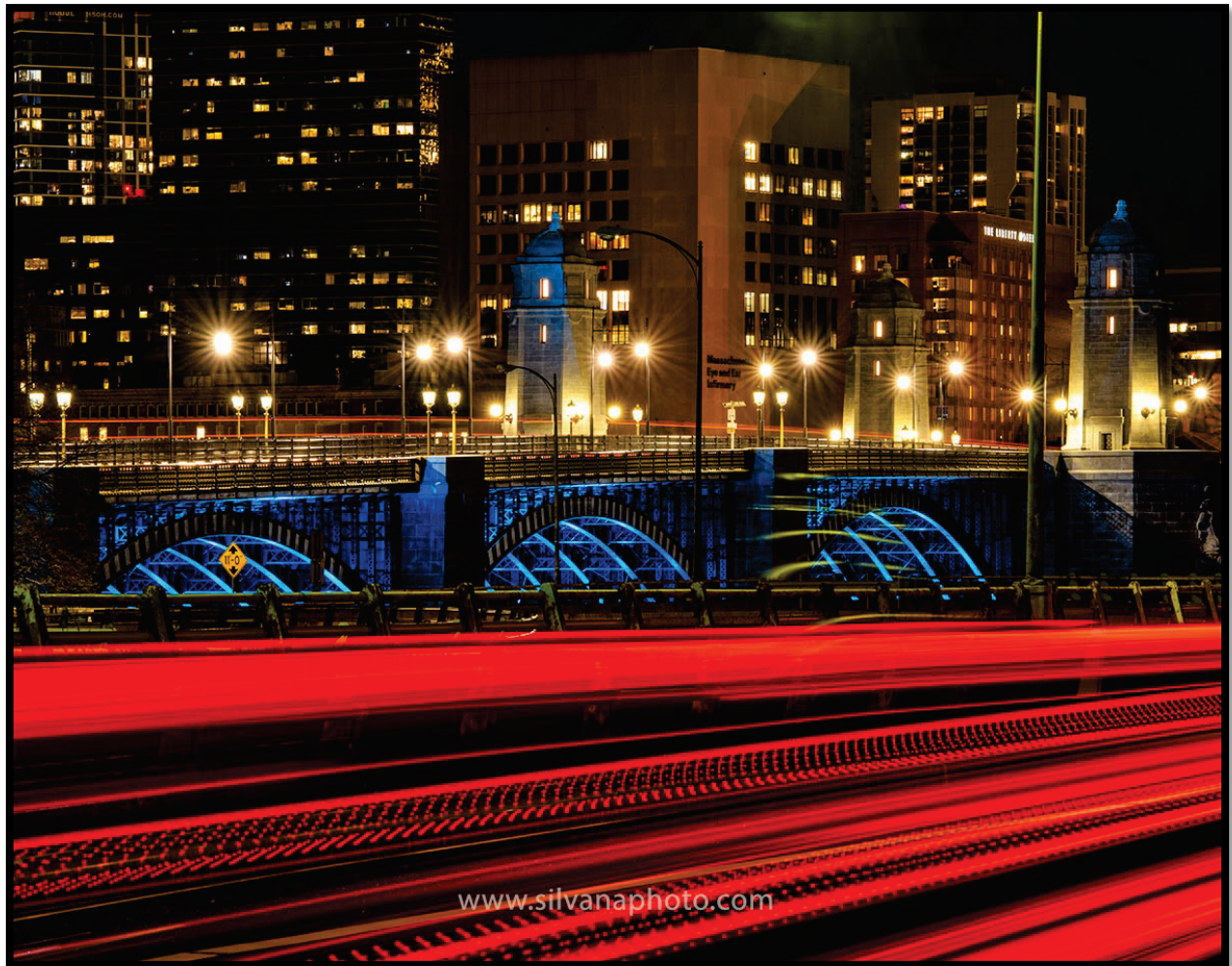




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Night Photography Cheat Sheet



Night Photography Basic Settings

- Shoot RAW
- Manual Mode (M)
- Set your LCD brightness to -3 (saves battery and night vision)
- Turn ON RGB Histogram and blinkies (aka highlights)
- Turn OFF long exposure noise reduction (LENR) and high ISO noise reduction.
- Set WB 3750K - 4200K (sky should appear neutral, not brown and not blue)
- Use remote shutter release or shutter delay to prevent camera shake.

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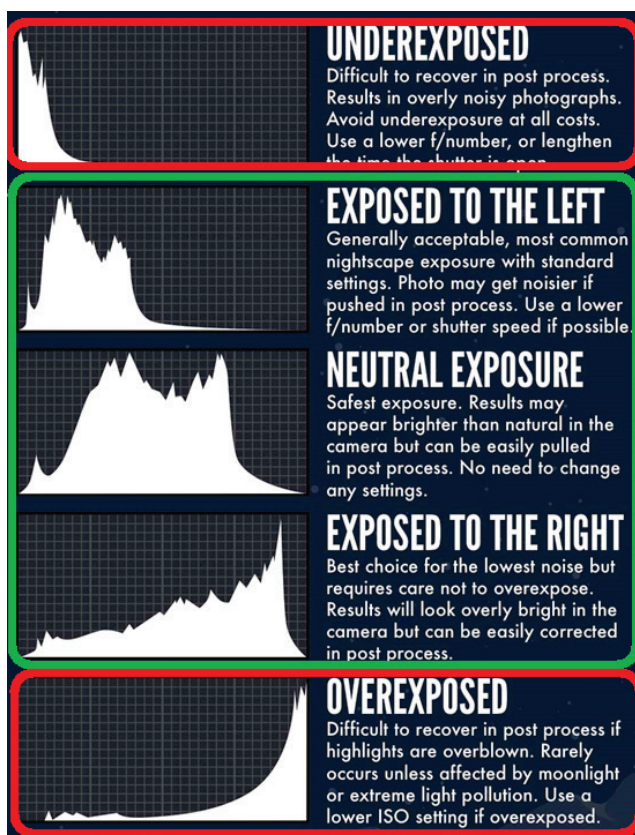




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- Use a sturdy tripod
- *Pay close attention to histogram*

Do not rely on the played-back image on your LCD. Use your histogram to determine exposure. Histograms that look like the ones framed in red are not good. Your goal is a histogram that looks like the ones framed in green.



General Night/Cityscape Settings

- Shoot at native ISO
- Any lens works!
- Long exposures.
- Use ND filters to lengthen shutter speed if necessary
- High f stop will create starbursts on lights.

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Astro-landscape Photography Settings

- ISO 1250-12,800(!) depending on camera.
- Fast, sharp lenses f/2.8 or better
- Stars are sharp when they are pinpoints.
- Determine longest shutter speed for camera/lens/aperture for pinpoint stars (use NPF rule)
- Shoot at widest aperture.
- Short exposures unless shooting star trails
- Focus on bright planet or far-off light source.

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- Turn off auto focus
- Use focus peaking (if available)
- ISO is determined by the shutter speed. Don't be afraid of high ISO!



Moon Photography Settings

- Exposing for just the moon - ISO 400 | f/11 | 1/320 second | Auto white balance
- Single frame of moon and foreground when moon is low on the horizon.
- Separate frames needed when moon is high due to intensity of brightness.

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Star Trails Photography Settings

- Set ISO based on 30 second exposure and aperture. However, settings can vary.
- Star trail pattern is determined on which way camera is pointed.
 - Circular trails with lens pointed towards north.
 - Angled trails with lens pointed east or west.
 - Semi-circle trails with lens pointed south.
- Shoot for at least one hour. More is better!
- Stack in Sequator (PC) or StarStaX (PC & Mac)

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Planning Tools

- Stellarium – Planning tool for astronomy. Browser, computer program (free), phone and tablet apps (paid)
- PhotoPills – Full featured planning tool Android and IOS (paid)
- Mobile Observatory Pro – Full featured planning tool. (free and paid).
- PlanIt! – Full featured planning tool. Android and IOS (free and paid)
- Exsate Golden Hour – Sun & Moon info, twilight and more. Free
- Clear Outside – forecasts clarity of skies (online and mobile apps). Free
- Astrospheric – forecasts clarity of skies (online and mobile apps). Free and paid
- Compass 54 – Compass app

Suggested accessories

[Dew Heater](#)

[Dew Heater Battery](#) – Any power bank with a 5V output will work.

[Dummy Battery & External Power adapter](#) (link is for Nikon but many [other](#) cameras are supported)

[Power Bank](#) for camera external power adapter

[External Intervalometer](#)

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