

Firework Photography



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Photograph Fireworks ?

- Have a go you have nothing to loose
- Shoot lots of pictures but only keep the best!
- Don't miss the fun by gluing a camera to your face.
- Be aware of safety/ security if you are concentrating on pictures be careful of opportunist villains.

Hold it steady

- Shutter speeds will be relatively long
- Use tripod if possible
- Rest the camera on something
- You will want to capture the movement of the fireworks not the camera
- If you haven't got a tripod if possible adjust speed rating higher to reduce exposure times. Don't do this unless really essential as you will increase background noise
- Use a remote trigger or cable release.



Using
a tripod
stops
camera
shake

Flash

- Switch it off! It will spoil your photographs and annoy your fellow spectators.

Choose your viewpoint

- Get there early so you get a good clear view
- Slightly raised ground always helps
- What will the horizon be like if it is included?
- Upright or landscape?
- Which way is the wind blowing? If you are downwind the smoke in the sky obscures the light of the fireworks.



Foregrounds
can add
interest and
scale

Exposure

- Long exposures help capture the movement of the fireworks
- Don't worry too much about aperture at that distance everything will be sharp
- Try auto on the first couple and have a look at your results. If not try night setting .



Taken on Auto
setting

Focus

- Set the camera in manual mode if possible
- Some cameras find focusing on fireworks really difficult
- If not try focussing on the horizon.

Framing

- You will need to be a fair distance away as fireworks are actually quite large in the sky
- If you can include some horizon it will provide a sense of scale. Does not matter if it is a silhouette.
- If you do include the horizon be careful to keep it level.



Watch that
horizon!