

# Photography masterclass:

## 7. Shooting interiors and at night

Professional photographer **Zak Waters** originally started out as an assistant to several Magnum photographers and now freelances for the quality UK press and news agencies. Here he explains how to shoot in low light conditions



I love the challenge of shooting in low light. To be honest I hardly ever use a tripod where there are people involved, but I would say it is a must if

your subject is static, like an interior, or if you're shooting at night. More so, if you are shooting with something larger than 35mm. You should also invest in a shutter

release cable, which will reduce any camera movement when you want to take the shot, especially if it's a long exposure.

Shooting indoors can be as complicated as you want it to be, depending on your style. I tend not to use lights and try to use any ambient light available. Natural light is always a bonus, but even when there isn't much, digital gives you the means to experiment as you go along. So place your camera on a tripod, fit your shutter release cable, frame your shot and then work on a correct exposure by playing with your ISO, shutter speed, aperture and white balance.

Many people still use a light meter but I find I can now use the camera to gauge where I am, as most of the time my shoots are down to how fast I can get an image to a client. Create a nice feel; add a light if it makes a difference or use a bit of fill flash. You don't have to go in with lots of lighting to get the best result – it's all personal preference.

Shooting at night is another world in itself full of bright lights, dark corners, colour casts and movement. Movements which are not always immediately apparent to the naked eye but will leave a long trace

of light on the photograph, like stars in the sky, car head lights and so on. Exposure tests are the key to success with night photography. Don't be scared of colour casts or movements – use them to your advantage to create something different. Like shooting indoors you'll need a tripod and most certainly a shutter release cable.

Gregory Crewdson has perfected the art of shooting indoors and at night – check out his wonderful images of suburbia at dusk. As he puts it, "I'm attracted to twilight as much for the stillness as for the light. It's a moment of perfection."

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