

GETTING STARTED WITH FIREWORK & TIME-LAPSE PHOTOGRAPHY

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WHAT GEAR WILL I NEED?

- Camera That Shoots in Manual Mode
- Lens = 10mm-24mm f/2.8 & 24mm-120mm f/4
- Sturdy Tripod
- L Bracket
- Shutter Release Cable = Nikon "MD-30A" - Amazon \$34.95
- Headlamp = Petzl "Tikkina" - Amazon \$19.94
- Lawn Chair = Coleman Deck Chair - Amazon \$74.99

WHAT SETTINGS SHOULD I USE?

- Manual Mode
- ISO = 100 or 200
- Aperture = Start with f/11
- Shutter Speed Mode = Bulb "B"
- Shutter Speed = Start with 10 Seconds
- White Balance = Auto or Daylight
- Manual Focus or Set Focus to Infinity
- Shoot in RAW
- Take Several Test Shots at the Beginning

HOW DO I COMPOSE MY PHOTOS?

- When the Mortar Takes Off Press & Hold the Shutter Release Button
- Take Some Photos with Just One Burst
- Take Some Photos with Multiple Bursts
- Shoot Wide to Get Some Foreground in the Photo
- Zoom in for Tight Shots
- Try Shooting in Both Vertical and Portrait

WHERE CAN I VIEW FIREWORKS?

- June 28th – “Independence Day Fireworks” - Middletown, MD.
- July 4th – “Independence Day Fireworks” - Numerous Locations
- July 5th – “Mid-County Sparkles” - Kensington, MD.
- November – “Veteran’s Day Weekend” – National Harbor, MD.
- December – “Light Up the Lakefront” – Rio, Gaithersburg, MD.
- December 20th & 21st – “Holiday Illuminations” - Mount Vernon, VA.
- December 31st – “New Year’s Eve Celebration” - DC Wharf

MIDDLETOWN, MD. #1

JUNE 28, 2025

ISO = 100

FOCAL LENGTH = 14.5 MM

APERTURE = F/11

SHUTTER = 9 SECONDS



MIDDLETOWN, MD. #2

JUNE 28, 2025

ISO = 100

FOCAL LENGTH = 14.5 MM

APERTURE = F/11

SHUTTER = 17 SECONDS



NATIONAL MALL #1

JULY 4, 2025

ISO = 100

FOCAL LENGTH = 70 MM

APERTURE = F/16

SHUTTER = 18 SECONDS



NATIONAL MALL #2

JULY 4, 2025

ISO = 100

FOCAL LENGTH = 70 MM

APERTURE = F/18

SHUTTER = 17 SECONDS



KENSINGTON, MD. #1

JULY 5, 2025

ISO = 100

FOCAL LENGTH = 28 MM

APERTURE = F/18

SHUTTER = 5 SECONDS



KENSINGTON, MD. #2

JULY 5, 2025

ISO = 100

FOCAL LENGTH = 28 MM

APERTURE = F/18

SHUTTER = 5 SECONDS



TIME-LAPSE VIDEO MODE - ANY DEVICE

- Fully Automated
- You Answer a Few Questions
 - How Many Photos? (Try 1,000)
 - At What Interval? (Try 1 Second)
- Press the Start Button
- The Camera Creates a Time-Lapse Video & Saves it to the Memory Card

TIME-LAPSE: INTERVAL SHOOTING

- “Do It Yourself” Mode for More Control of Final Product
- You Answer a Few Questions
 - How Many Photos?
 - What Time Interval
- The Camera Takes Photos
- Photos Are Saved to Your Memory Card for Manual Processing
- You Edit the Photos
- You Process The Video

HOW CAN I PREPARE?

- Research Possible Locations
- Practice in Your Living Room
- Review Using Manual Focus on Your Camera
- Review Using the Shutter Release Cable
- Review Using the “Bulb” Setting
- Review Your Tripod Controls

VIEW SAMPLE

TIME-LAPSE VIDEO