a cable release or how easy can you set the timer
 - Can you easily set the camera to manual mode or change the ISO settings
- Is it necessary to have a tripod
 - Yes, one that you know how to set it up in the dark
 - Try not to have one that has too many controls
 - And get one that is suitable for your camera

2. Equipment

- Camera
- Lens
- Memory
- Batteries
- Tripod
- Cable release

Non related camera equipment

- Warmth

- Wrap up warm for the time of the year
- If your going to be out a long time bring a hot drink

- Light

- Bring a torch to see the controls if your not to firmilar with the camera, BUT not a bright one that it blinds you, your night vision can be very usfull
- Also it may be usefull to see your path your treading

How do I take night shots

- First I try to judge how dark it will be
- After setting up the equipment, take a few test shots to see if the exposure is correct
- I always bracket my shots, some cameras will allow you to do this automatically, other's will have to do it manually
- Once I have my night vision, I start to compose my image and start shooting

1. Exposure

- If you can, set the camera to manual mode (both lens and exposure)
- If the image is local to you try to focus first and then leave it alone, if it's a landscape or the sky, set it to infinity
- Try to judge how much you want in focus and set the aperture to the lowest you can, because you are going to need all the light you can get

2. Exposure

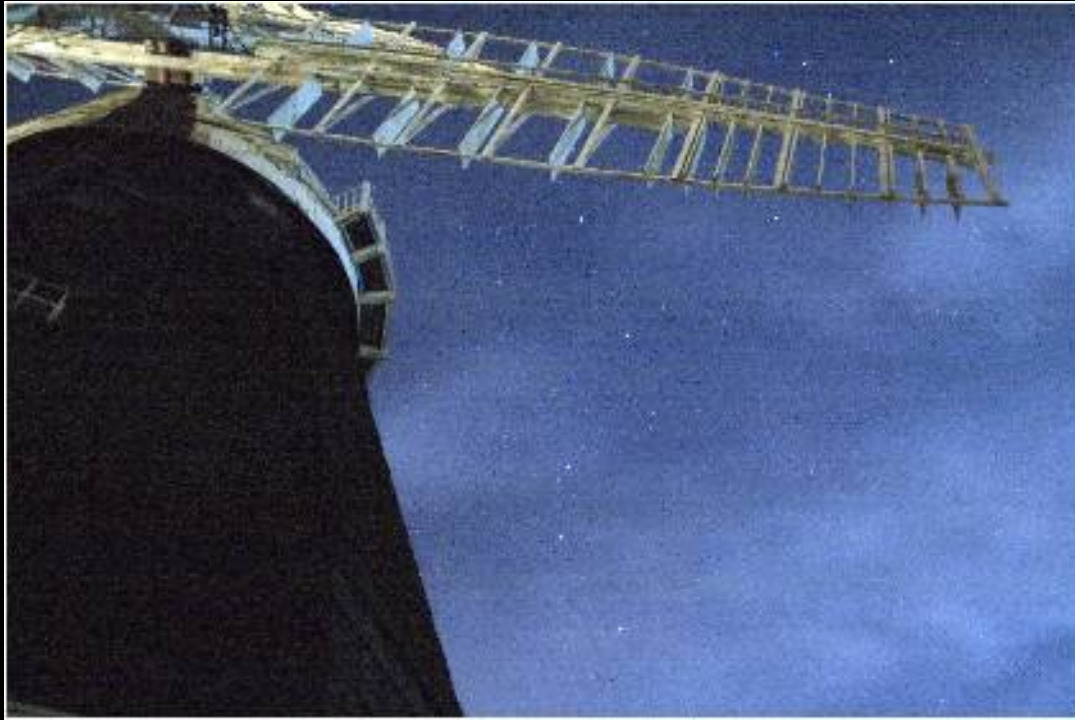
- Set your ISO to the middle of your range
- Set the camera to RAW mode if possible, again we can get another 2 stops from RAW files
- Set the shutter to what ever the meter says is a normal exposure, this will be well under the exposure we need, then if possible move it lower 2 more stops

3. Exposure hazards

- Camera shake and how to stop it
 - Use a cable release
 - Lock the mirror up
 - Use the self timer
 - Use a short focal lens (normal to wide-angle)
- Long exposures
 - Like with film if you expose for too long there are going to be problems – reciprocity law!
 - Excessive noise due to heating the image sensor
- Try to keep the shutter time down below 5 min!

Taking the shot

- This will depend on the camera, but set the mirror to flip on first shutter press, set the timer to 2 or 3 sec, and use a cable release
- After the first shot, adjust the shutter to 1 or 2 stops above and below the original exposure and take 2 more shots, if you have bracketing on the camera, use it
- Try to touch the camera as little as possible, as you may want to add the images together





- To shoot fireworks point the camera at roughly the area they explode at and use a shutter speed of between 1 and 5 sec @ f11, these are bright events

The moon can
Be very deciving
The exposure for
Both lower images
Are above 1/30 sec
@ f11









Ten minutes later the landscape is
3 stops lower







20 sec @ f5.6



This was given a small flash to highlight the crane 10sec @ f5.6



F4 @ 1/15
Proped up on a pillar



F8 @ 20 sec







F4 @25 sec

What the eye will see

- Exposure f11 @ 30 sec
- This is what your eyes will show you after they have adjusted to the night



