Basic Camera Settings for Night Photography

1. **Set Quality to RAW**

2. **Use your camera's Native ISO setting: 200 for Nikons, 100 for Canons. The Nikon D200 is an oddball Nikon that has a native ISO of 100.**

3. **Set White balance to ~2700K for artificial lighting situations, or ~ 3700K for Moonlight**

4. **Enable your camera's RGB histogram**

5. **Enable the blinking Highlight indicator**

6. **Set the LCD brightness to "auto" or reduce it manually 2 or 3 levels below middle setting.**

7. **Set Picture Style to "Neutral" for the sake of histograms and image previews**

8. **Turn off IS/VR lens functions**

9. **Set focus to Manual**

10. **Learn to use Live View if you have it. Live view will be the preferred focusing method at night.**

11. **AutoLighting optimizer, Highlight Tone Priority, D-Lighting, High ISO Noise Reduction, and other similar features are designed for JPEG shooters and have no effect on the manually metered RAW exposures that we'll be doing at night- unless you are using your Camera Manufacturer's software to process your files.**

12. **Set your camera's Long Exposure Noise Reduction to Auto (if available). If your camera doesn't have auto as an option, consider turning it on for your first image and then plan on turning it off for the rest of the evening for the sake of productivity. Plan on reviewing your LENR on/off image comparison in the morning.**

13. **Learn to use camera info rear screen controls and button. You won't be able to see them at night! Once you become an advanced night shooter consider programming your camera's custom functions for high ISO testing and final exposure starting points.**

14. **Organize your camera bag in a logical way, and always keep everything in the same place, making things easy to find in the dark.**

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