Light Painting
By Amanda Holt
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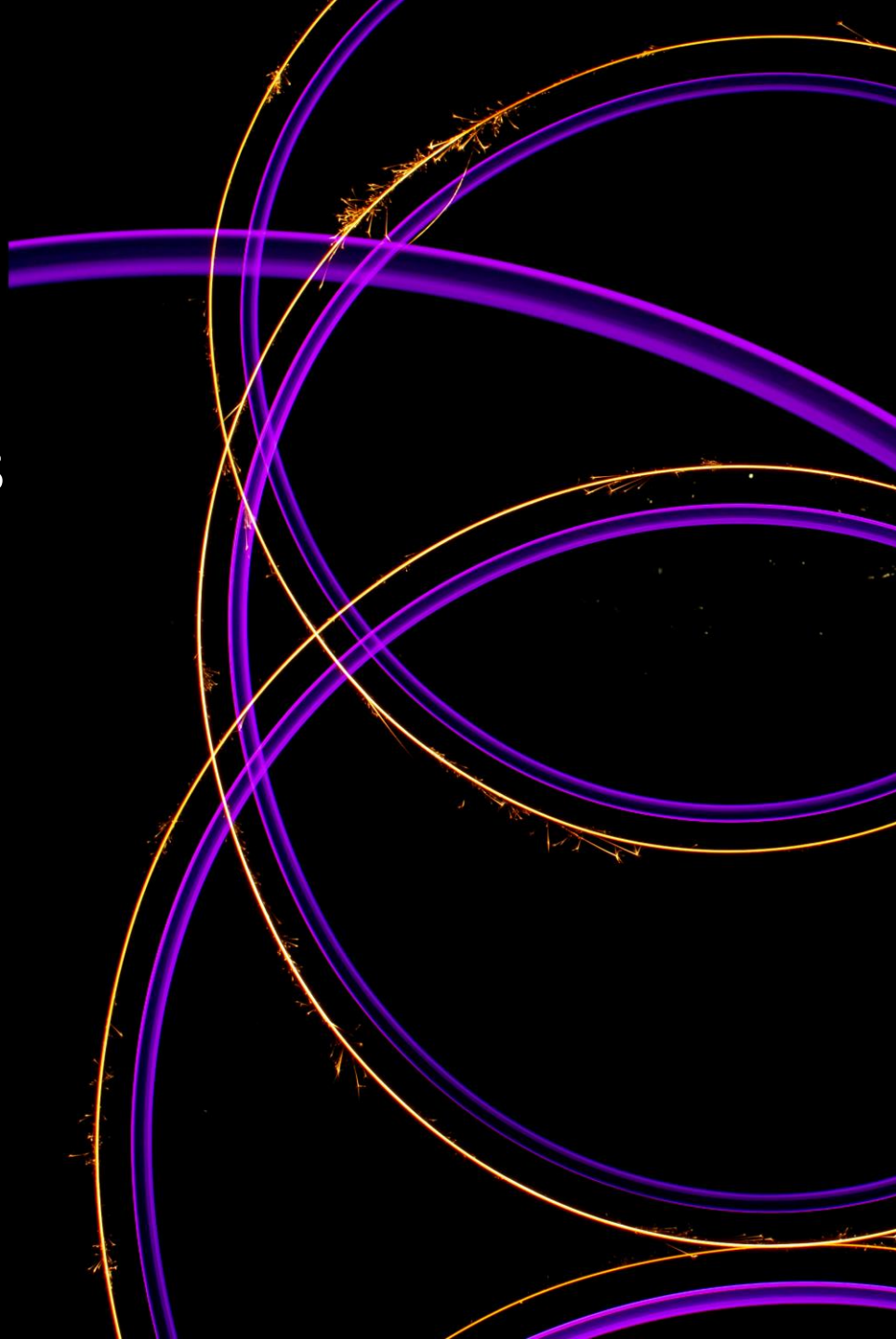
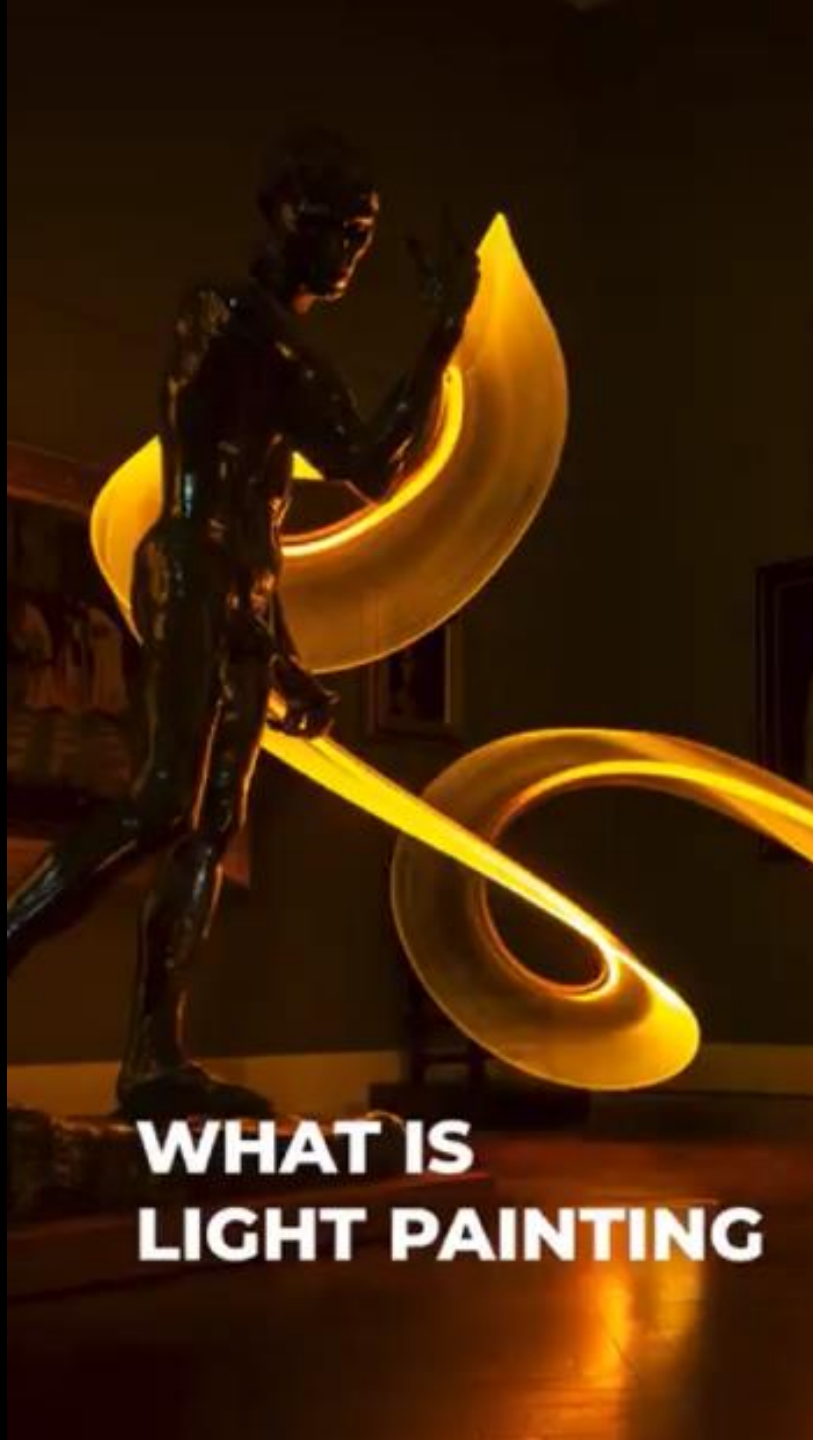
Drawing with light

- Light painting is a technique that involves moving a light source while taking a long-exposure photograph, creating artistic images that resemble brush strokes made of light.

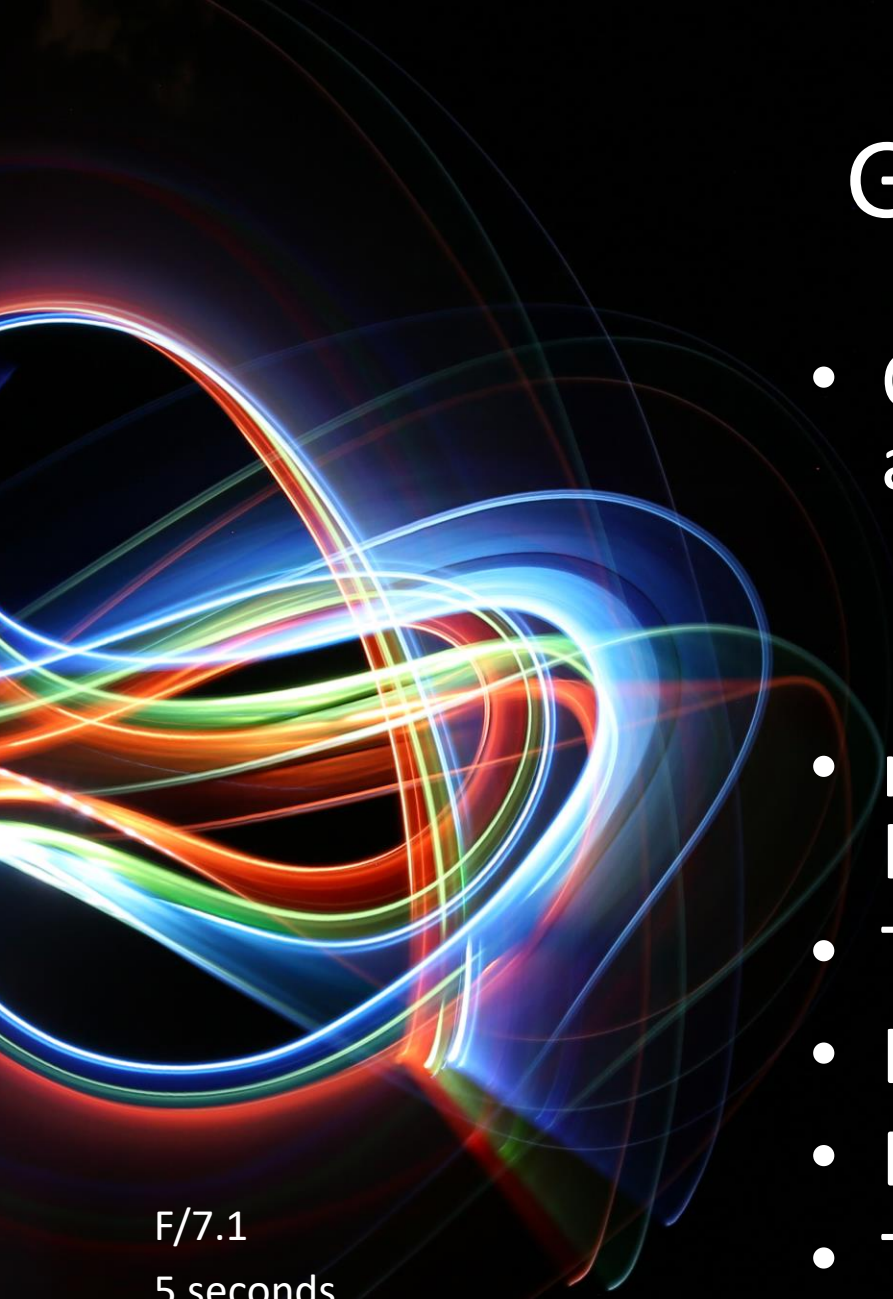


Denis Smith



https://www.youtube.com/shorts/V2NDFnm3CeA

Gear



F/7.1

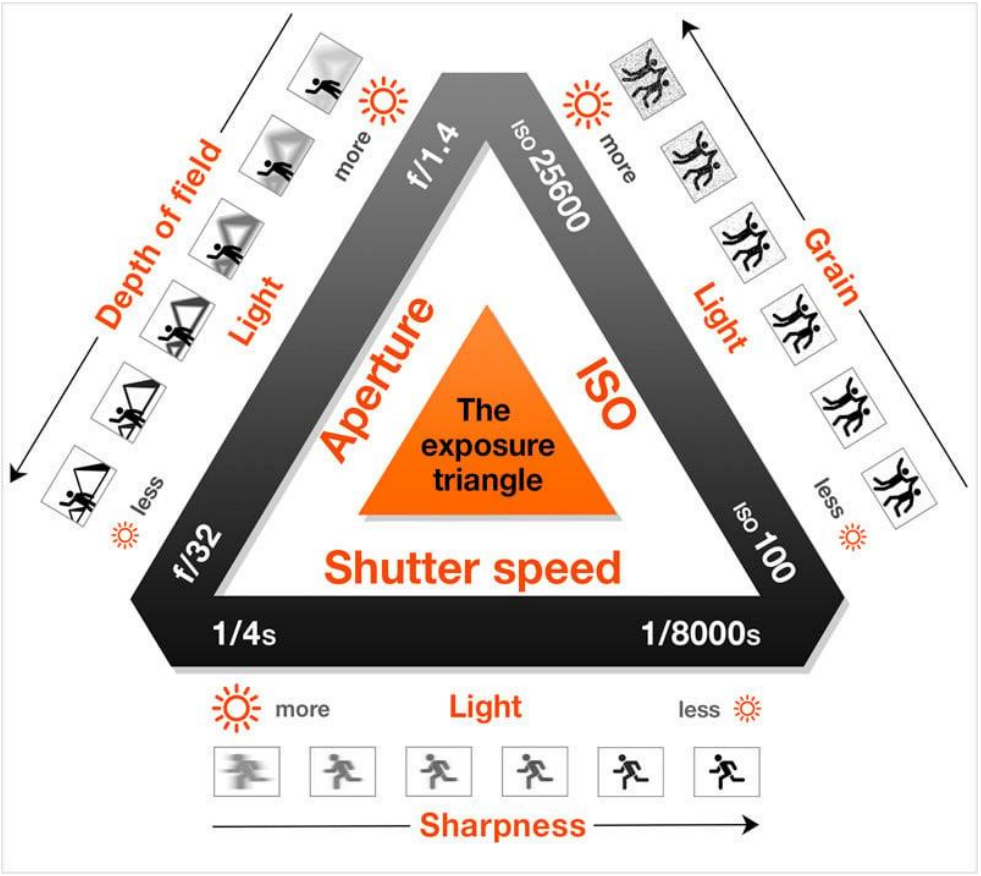
5 seconds

ISO 500

- Camera with any wide-angle lens
  - manual mode or
  - bulb mode
- remote shutter release or Hahnel Capture
- Tripod
- Light source
- Dark clothing
- Torch or head lamp

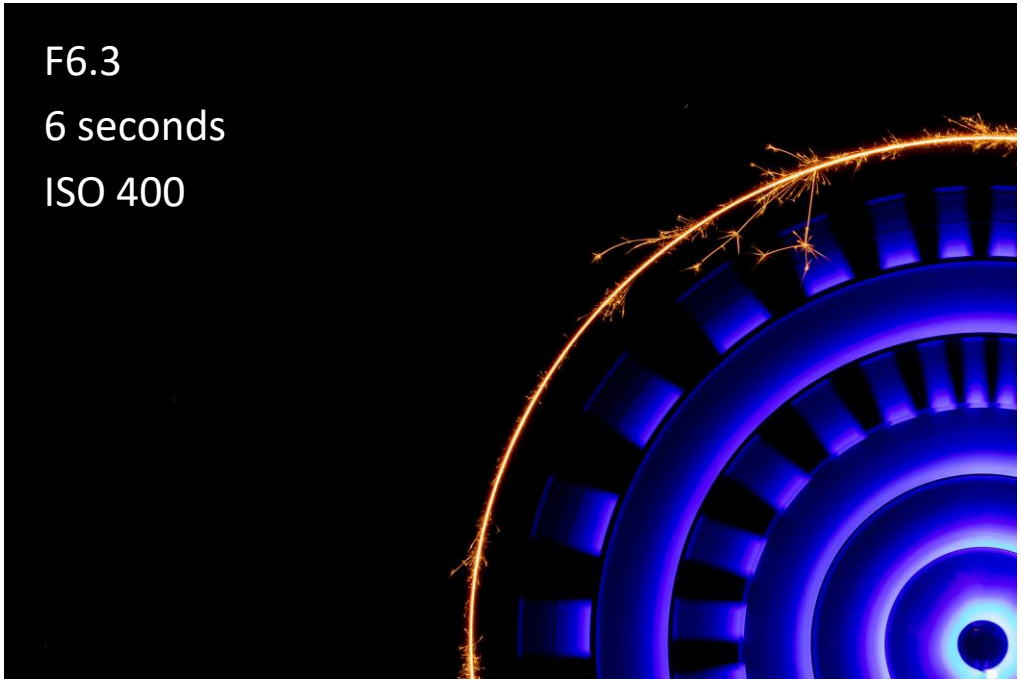
Technical stuff

- **Aperture**
  - controls ‘brightness’ of the light tool
- **Shutter speed**
  - controls ambient light
- **ISO**
  - adds grunt: boosts exposure when light is limited



Shutter speed

A **shorter exposure** reduces ambient light, making the background darker.



A **longer exposure** (e.g. 20–30 seconds) allows more ambient light (like moonlight or streetlights) to enter.

Aperture

A **narrower aperture** (e.g. f/11) dims the light tool but increases sharpness and depth of field.

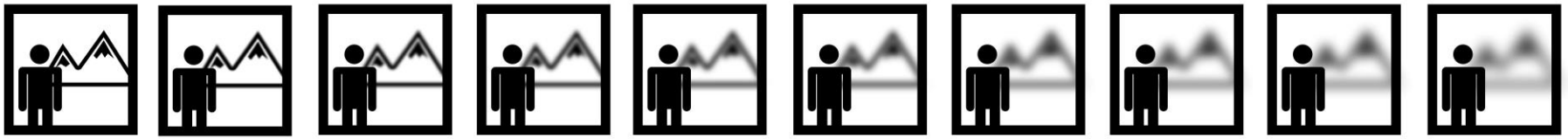
A **wider aperture** (e.g. f/2.8) makes the light tool appear **brighter** and more intense.

f/22
f/16
f/11
f/9
f/6.3
f/5.6
f/4
f/2.8

← MORE LIGHT NEEDED

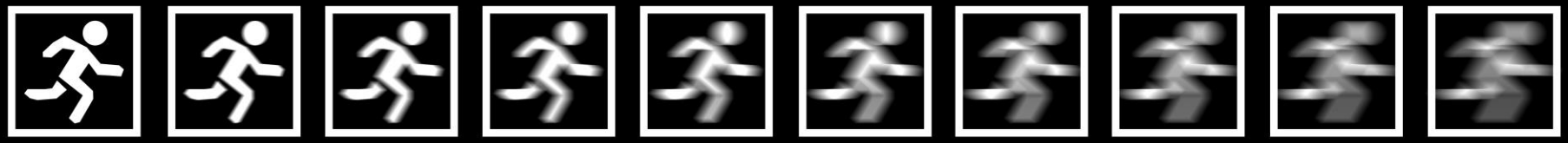
LESS LIGHT NEEDED →

APERTURE



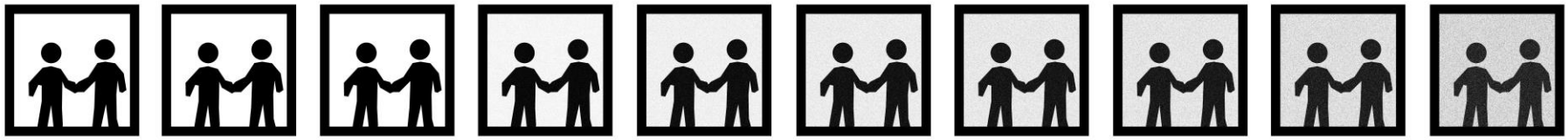
F32 F22 F16 F11 F8 F5.6 F4 F2.8 F2 F1.4

SHUTTER SPEED



1/1000 1/500 1/250 1/125 1/60 1/30 1/15 1/8 1/4 1/2

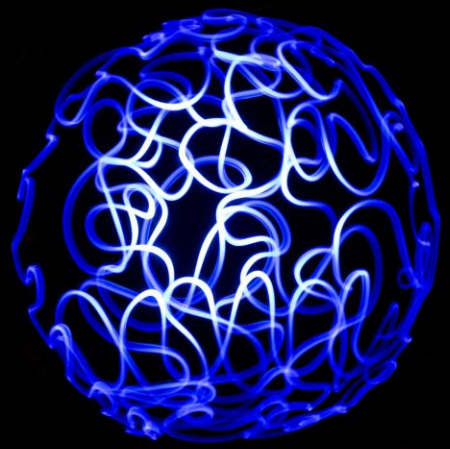
ISO

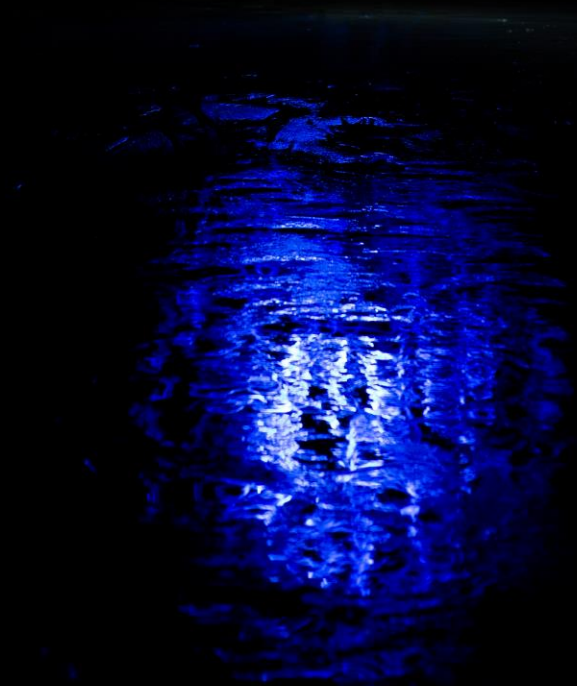


ISO 50 ISO 100 ISO 200 ISO 400 ISO 800 ISO 1600 ISO 3200 ISO 6400 ISO 12800 ISO 25600

Tools

- LED torch
- cellophane
- sparklers
- glow sticks
- Christmas lights
- fine steel wool
- light sabre
- Ball of Light orb tool





F4.5
60 seconds
ISO 100

F3.5
90 seconds
ISO 200

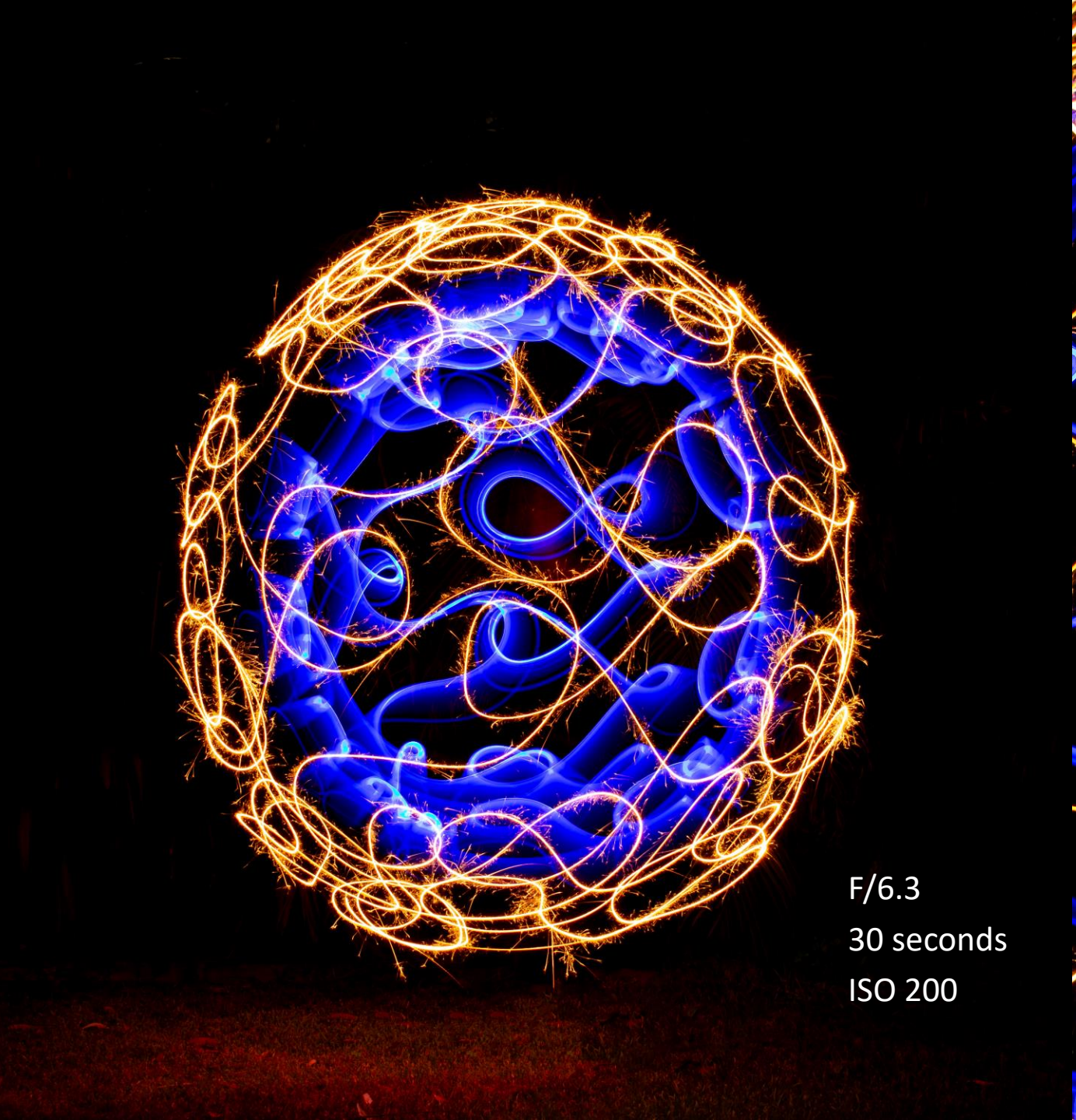
Same image as the previous one, cropped to remove the untidy top of the orb.

Super Blue Moon (11pm) | F5.6 | 5.5 minutes (90 seconds/orb) | ISO 100

F3.2
150 seconds
ISO 200

F5.6
90 seconds
ISO 400

F5
70 seconds
ISO 400



F/6.3

30 seconds

ISO 200

F5.6
60 seconds
ISO 200

F7.1
8 seconds
ISO 100

Denis Smith

Eric Paré

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/O2qtQF9AFqg

DARIUSTWIN

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7yBssrg1ps

Light painting tools and easy images to create

These will be covered in the workshop on October 18.

MAGIC
F3.5
27 seconds
ISO 100

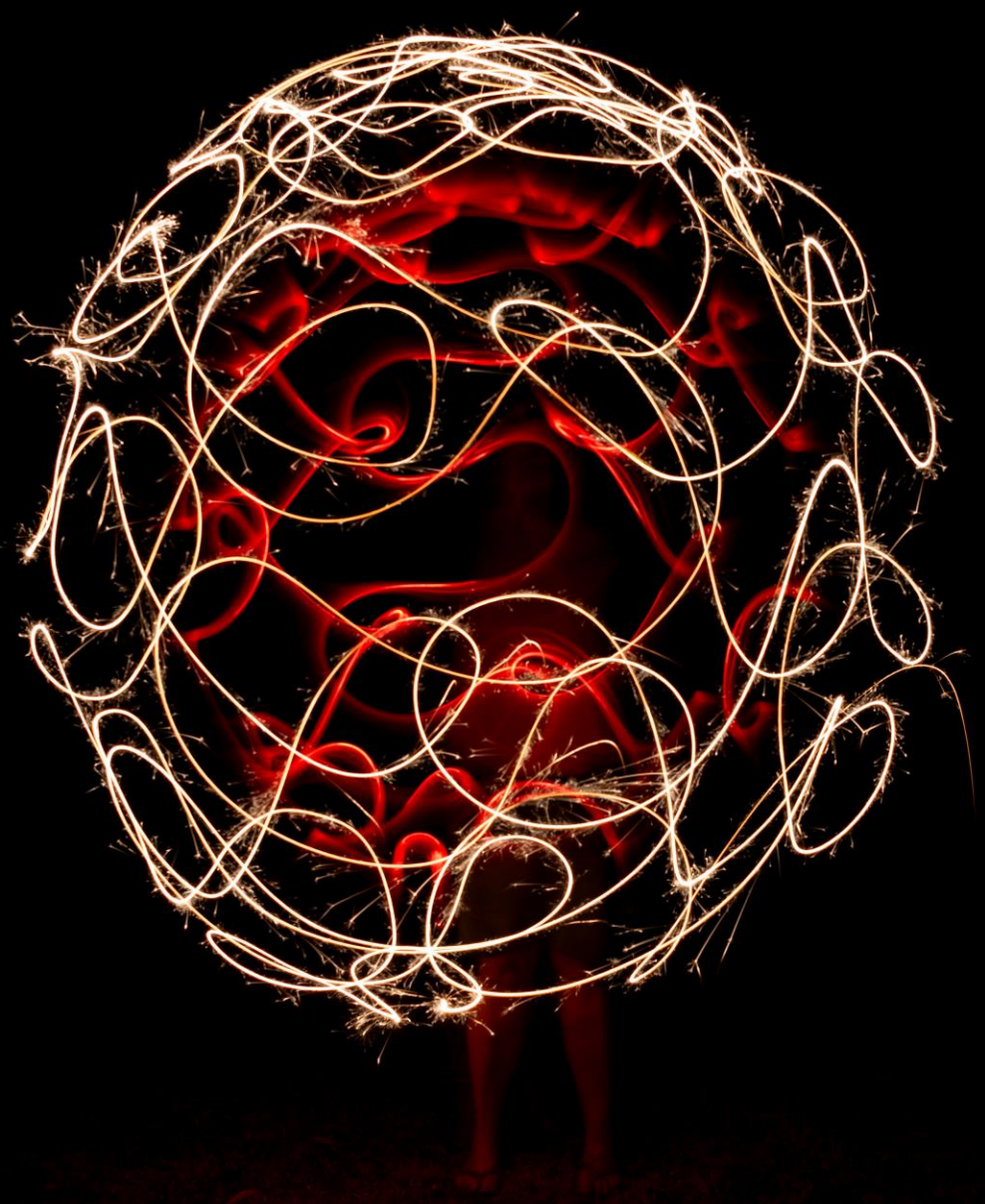
F18

45 seconds

ISO 100

F4
10 seconds
ISO 100

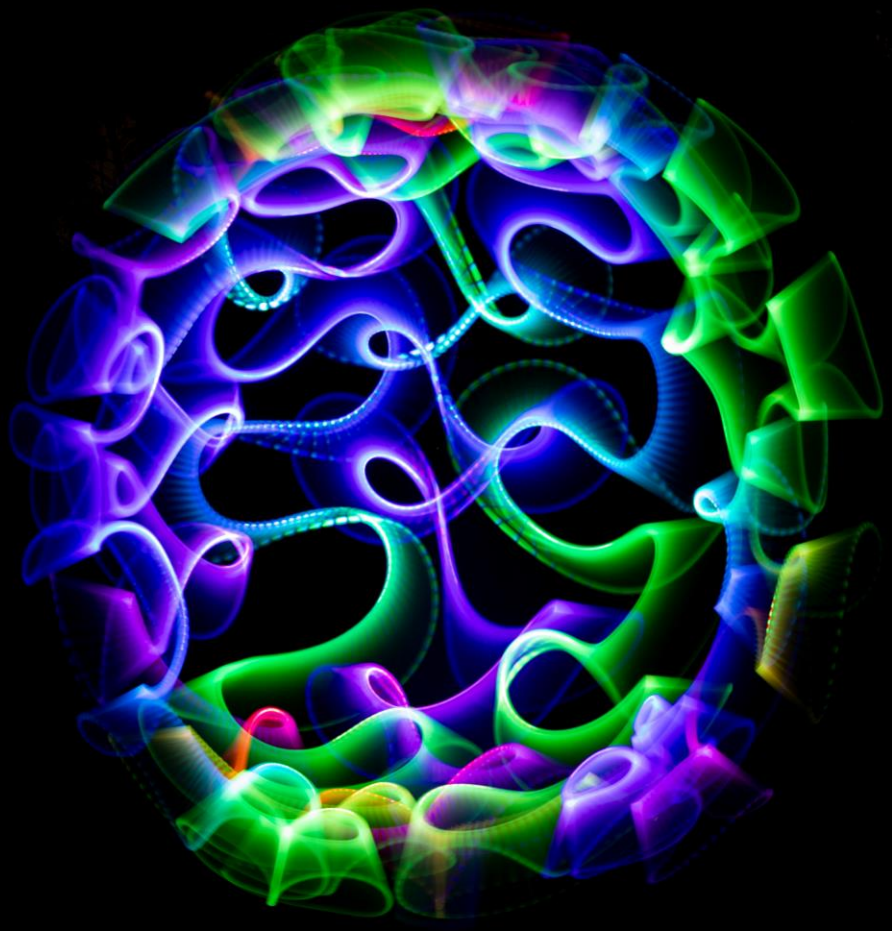
F4
25 seconds
ISO 100



F4

16 seconds

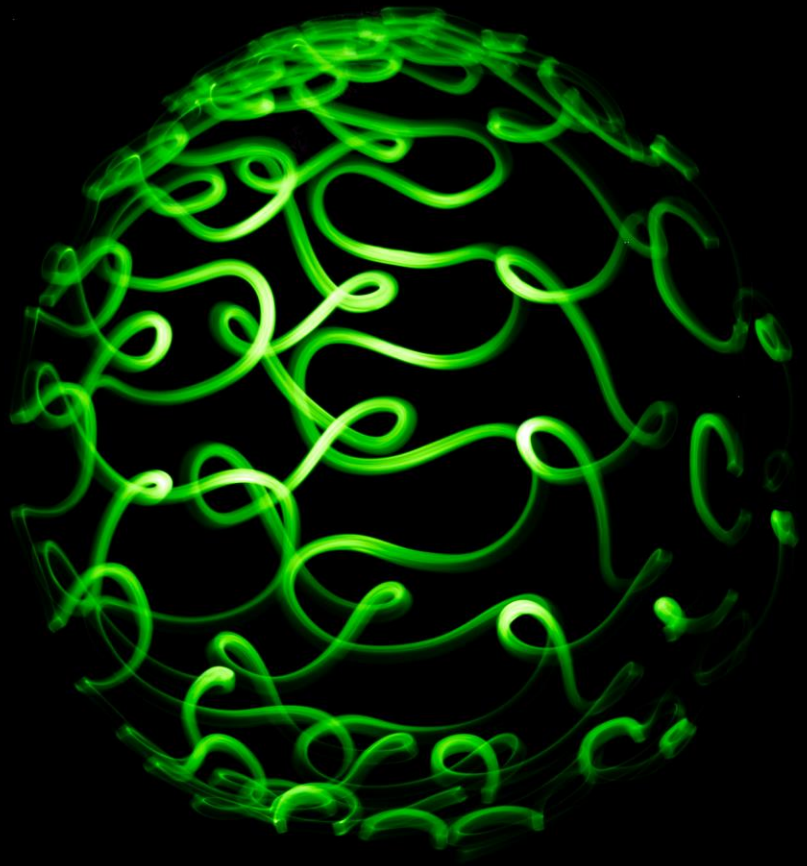
ISO 100



F4

30 seconds

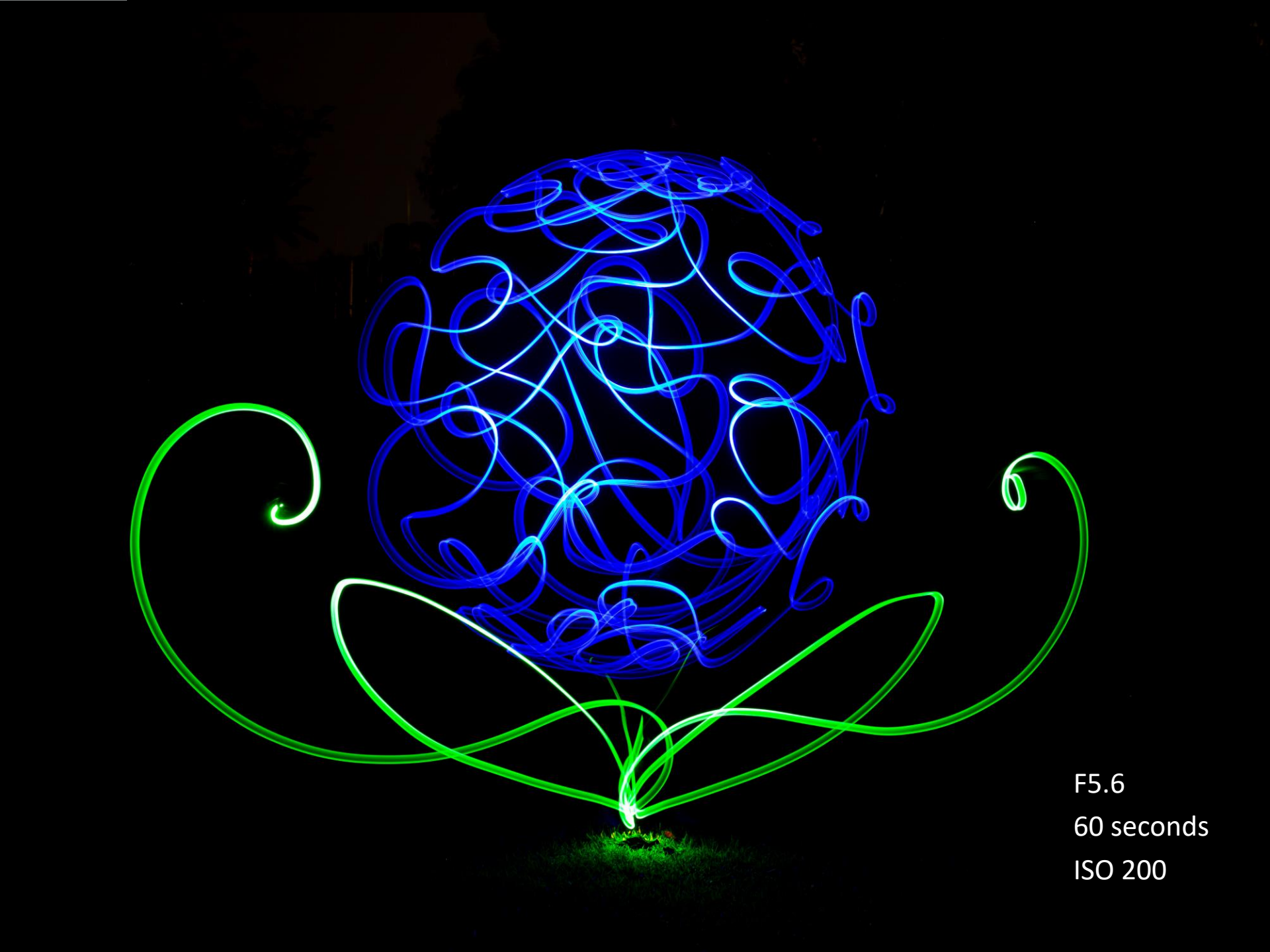
ISO 100



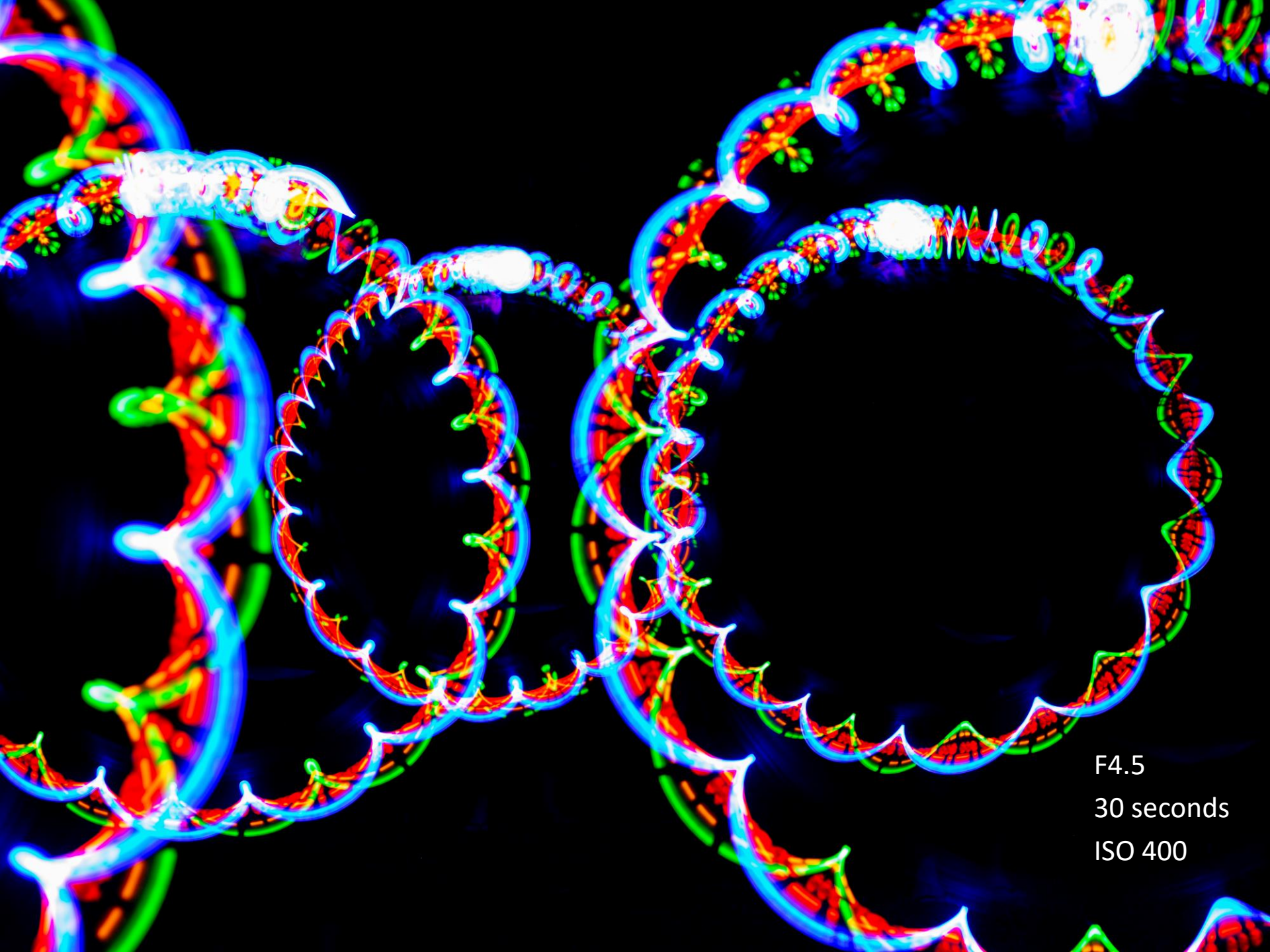
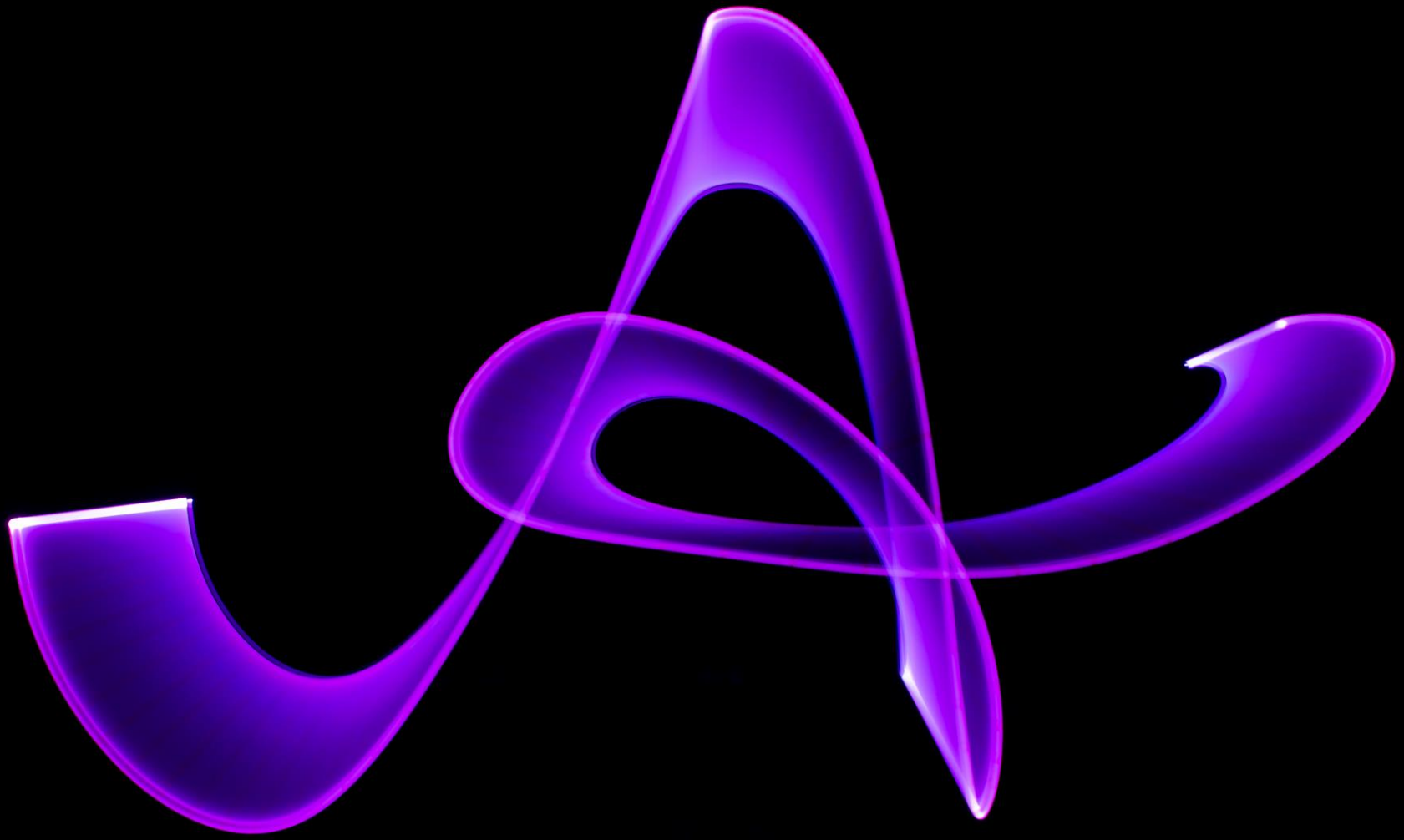
F4

40 seconds

ISO 100


F5.6
60 seconds
ISO 200

F5.6
30 seconds
ISO 200


F4.5
30 seconds
ISO 400

F7.1
4 seconds
ISO 200