

# Photographing Fireworks Displays with Still and Movie Cameras

AC-42



Fireworks displays are colorful and spectacular events to watch—and to photograph! Taking pictures of fireworks is easy, too. To get good pictures, you need an adjustable camera that lets you take time exposures, some film, and a tripod or other firm support for your camera.

## WHICH FILM TO USE?

You can take pictures of fireworks with either black-and-white or color film. Of course, fireworks are especially exciting because of their vivid colors—so your pictures will be more exciting in color, too.

## EXPOSURE WITH STILL CAMERAS

Since the pictures you take of most fireworks will be time exposures, all you need to be concerned about is what lens opening to use. Almost any lens opening will produce interesting fireworks pictures. An overexposed picture will show the aerial traces thick and light in color; an underexposed picture will show thin lines and dark, more intense colors. Use the table below as a guide for setting your camera.

**SUGGESTED LENS OPENINGS FOR KODAK FILMS**

Type of Display	KODACHROME II	KODACHROME-X EKTACHROME-X KODACOLOR-X	High Speed EKTACHROME— normal processing VERICHROME Pan PLUS-X Pan PLUS-X Pan Professional	High Speed EKTACHROME— with ESP-1 Processing for 2 1/2 times normal film speed* TRI-X Pan TRI-X Pan Professional
Aerial Bursts— Keep shutter open for time exposure	f/5.6	f/8	f/11	between f/16 and f/22
Ground Displays	1/30 sec f/1.9	1/30 sec f/2.8	1/30 sec f/4	1/60 sec between f/4 and f/5.6

\*Kodak will push-process your High Speed EKTACHROME Film, sizes 135 and 120 only, to 2 1/2 times the normal film speed—from ASA 160 to ASA 400 for Daylight film, and from ASA 125 to ASA 320 for Tungsten. To get this service, purchase a KODAK Special Processing Envelope, ESP-1, from your photo dealer (the purchase price is in addition to the regular charge for KODAK EKTACHROME Film Processing). After exposing the film at the increased speed, put it in the envelope and have your dealer send it to Kodak for processing, or mail it directly to any U.S. Kodak Processing Laboratory in a KODAK Prepaid Processing Mailer.



### **TO TAKE THE PICTURE**

- Place your camera on a tripod or other firm support.
- Set the focusing scale on infinity and set the lens opening according to the suggestions in the table.
- Aim the camera in the direction of the bursts.
- Set the camera shutter on “Time” or “Bulb.”
- Open the shutter. You may keep it open for several bursts or for only one. Then close the shutter. If you keep the shutter open for several bursts and there are bright lights or moving cars nearby, put a hat or a piece of dark paper in front of the lens between bursts to keep stray light out while the shutter is open.
- Add interest and a feeling of depth by including silhouettes of objects or people in the foreground of your pictures.
- If you have a telephoto lens, use it to get “close-ups” of the fireworks displays.



### **GROUND DISPLAYS**

Since displays on the ground are fairly bright and do not move across the scene like aerial displays, you can use shorter exposure times. Also,

with ground displays you won't need a tripod; you can hand-hold your camera and take good pictures at 1/30 second. Be sure to hold the camera *steady* and squeeze the shutter release *gently*.



### **MAKING MOVIES**

To make movies of fireworks displays, set the focusing scale on infinity and use the largest lens opening on the camera (such as  $f/1.9$  or  $f/2.8$ ). If your camera has automatic exposure control, it will set the largest lens opening automatically. You will get best results if you use a tripod. Aim the camera in the direction of the bursts, then start the camera when you see the trail of the rocket going up and continue running it until the burst has disappeared.

*Consumer Markets Division*

**EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY • ROCHESTER, N. Y. 14650**

Photographing Fireworks Displays  
with Still and Movie Cameras

11-69 Major Revision

KODAK Publication No. AC-42

PRINTED  
IN  
U.S.A.

286-AE

KODAK, EKTACHROME, EKTACHROME-X, KODACHROME, KODACHROME-X,  
KODACOLOR-X, PLUS-X, TRI-X, and VERICHROME are trademarks.