

Neat Video quick start guide

1. Installing the plug-in

To install the Neat Video plug-in into Final Cut (Mac)

1. Close Final Cut;
2. Download (from the Neat Video website: <http://www.neatvideo.com/download.html>) one of the DMG packages that matches your version of Final Cut;
3. Click the downloaded file to mount the DMG volume;
4. In the mounted volume, double-click *NeatVideoFC.Intel.pkg* (or *NeatVideoFC.PowerPC.pkg*) to start the installer;
5. Follow the steps of the installer wizard to complete the installation process; (you may be prompted to enter the Name / Password of the OSX administrator account);
6. Start Final Cut and find in the Effects > Video Filters menu: Neat Video > Reduce noise.

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 Final Cut, create a new project 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. Adjust the settings of a new sequence in the project

- ➔ Use the Sequence > Settings... menu item in Final Cut to open the Sequence Settings dialog. Set the Aspect Ratio to **NTSC (4:3)** to make the Frame Size show **640x480** pixels. Set the Pixel Aspect Ratio to **Square**, the Field Dominance to **None**, and the Editing Timebase to **30** fps. Then press OK to apply the changes.

2. Add the sample clip file to the project

- ➔ Use the File > Import > Files... menu in Final Cut to import the *SampleClip.mpg* file into the project.

3. Add the sample clip to the sequence

- ➔ Select the sample clip in the project panel in the Browser window and drag-n-drop the clip into the sequence in the Timeline window.

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

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

- ➔ 1. Select the sample clip in the Timeline window;
2. Use the Effects > Video Filters > Neat Video > Reduce Noise... menu item to add the Neat Video effect to the clip;

3. Open the Filters panel in the Viewer window in Final Cut to see all filters added to the clip. You will see that Neat Video has been added to the list of filters in this clip.

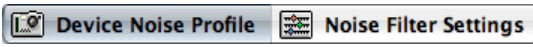
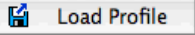
2.3. Stage III. Configure Neat Video

1. Open Neat Video plug-in window

- ➔ Open the Neat Video plug-in window using the Options... button in the Neat Video section in the Filters panel;
The Neat Video plug-in window will open and show the currently selected frame from the clip.

2. Load noise profile

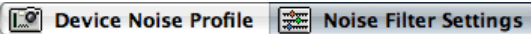
To reduce noise in this frame and in the whole clip, Neat Video generally needs a noise profile describing the noise properties of the video sequence. We have prepared such a noise profile in advance. The profile is supplied with the test-kit in the *SampleProfile.dnp* file. Using the noise profile,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

- ➔ 1. In the Device Noise Profile tab:  click  (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.

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:  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 settings

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

The plug-in window will be closed and the plug-in will automatically save the device noise profile and filter preset in the Final Cut project your work with.

2.4. Stage IV. Render the sequence

- ➔ Use the Sequence > Render Selection > Both menu item.

This will automatically apply Neat Video noise reduction to the whole sample clip so that you could evaluate the filtration and adjust the filter settings if necessary. You will see that the noise in the rendered 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 (provided you use the same video codec in both cases).

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. You can find more details in the user guide for this version of Neat Video.