

# Neat Video quick start guide

## 1. Installing the plug-in

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

1. Download the DMG package that matches your version of After Effects;
2. Double-click the downloaded file to mount the DMG volume;
3. In the mounted volume, double-click *NeatVideoAE.Intel.pkg* (or *NeatVideoAE.PowerPC.pkg*) to start the installer;
4. 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);
5. 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/files3/testkit.zip> (6 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 is a typical video clip captured by a digital video camera in high-gain mode. Technical information about the sample clip is available in the *SampleClipInfo.txt* file.

Please start After Effects and go through the stages below to make Neat Video clean 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.

Select the HDV 720p 25 preset or manually adjust the frame size to be 1280x720 pixels and frame rate to be 25 fps.

Click OK and 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 (in 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

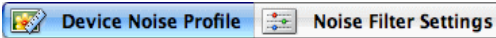
### 1. Open Neat Video plug-in window

- ➔ 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. Load it into plug-in:

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

2. In the Load 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.

### 3. Check intra-frame preview

- ➔ Switch to the Noise Filter Settings tab: 

You will notice that the intra-frame filter has already applied some filtration based on default filter settings and preview shows a clearly visible difference. However, this is not the final result yet.

### 4. Apply the changes

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

The plug-in will close its main window.

### 5. Adjust the temporal filter

- ➔ Adjust the Temporal filter radius setting from 1 to 5 in the effect's settings panel. This will apply stronger temporal filtration to the clip.

## 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 whole sample clip to help you evaluate the filtration results and adjust the filter settings if necessary. You will see that the noise in the resulting clip is significantly reduced while 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 supplied with the test-kit is suitable only for this clip and similar clips produced by the same capturing device working in the same or similar mode. Neat Video can apply similar noise reduction to 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. Using Neat Video's Auto Profile function, you can easily build these profiles yourself. Auto Profile can automatically build a profile once you give it a suitable frame from a clip.