

TRIPOD A MUST

All manual settings and get very familiar with how to quickly change the shutter speed without thinking. Also the same for your ISO.

These can be quickly clicked up / down to react to a situation

If still light enough use auto focus on a distant object then switch to manual focus. **If too dark** focus on infinite and then slightly adjust forward.

ARRIVE EARLY: Assess the layout and try and gain some knowledge of where the display will be based. Then figure out where in the sky and wind etc. There will be more smoke as the display progresses.

SWITCH OFF LENS VIBRATION REDUCTION / STABILTY

USE A REMOTE OR CABLE RELEASE

EXAMPLE OF SETTINGS:

F11	ISO 200	3.2 secs	18mm	airburst
F11	ISO 100	3.2 secs	10mm	airburst
F10	ISO 250	2.5 secs	18mm	airburst
F11	ISO 100	4 secs	18mm	Mixed / Build / Peop
F11	ISO 250	3.2 secs	35 mm	Mixed / Build / Peop
F11	ISO 250	4 secs	35mm	Mixed / Build / Peop

These are just guides and will depend on how fast or slow your lens is but could be a good starting point.

The settings are based on a :

Cannon 18mm – 200 mm lens : Sigma 10 – 20 mm lens

.Both are not fast lenses.

A QUICK TEST SHOT(s)

On the first burst take a quick test shot or probably a couple .
This is to check your framed okay especially for air bursts.
If you are at the widest lens aperture – and or on a wide angle it should be less critical.

As the show is generally always short there is very little to no time for much messing around during the show apart from quick tweaks.
A quick click to widen or close down the lens and / or shutter speed.

Use your eyes and ears

Large Maroon type air burst.

These are the type when you hear that characteristic ‘thump’ ‘thud’ or ‘boomf’ .

When you hear that sound press the release. Using a time of 3.2 secs can be a good shutter time to capture an upward trail and the airburst.

If there is a lull or when you want to miss a shot out you could take that opportunity to take a quick look at the last couple of shots and make a tweak if need be. If you have what looks like a good combination just keep shooting – but not trigger happy but listen / look then shoot.

Brightness of Bursts / Colours. (To avoid burn out)

If possible and you can see / sense that a sequence is going to white / lighter colours , brighter colours then shutter speed can be decreased to say 2 – 2.5 secs. Warmer less bright colours such as reds , oranges and purples etc are less bright so move up to 3.2 to 4 secs. **Like most photography if you're a little under exposed its far better than burnt out and you can get great detail from LightRoom.**

