

Neat Video quick start guide

1. Installing the plug-in

In most cases, the Neat Video plug-in is installed automatically to After Effects. If the plug-in is not automatically installed, you can install it manually using the guidelines below.

To manually install Neat Video plug-in into After Effects

- ➔ Copy the *NeatVideo.aex* file from the Neat Video installation folder (typically, *C:\Program Files\Neat Video*) into the *\Support Files\Plug-ins* subfolder inside the After Effects folder. Typically, the *NeatVideo.aex* file should be copied to:
C:\Program Files\Adobe\Adobe After Effects x.x\Support Files\Plug-ins
Then re-start After Effects and find Neat Video | Reduce noise... in the After Effect's Filter menu.

2. Running Neat Video on a sample video clip

There is a test-kit prepared to help you start using Neat Video. You can download the test-kit from the Neat Video web page: <http://www.neatvideo.com/files/testkit.zip> (2 MB). Having downloaded, unzip it to a new folder on the hard disk.

The test-kit contains a sample video clip: the *SampleClip.mpg* file. This clip is a part of typical video sequence captured by a digital camcorder. Detailed information about the sample clip is available in the *SampleClipInfo.txt* file.

Please start After Effects and go through the stages below to see how Neat Video can improve the clip:

2.1. Stage I. Add the clip to the project

1. Create a new composition in the default empty project

- ➔ Use the Composition | New Composition... menu item in After Effects. Adjust the frame size to be 640x480 pixels and frame rate of 30 fps (default).

The Timeline and composition preview windows will open after that.

2. Add the sample clip file to the project

- ➔ Use the File | Import | File... menu in After Effects to import the *SampleClip.mpg* file into the project.

3. Add the sample clip to the composition

- ➔ Select the sample clip in the Project window and drag-n-drop the clip into the composition.

You will see that there is strong noise in the sample clip (see the composition preview window). The task of Neat Video is to reduce this noise.

2.2. Stage II. Add Neat Video effect to the composition

- ➔ 1. Select the layer with the sample clip in the Timeline window;
2. Use the Effect | Neat Video | Reduce Noise... menu item to add the Neat Video effect to the layer;

This will add the Neat Video effect to the list of effects in the Timeline and Effects Controls windows.

2.3. Stage III. Configure Neat Video


1. Open Neat Video plug-in window

- ➔ Open the Neat Video plug-in window using the effect's Options link in the Timeline or Effect Controls window (to the right of Reduce Noise effect name);

Neat Video filter window will appear and will show the currently selected frame from the clip.



2. Open noise profile

To reduce noise in this frame and in the whole clip, Neat Video generally needs a noise profile describing the noise properties of the video sequence. We have prepared such a noise profile in advance. The profile is supplied with the test-kit in the *SampleProfile.dnp* file. Using the noise profile, Neat Video can efficiently reduce the noise in the video sequence.

- ➔ 1. Click  (blue disk) in the Device Noise Profile box on the right panel;
- 2. In the Open device noise profile dialog, navigate to the folder where the sample device noise profile has been unzipped and double click on the *SampleProfile.dnp* file.

The sample noise profile is now open and Neat Video is almost ready to filter the sample clip. Usually, you would adjust the filter settings at this stage. To make things easier for the first run of Neat Video, we have prepared a sample preset file that stores 'good' filter settings suitable for the sample clip.

3. Load filter preset

- ➔ 1. Switch to the Noise Filter Settings tab: 
- 2. Click  (pink disk) in the Filter Preset box on the right panel;
- 3. In the Open filter preset dialog, navigate to the folder where the sample filter preset has been unzipped and double click on the *SamplePreset.nfp* file.

Now the sample filter preset is open and the filter settings are adjusted to process the sample clip.

4. Apply the settings

- ➔ Click  on the toolbar.

The Neat Video plug-in window will be closed and the plug-in will automatically save the device noise profile and filter preset in the After Effects project your work with.

2.4. Stage IV. Render the composition

- ➔ Use the Composition | Preview | RAM Preview menu item.

This will automatically apply Neat Video noise reduction to the sample clip so that you could evaluate the filtration and adjust the filter settings if necessary. Please see that the noise in the resulting clip is significantly reduced while the true details are preserved. You can also find that the resulting noise-free clip can be compressed better (the file size is smaller) than the original noisy clip.

The sample noise profile and sample filter preset supplied with the test-kit are suitable only for the sample clip and similar clips produced by the same capturing device working in the same or similar mode. Neat Video can perform similar noise reduction on video clips captured or acquired by any other devices working in any mode. To be able to do that Neat Video needs device noise profiles that describe the noise characteristics of those devices. With Neat Video you can easily build these profiles yourself. The software can completely automatically build a profile once you give it a suitable frame from a clip.

Please see the complete user guide (available by pressing F1 in the software) for more details on filtration and profiling processes.