

Astrophotography From The Inner City

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Step-by-step instructions for installing the Canon Hackers Development Kit

1. Before purchasing a camera, make sure that it is supported by the CHDK. A list of supported cameras is available at <http://chdk.wikia.com/>
2. Install Card Tricks (for Windows PC) or SDMinst (for Macintosh) on your computer. Card tricks can be downloaded at <http://chdk.wikia.com/wiki/CardTricks>
SDMinst can be downloaded at <http://www.zenoshrdlu.com/clickpansdm/sdminst.html>
3. Install the Automatic Camera Identifier and Downloader (ACID) on your computer (for both Windows and Macintosh). ACID can be downloaded at <http://www.zenoshrdlu.com/acid/acid.html>
4. Determine the firmware version of your camera by opening a picture taken with the camera in ACID.
5. Download the autobuild required for your camera model and firmware version from <http://mighty-hoernsche.de/>.
6. Mount the SD card on your computer. Use either the computer's SD card slot or an external SD card reader.
7. Install the autobuild on the SD card using Card Tricks or SDMinst. Instructions can be found on the Card Tricks and SDMinst download sites (see step 2.)
8. Copy a uBASIC or Lua script for astrophotography into the \CHDK\SCRIPTS folder on the SD card. A ready-to-use script is available at <http://gnet.homelinux.com/files/meteor.bas>
9. Remove the SD card from the SD card slot or external SD card reader and slide the SD card switch to the "LOCK" position. In this position the camera will boot in CHDK mode when you turn it on.
10. Insert the SD card into the camera and turn it on.
11. Enter <ALT> mode by pressing a button on the back of the camera. Different camera models use different buttons for this. For example, the Canon A480 uses the MODE button. You can either try different buttons until you find the right one for your camera, or find the information for your camera model at <http://chdk.wikia.com/>.
12. Load the uBASIC or Lua script you copied to into \CHDK\SCRIPTS folder on the SD card MENU button by selecting "Load Script from File ..."
13. Select the time interval between shots from the menu on the back of your camera.
14. Press the shutter button to execute the script and start taking pictures.