

Neat Video quick start guide

1. Installing the plug-in

To install the Neat Video v4 plug-in for After Effects (Mac)

1. Make sure you have started After Effects at least once before installing the plug-in. If you have not done it yet, start After Effects and select **Quit** from After Effects' menu;
2. Close After Effects;
3. Download the DMG install package that matches your version of After Effects;
 - 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>
4. Double-click the downloaded file to mount the DMG volume;
5. In the mounted volume, double-click *NeatVideoAE.Intel.pkg* to start the installer;
6. 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);
7. Start After Effects and find **Neat Video | Reduce Noise v4** in the After Effects' **Effect** menu.

If Neat Video has **not** become available in After Effects, 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 After Effects and go through the steps below to clean the clip using Neat Video:

2.1. 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 "HDTV 1080 25" preset or manually adjust the frame size to 1920x1080 pixels and frame rate – to 25 frames per second.

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

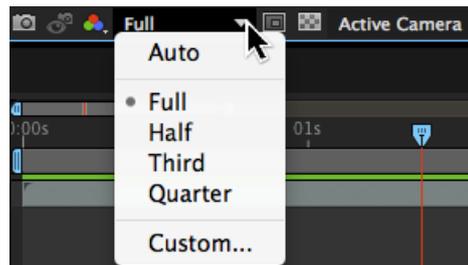
- Select the sample clip in the **Project** window and drag-n-drop the clip into the composition.

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.

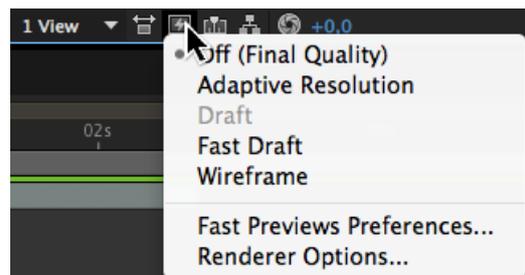
2.2. Add Neat Video effect to the composition

- 1. Select the layer with the sample clip in the **Timeline** window;
- 2. Use the **Effect | Neat Video | Reduce Noise v4** menu item to add Neat Video to the layer; This will add the **Reduce Noise v4** effect to effects in the **Timeline** and **Effect Controls** windows.

- Make sure After Effects' preview is set to work in full resolution: select **Full** in the “**Resolution/Down Sample Factor**” popup under preview in After Effects.



- Disable **Fast Previews** using the corresponding control under preview in After Effects: set that control to the **Off (Final Quality)** mode.



2.3. Configure Neat Video

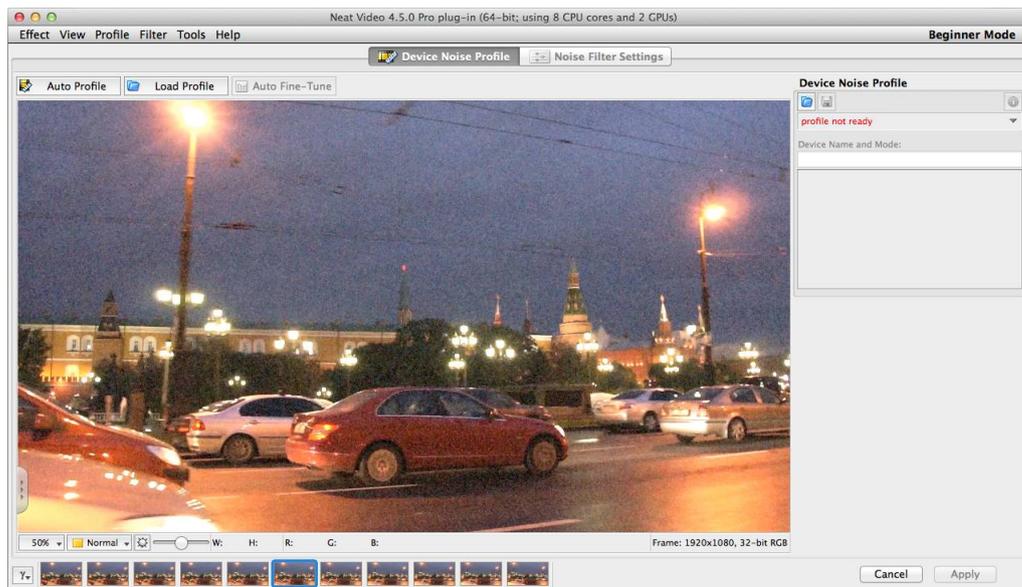
1. Open Neat Video plug-in window

- In the composition in the **Timeline** window, use the **Current Time Indicator** to select a frame with large flat featureless areas; the selected frame will be used for noise analysis in the next stages.

- Use the effect's **Options...** link (to the right of the **Reduce Noise v4** effect name) in AE's **Effect Controls** window, or use the **Prepare...** button (available in latest versions of After Effects).

(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 open and display the current frame from the clip.



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  click 

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 

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  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 composition

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

After Effects will then 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 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 After Effects' compression settings).