

Shooting the Stars



Equipment

Camera, capable of shooting in Manual

Wide Angel Lens (14mm-24 mm)

Sturdy Tripod

Shutter Release or Bulb

Settings

Set your camera to Manual

Focus to Infinity, or a bright spot.

Use the widest aperture on your lens (f2.8)

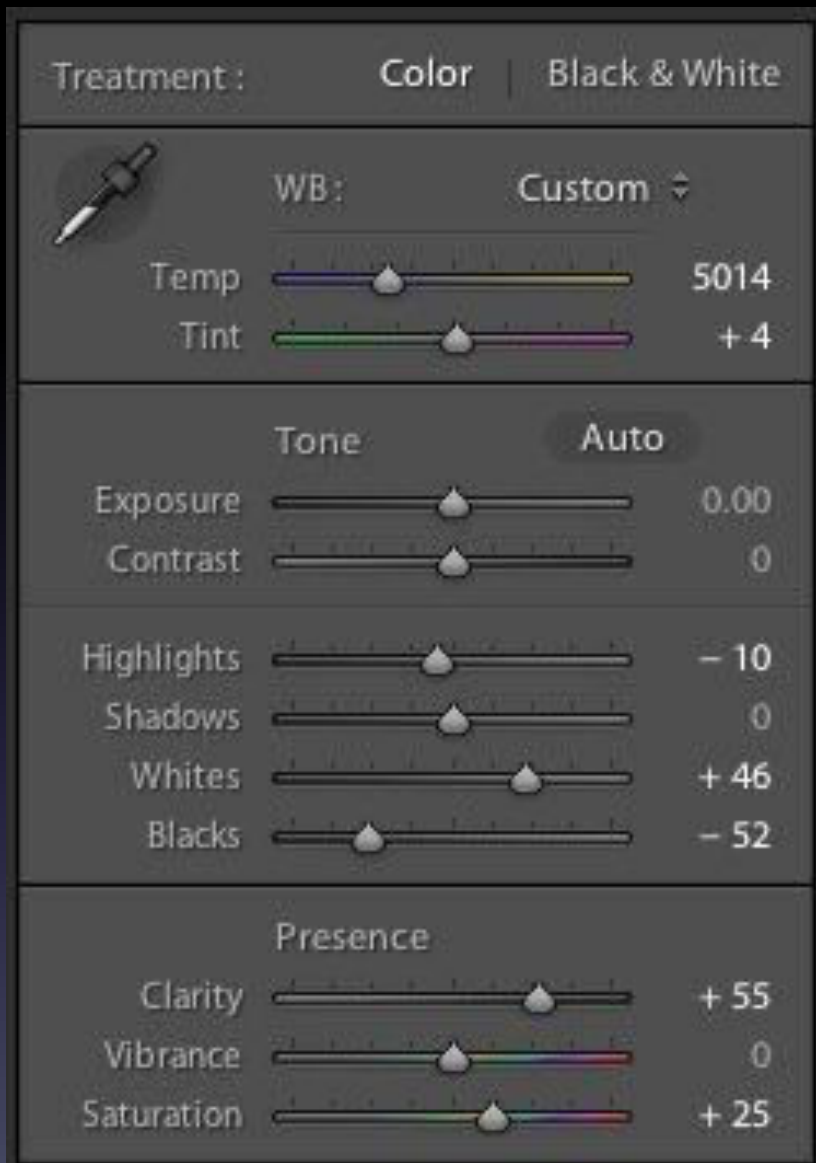
Set your ISO around 1600

Open your shutter starting at 20-25 sec.

Using your ISO to let more light in, with settings longer than 25 sec you will start to see star trails.

Shooting in Raw is best for getting the most detail.

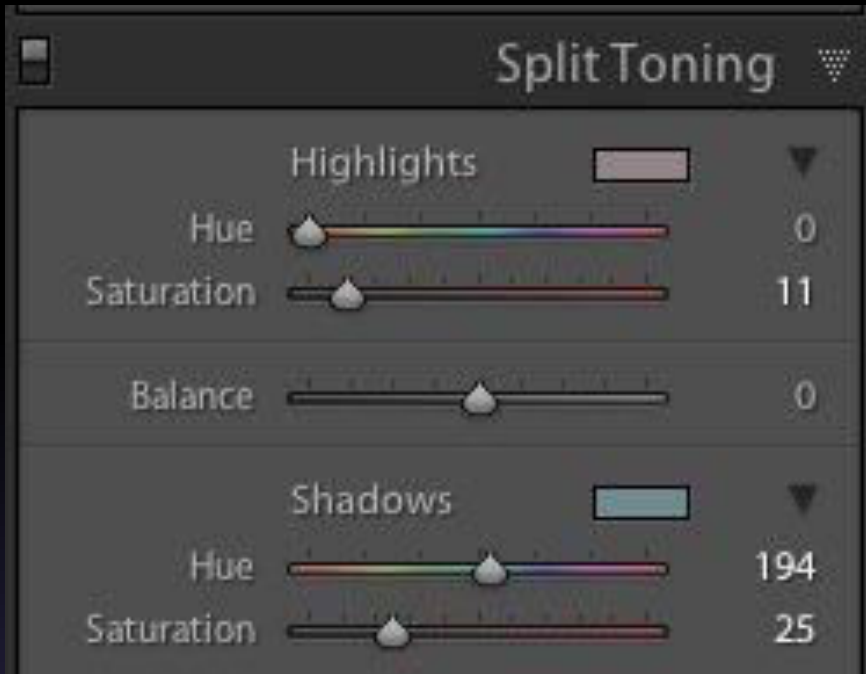
Lightroom Adjustments



1) You can see in the first panel to bump the whites up to +46 and bring the blacks down to -52. You really want to emphasize the stars against the dark sky and this is a good way to do that. Pushing the clarity up to +55 also helps define the stars against the sky, making them nice and crispy. Boost the saturation to bring out any colors that are in the sky.



2) In the second panel sharpen up the image a bit, also to emphasize the stars. At the same time, bring up the noise reduction to 33 to smooth out some of the noise that might show up, then bring up the color to 25 for the same reasons.



Play around with the split toning sliders to make the colors in your sky appear magical. Boosting the color in the Shadows of the Split Toning slider.

Original

Temp: 4300 Tint: -3

Temp: 3600 Tint: +15

Temp: 3600 Tint: -31

You can also affect the color of the sky by playing around with the temperature and hue sliders to get some pretty magnificent looking star photos.

But mostly have fun
shooting, and please
share your pictures.