



“COOKBOOK” FOR SPECIAL SHOOTING SITUATIONS

For Sony α6000



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Fireworks



- Set Exposure mode to Manual.
- Use a tripod & turn SteadyShot OFF.
- Set focusing to Manual and focus at infinity.
- Set ISO to 100 (for best quality).
- Set white balance to Daylight.
- Set aperture to 5.6 (just to start out).
- Set shutter speed to 15 seconds. You can use longer. Too long will overexpose the image.

If pics are **overexposed**, set aperture to a higher number (like f/8 or f/11).

If **underexposed**, set lower number (like f/3.5).

Perhaps include foreground for a sense of place.



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Stage Performances



- Use “P” mode & telephoto lens (eg 200 mm).
- Set white balance to Incandescent.
- Focus-lock, then set Manual Focus mode (distance to performers is unlikely to vary).
- Turn Spot Metering Mode ON.
- When white light illuminates the performer, aim the camera so they are in the viewfinder’s center circle, and take note of the exposure.
- Change to M mode and set it to the noted exposure (to circumvent timeout issues).

Shoot the entire show with these settings.



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Snow

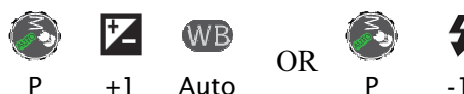


Snow can be tricky because white can throw off the camera metering. There are two different methods that work well:

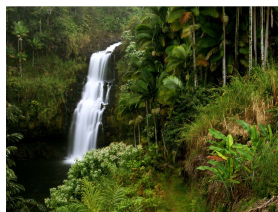
1. Set Exposure Compensation to +1 or +1.5 stops.

Or

2. Use an accessory flash with flash compensation at -1 (or more), to illuminate close subjects. No exposure compensation is necessary with this method.



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Artistic Waterfalls

Many waterfall pictures have a fluid quality to them. A fast shutter speed freezes things. A slow shutter makes *everything moving appear blurry*. Since only the water is moving, using a slow shutter speed gives it the silky effect.

- Use a tripod. Turn SteadyShot OFF only if your tripod is rock-solid.
- Set ISO to 100.
- Set Exposure mode to “A” and choose the smallest f/stop (the highest number) your lens supports.

You can use a circular polarizer or Neutral Density filter to slow shutter speed even further.



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This card set will provide a ready reference “Cookbook” approach to taking pictures in special situations where your camera’s automatic exposure meter is sure to be fooled:

- Fireworks
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- Shooting in Snow
- Outdoor Group Portraits
- Street Photography
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Outdoor Group Portraits

Outdoor group portraits should be done in open shade (NOT direct sunlight).

- Arrange your group in shade.
- Use a flash and set flash exposure compensation to -2.7.

If YOU want to be in the shot as well:

- Put the camera on a tripod.
- Set the camera to 10-second Self-Timer.
- Shoot away!

The results will look quite professional.



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Nighttime Time Exposures

- Use Manual mode & set shutter to BULB.
- Use a tripod & SteadyShot OFF.
- Set ISO to 100.
- Focus-lock & switch to Manual focus mode.
- Set white balance. Mercury vapour lamps = Fluorescent, Normal bulbs = Incandescent. If unsure, shoot RAW & figure it out later.
- Set f/stop to medium, (like f/5.6).
- Use 2-second self-timer.

Start with 30 sec exposure, & tweak from there.

For lowest noise try doing the above with MFNR set to ISO 100.



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Street Photography



Street photography is often candid, as you walk by. Try it in B&W (use RAW+JPG for color too).

- Use a wide-angle lens. Set SteadyShot ON.
- Use Manual Focus mode & set focus to infinity. (Gets most things in focus).
- Use Manual Exposure mode. Meter for the sidewalk (it's usually close to neutral grey.) This will give you the shutter speed to set.
- Set ISO to 800 (100 on bright day) & shoot away!

The same works on a well-lit street at night, though you may need ISO 6400 or greater.



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The Moon



You can only expect success with a telephoto lens and a rock-solid tripod. I used a 500mm lens for this shot.

- Use A exposure mode & f/5.6.
- Use a tripod and turn Steadyshot OFF.
- Use the 2 second self-timer.
- Use the Spot-meter, and meter on the moon's surface.
- Use Exposure Compensation to add ½ to 1 stop of additional exposure.



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Interiors that sell



This requires multiple off-camera wireless flashes and white ceilings.

- Use a tripod, & set camera & flashes to Wireless mode.
- Place flashes throughout room, pointing at ceiling. (Point flash sensors at camera).
- Use Manual Exposure mode, shutter speed to 1/160th of a sec & f/stop to what makes the scene outside window expose correctly.

Experiment with different flash placements for even illumination.



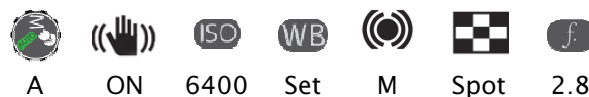
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Nighttime Sports



Black sky & bright lights confuse auto exposure.

- Use “A” Aperture Priority Exposure mode, & the lowest available f/stop. (Lens wide open).
- Use ISO 6400 (higher if it's really dark).
- Shoot RAW & correct for White Balance later. Mercury Vapor lamps are difficult on WB.
- If the action is the same distance away, focus-lock on it & set Manual Focus mode.
- Use spot metering and AE Lock to lock exposure on a patch of lit dirt/grass. It is now set for the whole game.
- Turn SteadyShot ON for handheld shooting. Anticipate the action and Shoot!



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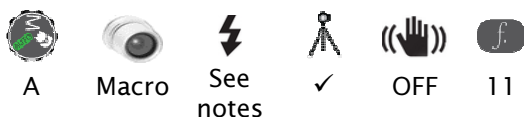


Product Shots

Here again, automatic settings will likely not yield the best results.

- Use a Macro lens (if available) & tripod.
- Set Exposure to “A” Aperture Priority mode.
- Set f/11 to keep most items in focus.
- Use a Wireless Flash & umbrella reflector.
- Set flash to MANUAL and dial output to ¼ to compensate for dark background yet bright reflective camera.
- Experiment with flash settings to get a rich, classic underexposed feel.

Use some background color to catch the eye.



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Sunsets & Silhouettes

If shooting a sunset in automatic doesn't work, try the following:

- Focus-lock on your subject, then set Manual Focus mode.
- Use Spot Metering mode & aim the center circle of the viewfinder to a bright area of the sky that DOESN'T contain the sun.
- Use AE Lock to lock the exposure.
- Recompose. Remember the 'Rule of Thirds'.

You may wish to use the “Sunset” creative style for warmer hues.



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Christmas Lights (Or other nighttime lights)

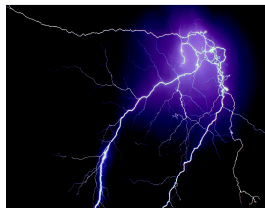
You don't need a flash for Christmas lights. Instead:

- Set “P” Program Exposure mode.
- Set ISO to 100.
- Set White Balance to Incandescent.
- Use Spot Metering and aim the camera so the spot metering circle in the viewfinder is filled with lights.
- Press AE Lock to lock that exposure.
- Recompose your image and shoot away!

With bright lights & a handheld camera use Steadysight ON. Else use a tripod & Steadysight OFF.



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Lightning

Lightning requires luck and skill.

To keep the shutter open for as long as possible:

- Set Manual Exposure mode.
- Set ISO 100 & aperture to f/16
- Set shutter speed so the exposure will be a little dark. It will still be several seconds though, depending on ambient light.
- Set Manual focus to infinity.
- Use Continuous Shooting mode.
- Use wired Remote set to “Lock” so the camera will continue shooting as fast as it can.

It might take many shots to get a good one.



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Candlelight Shots



An underexposed fill-in flash will frequently give additional life to candlelit shots.

- Set ISO to 400. Use a tripod and have your subject hold perfectly still.
- Set Exposure mode to Manual: 1.5 seconds at f/3.5 (or as wide as your lens can go).
- Focus on your subject's eyes.
- Set flash compensation to -2.7 (try with & without flash).
- Remember the Rule of Thirds. Your viewer will be drawn to the faces in the scene.



M



-2.7



✓



OFF



400



3.5



1.5s

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See Instruction sheet for printing advice.

Rear cover is on the next page



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