

A long-exposure photograph of a night sky showing concentric star trails. In the lower-left foreground, a large, metallic, fan-shaped seashell is partially open, revealing its interior. The shell has some text inscribed on its inner surface. The background is a dark, circular pattern of light trails from stars.

HOW TO CREATE
DAZZLING STAR TRAILS

- 
- **1 - Equipment required**
 - **2 - Before you go**
 - **3 – The Prep**
 - **4 - Locations**
 - **5 - Camera Settings**
 - **6 - Setup**
 - **7 - Shooting the Stars**

1 - Equipment

- **Camera Spare Batteries**
- **Wide Angle Lens Preferably Max 20mm F2.8 to F5.6**
- **Shutter Remote Control**
- **Tripod**
- **Torch**
- **Compass or App on Phone**
- **Wrap up warm**
- **Hot Drink**

2 - Before you go

- Focus your lens during the day, and when your happy with focus put 2 tipex dots (as shown in pic) One on fixed part of lens and one on focusing ring. That way when your out should you move lens focus you can easily align





3 - The Prep

- Before we get into the method of actually shooting, there are a few things you need to take care of first namely, finding stars, and finding a clear sky.
- Firstly, you want to get as far away from light pollution as you can. Once you find yourself a nice dark corner of the world, the next thing you need to be aware of is, are the skies clear, the current moon phase, as a night with a full moon will enhance the stars, although if you are shooting the Milkyway this is best shot on a Moonless Phase.

4 - Location

- Find a dark Sky Area
- Features ? Lighthouse, Castle, Hills Gives a good foreground
- Let someone know where your going



5 - Camera Settings

- These Settings are a Guide as you may need to change them depending on what Camera + Lens & how many circles you want.
- f/1.4 and ISO400 = 30s
- f/2.8 and ISO800 = 30s
- f/4.0 and ISO1600 = 30s
- f/5.6 and ISO3200 = 30s
- Ensure camera & Lens is switched to manual (This will stop you accidentally focusing lens). Refer to Pics



6 - Setup

- Nikon D850
- Nikon 24-70mm F2.8 Lens
- Viltrox Wireless Trigger
- Lead
- Tripod (Not Shown)



-
- Make sure you connect the leads correctly as per instructions, the control unit is in hot shoe correctly and you have fitted the batteries



7 - Shooting The Stars

- Your now at your location
- Setup your camera & place on a sturdy Tripod
- Find North using your phone app or compass
- Point camera in direction of North or Pole Star
- Little tip if your shooting on a cold night, Place tripod near car and sit inside.
- Now your set to take your Images, take at least 120 shots.
- The reason you want so many, is that when you get home and do the editing you want the trails to join up to form long arcs

8 - Editing in Lightroom

- Now that your home with all your images & have several hours of your life invested in making a single picture, the fruits of your labour are finally about to pay off !
- For this part of the tutorial, I'm going to be using Lightroom & Photoshop.
- Import all your photos into Adobe Lightroom.
- Develop then make your Basic Adjustments
- Then Sync all Photographs the same.
- Click on 1st Image, hold shift and click on last image this will highlight all. Now go back to 1st image right click, develop, Sync. all images will now be the same.
- Whilst the images are all highlighted, Right click on 1st image, edit in box drops down & then go down to bottom to Open in Layers in Photoshop.

9 - Photoshop

- Photoshop will now open Automatically & will make you a nice massive file with many different layers containing all your photos, in my case 103.
- Highlight the first Layer.
- Go all the way down to the bottom layer.
- Hold the shift key and click on LAST Layer.
- This will highlight all layers
- Click on “Layer blending options” and select “Lighten”
- This will blend the layers together and form the trails.

