PHOTOGRAPHY · MANUAL MODE

My go-to camera settings

for every kind of shot

f/2.8 or faster lens
With an f/4 lens

01 Action

Aperture	Shutter	ISO
f/4	1/1000	400

Same at f/4

A fast shutter stops sports, kids, pets and any quick movement.

02 Street / City

Aperture	Shutter	ISO
f/5.6	1/250	400

Same at f/4

Keeps the whole street in focus while freezing passers-by.

03 Fireworks

Aperture	Shutter	ISO
f/11	4 s	100

Same at f/4

Use a tripod; a long exposure captures each burst's complete trail.

04 Golden hour

Aperture	Shutter	ISO
f/5.6	1/300	100

Same at f/4

Lowest ISO for minimal noise; f/5.6 renders the sun and its reflection crisply.

05 Indoor

Aperture	Shutter	ISO
f/2.8	1/60	800

f/4 · 1/60 · ISO 1600

Widest aperture and a higher ISO; below 1/60, handheld shots start to blur.

06 Landscape

Aperture	Shutter	ISO
f/11	1/125	100

Same at f/4

f/11 holds detail from the nearest rocks to the far horizon.

07 Macro

Aperture	Shutter	ISO
f/2.8	1/80	1000

f/4 · 1/80 · ISO 2000

Wide open to blur the background; a higher ISO avoids handheld shake.

08 Night cityscape

Aperture	Shutter	ISO
f/2.8	1/30	3200

f/4 · 1/30 · ISO 6400

Handheld: widest aperture and high ISO. With a tripod: low ISO and a longer exposure.

09 Portrait

Aperture	Shutter	ISO
f/1.8	1/200	100

f/4 · 1/200 · ISO 500

A wide aperture softens the background; focus on the eyes. At f/4, move your subject away from the background.

Night sports under floodlights

For every stop of aperture you lose, double the ISO.

f/2.8 · 1/1000 · ISO 6400

f/4 · 1/800 · ISO 10000

ND filter: for when there's too much light

It takes light away: never at night

Water and clouds
ND64 – ND1000
Several seconds in daylight: silky water.

Daytime panning
ND4 – ND8
1/30–1/60 in sun: streaked background.

Daytime video
Variable ND
Shutter at 1/50–1/60: natural motion.

Portrait in sun
ND4 – ND8
Shoot wide open without overexposing.