

Neat Video quick start guide

1. Installing the plug-in

To install the Neat Video plug-in into After Effects (Win)

1. Download the EXE installer that matches your version of After Effects from Neat Video website;
2. Double-click the downloaded EXE file to start the installer;
3. Follow the steps of the installer wizard to complete the installation process;
4. Start After Effects and find Neat Video | Reduce noise in the After Effects' Effect menu.

If Neat Video has **not** become available in After Effects after restart, please contact Neat Video support for assistance.

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 includes a sample video clip: the *SampleClip.mpg* file. This clip is a part of typical video clip 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 sample 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 Effect 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);

The Neat Video plug-in window will open and show the currently selected frame from the clip.

2. Load 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 clip. 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 clip.



- ➔ 1. In the Device Noise Profile tab:  Device Noise Profile
click  Load Profile (the Load Profile button);

2. In the Open Device Noise Profile dialog, navigate to the folder where the sample device noise profile has been unzipped and select the *SampleProfile.dnp* file.

Neat Video will load the noise profile and will then be ready to filter the sample clip.

Usually, you would adjust the filter settings at this point. To make things easier for the first run, 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:  Noise Filter Settings
and click  (the Load Filter Preset button) in the Filter Settings box;

2. In the Load Filter Preset dialog, navigate to the folder where the sample filter preset has been unzipped and select the *SamplePreset.nfp* file.

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

4. Apply the changes

- ➔ Click  in the bottom of the plug-in window.

The plug-in will close its main window and will save the changed device noise profile and filter preset in the After Effects project your work with. Keep the default values of the Temporal filter settings in the effect's settings panel for now.

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. You will 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 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.