CREATE A FIREWORKS FINALE – I used Photoshop CS2 but any version will work.
(This tutorial assumes that you know basic navigation in Photoshop).

| BEFORE | AFTER |

1. Take a few shots of your overall scene. In my case, there was a lot of light in the little town of Cayucos on the 4th of July so since I shot it in RAW, I was able to use "Shadow/Highlights" to bring out the detail in the buildings. If you can get a few bursts in the image, that's a bonus.

2. Now start accumulating your fireworks bursts. They could be singles or multiples. For best results with this tutorial, you want to capture the bursts against a **VERY** dark sky.

3. Open the images in Photoshop and decide which image to use as your background and which bursts you want to use. Whether RAW or Jpeg, you'll want to adjust the color and contrast next. (If the sky around your bursts is not really dark, use Levels or Curves to make them darker).

4. When done with corrections, make a selection around a burst and drag it into your main image. Lower the opacity of the burst so you can see through to your background. This makes it easier to position the burst. Use "Free Transform" to size or rotate if desired. Return opacity to 100%.

   Now the magic part! Look at the top of the Layers Palette for the box that says "Normal". Click on the down arrow to the right. From the dropdown menu, click on "Screen". **VOILA!** The darkest areas should disappear leaving only the burst. Pretty cool, huh?!

5. You might notice that the added burst includes some areas that you don't want. Ideally, you should use a layer mask to clean it up but if you're not comfortable with masks, you can use the Eraser tool to clean it up. Increase your view to 100% or higher so you can do a good job of cleaning up.

6. That's all there is to it! Repeat steps 4 and 5 with as many bursts as you like.