

Night Street Photography Cheat Sheet Joe Redski

Challenges of Night Street Photography

Understanding the right settings for night street photography can be complex. This guide aims to simplify this by sharing practical settings.

The Camera Mode

Aperture Priority for Control: Start with Aperture Priority for control over aperture. Combine with Auto ISO for better results.

Aperture

For streets with varying brightness of night lights, use apertures f/5.6 - f/2.8, depending upon the scenario.

Shutter Speed

Longer Exposures at Night: Use slower shutter speeds at night up to moderately faster (1/80 to 1/200 sec) to balance light intake and subject capturing sharpness.

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Camera-Specific Settings

With a Ricoh GRIII, use 1/80 sec. For a Sony A7RIII, the slowest speed should be around 1/100 sec. However, results may vary depending upon the user and the user's camera and physical abilities.

ISO (Auto ISO and Minimum Shutter Speed)

Auto ISO in Aperture Priority

Use Auto ISO to set a specific range (800 ISO - 6400 ISO) and a minimum shutter speed (approximately 1/125 sec).

- As you walk around, when the camera needs a brighter exposure, the shutter speed decreases to your minimum shutter speed (1/125 sec). Once the minimum shutter speed is reached, the camera will start to increase your ISO from the base ISO that you set of 800.
- If you enter very dark condition and the camera calculates that the minimum shutter speed has been reached and the ISO has been maxed out at 6400 - then your camera will sacrifice the minimum shutter speed and drop below 1/125 sec. However, it will not increase the ISO over 6400.

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The Focus

Autofocus with Different Cameras: Utilize autofocus, even with slower focusing cameras like the Ricoh. Use continuous focus on Sony and Auto Area AF centre mode on Ricoh. Test different focus mode to see what is best for your camera and is best for you

Evaluative/Multi-Segment Metering

Use this mode which analyses light across the frame, helpful in night street photography with various artificial lights and subjects throughout the composition.

White Balance

Auto White Balance

Use Auto White Balance, especially when shooting in RAW, as it can be adjusted in post-processing.

** All of the settings are my settings and can be changed based on the user's experience to completely different settings, or simply adjusted to suit your style of shooting.*

Enjoy!