

Guide Photography.

We thank Helen Lessels for the information contained herein.

Helena would recommend finding a location during daylight and then getting a low light "background " photo which shows the location. As it gets dark, I increased settings to 5sec exposure iso1600 f1.8-3.5. I then used Adobe photoshop to stack my firefly photos onto my background photo so I could have many fireflies on the one photo instead of just 1 or 2.

I also set up a gopro hero10 and found the nightlapse worked well min iso 800 Max iso1600 with a 10sec exposure every 20sec. The fireflies were attracted to the red record light of the gopro so it really did work well. Tripod required .

This first picture is the DSLR.



LB: We can see the regular on and off nature of the male flash pattern captured clearly here.

In the picture below the nature of the individual flashes is revealed. Look at the middle at the bottom of this picture, what would appear to us as a single flash looks just a little like a coil of thin rope. This is showing us that the flash is really a very rapid sequence of high and lower intensities, but too fast for the naked eye to see it. Only in pictures like these can we see that. There is a firefly in New Guinea that spaces these intervals between the higher and lower intensities sufficiently far apart that we can actually see its light as if it is flickering from high to low and high again. We even gave it a common name of flickerer.

