

After Dark

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Myth - you must have a High ISO (ASA) to shoot at night

Fact - ISO 100 is adequate as long as you can keep the shutter open to gather enough light.

Common Ingredients needed:

- Tripod - to stabilize the camera for long exposures / bulb shots
- Shutter release cable or use self timer - to reduce camera shake from taking the picture
- Mirror lock up if possible - to reduce camera shake from shutter opening
- Flashlight - to point with light
- Fast lens - f2.8 or better
- Patience

Some preferred ingredients:

- A camera with an extended shutter ability - like Bulb mode
- Mirror lock up mode
- Cable release with lock
- Dark Gloves or glove liners

Suggested starting points for exposure for ASA 400 Film:

<i>Source of Light</i>	<i>Shutter Speed</i>	<i>Aperture</i>
Lightning	Bulb	f/11
Fireworks	Bulb	f/16
Street light	1/4 sec	f/4
Moonlight (full moon)	30 sec	f/4
Moonlight (snowscape)	15 sec	f/4
Skyline	2 seconds	f/4

Digital / Film:

- If light source is reflected (including Aurora) - opt for higher ISO 400 or more
- If light source is direct - opt for lower ISO 200 or less
- Tip the focus out to help the light meter make a more accurate reading when shooting into lights.
- When doing long exposures plan to have a fresh fully charged battery (or 2) on hand.
- Watch for stray light entering through your camera viewfinder - this can cause streaks in the image.

Digital Only:

- Enable Noise Reduction for long exposures in set up menu
- Choose a lower contrast Picture Style if available
- Set White Balance to Tungsten ... and try Florescent.
- Shoot in RAW mode if possible to be able to do more corrections later.

Film Only:

- When having film processed tell the lab you have night shots and not to cut the roll of film!
- When having film printed insist on a manual correction to print the shots deliberately dark.
- Use an 80A filter when shooting using Daylight film at night
- For Slides consider Kodak Type B Tungsten - ASA 160
- For Negatives / Prints - Kodak Portra Tungsten based film - ASA 100
- Always keep a roll of some ASA 800 - 1000 speed film in your fridge if you want to shoot Aurora.