

# HOW TO SHOOT ILLUMINATED BUILDINGS

USE THIS HANDY GUIDE TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SHOOTING TIME

1

## Choose your time

The deep blue sky that can be captured just after dusk can look beautiful.

2

## Be bold with colour

Look for exciting, dynamic and contrasting colour combinations. Be flexible with white balance and shoot raw-format images.

3

## Make starbursts

Small spot lights can create splendid little starbursts. You'll need to use a small aperture.

4

## Steady your camera

You'll probably need to use a tripod to capture crisp long-exposure shots.

# 5 ESSENTIAL SHOOTING TIPS

HOW TO ACHIEVE THE BEST SHOTS



## 1 \_\_ KEEP IT STEADY

Chances are you'll have to use a slow shutter speed, so take a tripod to ensure you avoid unwanted camera movement. Here are a few tips for super-crisp shots...

- ✓ Extend the fat legs first, and avoid using extending the central column if possible.
- ✓ To avoid moving the camera while taking a shot, use a remote trigger or the self-timer
- ✓ Lock your camera's mirror into the 'up' position. This'll reduce vibration when an exposure is made.
- ✓ Hang your bag from the hook on the bottom of the central column for extra weight and stability.



AWB



## 2 \_\_ COLOUR

Choosing the right white balance can be tricky, especially if there are multiple light sources – which is likely in a city. The best advice is to shoot raw files so you can tweak the white balance later in a raw processor such as Lightroom or Adobe Camera Raw.

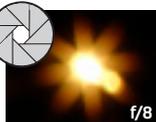
Shoot raw and you will also have more flexibility to tweak the exposure.

The best time to shoot illuminated buildings is just after dusk. If the sky is clear, this time of day will render the sky as a wonderful deep blue, which is generally more attractive than orange clouds or pitch-dark.

## 3 \_\_ APERTURE

Enhance your illuminated building shots by turning small spots of light into attractive-looking starbursts. Use a small aperture such as f/16.

The intensity of the star shape will decrease as the aperture becomes wider. Be aware that the smaller the aperture, the slower the shutter speed.



## 4 \_\_ ISO

If you don't have a tripod, try increasing the ISO. Modern digital SLRs can reach exceedingly high ISO levels, allowing you to shoot handheld in very low light.

However, the quality of the image will be compromised by visual noise, which looks a little like film grain. The higher the ISO setting, the more noise there will be – although it can be used creatively for an impressionistic effect.



## 5 \_\_ LENSES

To include a whole building, you'll most likely need a wide-angle lens such as a 24mm. Standing below a building and pointing up with a wide-angle lens will cause the vertical lines in the frame to converge. This can look quite dramatic – but if you want to avoid them, use a longer focal length and move further away from the building. You could also use a specialist tilt-and-shift lens or use your image-editing software later to correct the effect.



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