

# Night Photography

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# Equipment

- Tripod
- Remote switch cable
  - Get one with a lock down setting or programmable timer
- Flashlight
- Paper / pen for note taking
- Remove filters (if already on)
- Wide angle lens
- Fast lens?

# Focus issue

- It's difficult to focus in low light
- Camera won't allow you to take photo?
  - It's because camera can't focus

# Auto focus mode

- "Extra" flashes when push half way down to lock focus
- Can then close flash, if desired, before pushing rest of way
- Could use flashlight to accomplish the same effect.
- Reframe / focus / lock (keep 1/2 way down) / reframe / shot

# Manual focus mode

- Note: some lens don't require switch to "MF", just move focus ring
- Can use "AF" (per above), then switch to "MF" before shooting
- Can use focus distance on higher end cameras

# Infinity

- Can't just set focus on far end of "infinity"
- Camera has a point beyond infinity & you will be out of focus

# Use a constant aperture

- Don't have to refocus, easier to use HFD
- Book recommends f8.0
- Hyperfocal Distance Chart

# Exposure

- For me at this stage, it's primarily a trial & error process. The actual photo and histogram are the feedback tools.
- If doing a long exposure with distractions during the interval such as passing cars, you can cover the lens during those time periods.
- You can also cover part of the image if there is an extra bright part.

# Composing

- Tip: shine flashlight thru viewfinder to find edges

# Check status display (flash ready / focus lock)

- Getting "Busy" display?
  - You are in flash mode and battery still charging flash

# Shooting Methods

- Flash - built-in / external
- Bulb mode (long exposure)
  - Located in Manual mode above 30 sec exposure (on my Canon)
  - Hold down for as long as you desire, then release. Camera will show time count in sec.

# More Shooting Methods

- Light painting
  - Move flashlight around object(s) to want illuminated the most, during a time lapse exposure
  - Use trial & error plus histogram information
  - Strobe light could be fun
  - Color gels
    - Can create spectacular results

# Notes:

- Don't forget that stars /moon moves during long exposures, as well as the effects of the wind.

# Photo Ops - Inside meeting room

- Blackout / Low light
- Experiments
  - Light painting
  - Glowing item
  - Xmas lights
  - Slow walk across
  - Candle

# Photo Ops - Outside

- Police station at night
- City Hall
- Traffic lights
- Overlook of city
- Moonlight / night sky
- Calaveras Road bridge over railroad tracks

# Education / Workshops available

- The Nocturnes
  - [www.thenocturnes.com](http://www.thenocturnes.com)
  - One trip, no classes remaining in 2009, last class was \$125
- Aperture Academy
  - San Francisco Night Owl workshops each month - \$195
- Photocentral - Hayward
  - San Francisco Night Photography - \$99

# School of Photography

- [www.schoolofphotography.com](http://www.schoolofphotography.com)
- Free on-line lesson on night photography

# Golden Gate Bridge



30 sec – 800 ISO – tripod – no shutter cable



Photoshop – note stars, color in trees

