

# Neat Video quick start guide

## 1. Installing the plug-in

### To install the Neat Video v4 plug-in for VirtualDub

1. Download the EXE installer of Neat Video that matches your version of VirtualDub;
  - if you already purchased the product and have a current license for the Home or Pro plug-in, please use the download instruction supplied with the license to download the corresponding plug-in from the download area specified in that instruction;
  - if you want to try Neat Video before purchase please download the installer of the Demo version from this page: <https://www.neatvideo.com/download>
2. Double-click the downloaded EXE file to start the installer;
3. Follow the steps of the installer wizard to complete the installation process.  
When you install Neat Video, Setup asks you to specify VirtualDub's `\plugins\` subfolder to install the plug-in there.
4. Start VirtualDub and find **Neat Video** in the list of filters: **Video** | **Filters...** | **Add...** | **Neat Video v4**.

In case the plug-in was not installed into the right folder, you still can manually install it into VirtualDub using the guidelines below.

### To manually install Neat Video plug-in into VirtualDub

- Copy the *NeatVideo4.vdf* file from the Neat Video installation folder (typically, `C:\Program Files\Neat Video for VirtualDub\`) into the `\plugins\` subfolder inside the VirtualDub folder. Typically, the *NeatVideo4.vdf* file should be copied to:  
`C:\Program Files\VirtualDub\plugins\`

If you install the 64-bit version of Neat Video, please make sure you specify the `\plugins\` folder (or `\plugins64\` in newer versions of VirtualDub) of the 64-bit version of VirtualDub.

For the 32-bit Neat Video specify the `\plugins\` folder (or `\plugins32\` in newer versions of VirtualDub) of the 32-bit version of VirtualDub.

Then start VirtualDub and find **Neat Video** in the list of filters: **Video** | **Filters...** | **Add...** | **Neat Video v4**.

If Neat Video has **not** become available in VirtualDub, 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 via this direct link: <https://www.neatvideo.com/project/resources/testkit.zip>.

Having downloaded, please unzip it to a new folder on the hard disk.

The test-kit includes a sample video clip: *SampleClip.mpg*. This is a typical video clip captured by a digital video camera in high-gain mode. Some technical information about the sample clip is available in the *SampleClipInfo.txt* file.

Please start VirtualDub and go through the steps below to clean the clip using Neat Video:

## 2.1. Open the sample clip

- Use the **File** | **Open video file...** menu in VirtualDub to open the *SampleClip.mpg* file.

VirtualDub will open the sample clip and you will then see that there is strong noise in it. The task of Neat Video is to reduce this noise.

## 2.2. Add Neat Video filter

- 1. Use the **Video** | **Filters...** menu item to open the list of used filters;
- 2. Click the **Add...** button to open the list of available filters;
- 3. Select the **Neat Video v4** filter in the list and click the **OK** button.

VirtualDub will add the Neat Video filter and will open the frame selection window shown below.

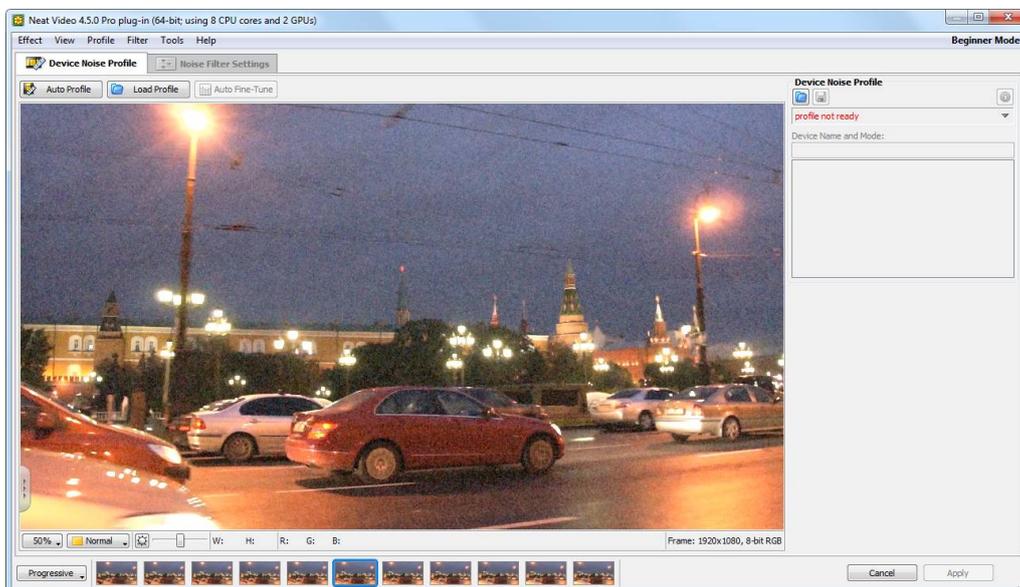
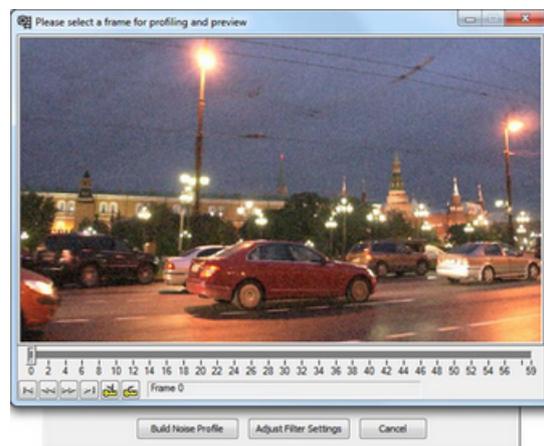
## 2.3. Configure Neat Video

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

- Click the **Build Noise Profile** button to open the main **Neat Video plug-in** window.

(If you run the Demo plug-in, click **OK** in the popup splash screen of the plug-in to proceed further.)

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



- Select **Progressive** in the popup dialog (if Neat Video asks to specify the scan type) or in the lower left corner of the main **Neat Video plug-in** window.

### 2. Build a noise profile for the clip

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. You can prepare such a profile using the **Auto Profile** function:

- In the **Device Noise Profile** tab  **Device Noise Profile** click  **Auto Profile**

The **Auto Profile** function will find and select an area for main analysis. Neat Video will then automatically analyze the noise in that area to build a new noise profile.

Neat Video is then ready to filter the sample clip.

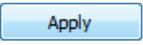
### 3. Check preview

- Switch to the **Noise Filter Settings** tab  **Noise Filter Settings**

You will notice that Neat Video has already applied noise reduction based on the default filter settings and the preview shows a clearly visible difference: there is less noise than in the original frame.

You can try to adjust the filter settings and see how that affects the results. For example, try to adjust the **Temporal Filter > Radius** setting (in the **Temporal** tab in the **Filter Settings** box in the right part of the window) from 2 to 1 or to a higher value. This will apply weaker or stronger temporal noise reduction to the frame.

### 4. Apply the changes

- Click  **Apply** in the bottom of the plug-in window.

Neat Video will save the current settings and close its main window.

(If you run the Demo plug-in, it will also describe the limitations of the Demo version at this point.)

## 2.4. Render the clip

- Use the **File | Save as AVI...** menu item in VirtualDub and proceed to render the clip.

This will automatically apply Neat Video noise reduction to the sample clip and save the result to a new video file on the hard drive. You will then be able to open this new file, 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 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 (this depends on VirtualDub's compression settings).