



Blurring Night Lights

One of the cool effects we can create in camera is blurring moving lights at night. Blurring the lights takes some of the reality out of the scene, and when we take out some of the reality, a picture becomes more creative and more artistic.

Here are a few guidelines for creating photographs like this one, which I took in Miami's South Beach.

Set your camera on a sturdy tripod.

Set the ISO to 100.

Set the camera to the Tv (shutter priority) mode and select a shutter speed of 10 seconds or slower. I took this picture with the shutter speed set at 10 seconds.

Use the camera's self-timer to take the picture. That will prevent blurry pictures caused by camera shake when you press the shutter release button.

Take a shot, check the histogram and overexposure warning on the LCD monitor on back of your camera to make sure your highlights are not washed out – which can happen in high contrast scenes. If they are washed out, use your camera's exposure compensation (+/-) feature to fine-tune your exposures by reducing the exposure time or aperture.

Take additional pictures at different slow shutter speeds to see how you can improve your pictures.

When photographing moving cars, getting the red taillights in the picture will look much better than just getting the white headlights.