

# Neat Video quick start guide

## 1. Installing the plug-in

### To install the Neat Video v4 plug-in for Final Cut (Mac)

1. Make sure you have started Final Cut at least once before installing the plug-in. If you have not done it yet, start Final Cut and select **Quit** from Final Cut's menu;
2. Close Final Cut;
3. Download the DMG install package that matches your version of Final Cut;
  - 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 *NeatVideoFC.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 Final Cut and find the plug-in:
  - FCP 7/6: in the **Effects > Video Filters > Neat Video > Reduce Noise v4...**
  - FCP X: in the panel **Effects > Neat Video > Reduce Noise v4**
  - Motion: in the panel **Library > Filters > Neat Video > Reduce Noise v4**.

If Neat Video has **not** become available in Final Cut, 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> (MPEG1 readable by FCP 7/6) or via <https://www.neatvideo.com/project/resources/testkit-mp4.zip> (MPEG4; readable by FCP X).

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

The test-kit includes a sample video clip: *SampleClip.mpg (SampleClip.mp4)*. 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 Final Cut, create a new project and go through the stages below to clean the clip:

### 2.1. Add the sample clip to the project

#### 1. Adjust the settings of a new sequence in the project (FCP 7/6) or of a new project (FCP X)

- In FCP 7/6: Use the **Sequence > Settings...** menu item to open the **Sequence Settings** dialog. Select the HDV/HDTV 1080p 25 preset or manually set: **Frame Size: 1080p25** pixels; **Editing Timebase: 25 fps**; **Pixel Aspect Ratio: Square**; **Field Dominance: None**. Then press **OK** to apply.
- In FCP X: In the **Browser** window select target project and then in the **Inspector** window on the **Info** tab press **Modify Settings** button to open **Project Settings** dialog. Select **Format: 1080p**; **Resolution: 1920x1080** pixels; **Rate: 25p**. Then press **OK** to apply.

## 2. Add the sample clip file to the project / event

- In FCP 7/6: Use the **File > Import > Files...** menu in Final Cut to import the *SampleClip.mpg* file into the project.
- In FCP X: Use the **File > Import > Media...** menu in Final Cut Pro X to import *SampleClip.mp4* file into the target event.

## 3. Add the sample clip to the sequence / timeline

- In FCP 7/6: 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.
- In FCP X: Select the sample clip in the target event in the **Browser** window and drag-n-drop the clip into the **Timeline** of the target project.

You will then 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. Add Neat Video effect

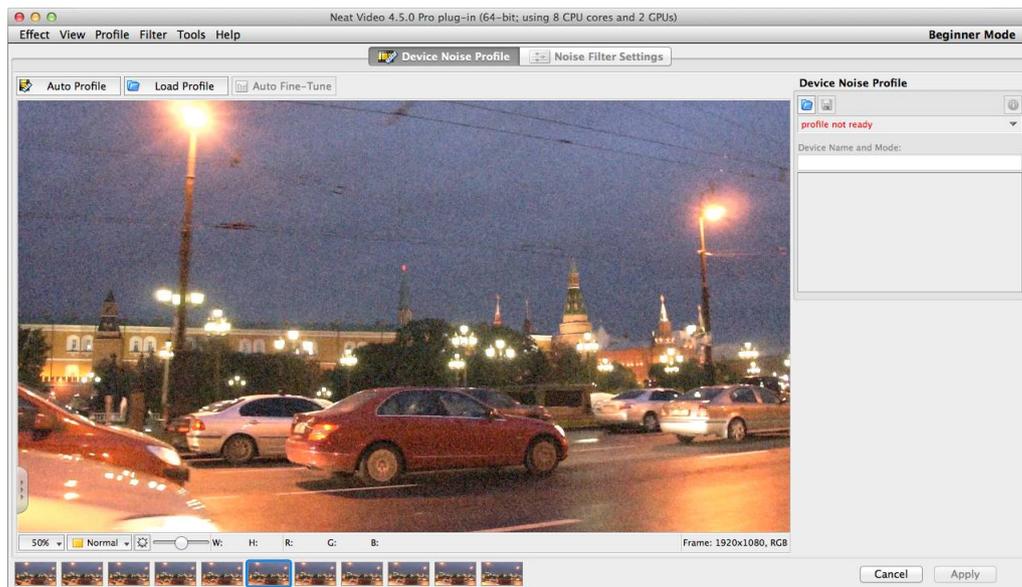
- 1. Select the sample clip in the **Timeline** window (double-click the clip there);
- 2. In FCP 7/6: use the **Effects > Video Filters > Neat Video > Reduce Noise v4...** menu item in FCP X: use the panel **Effects > Neat Video > Reduce Noise v4** to add the Neat Video effect to the clip;
- 3. Open the **Filters** panel in the **Viewer** window in Final Cut (in FCP X: go to **Inspector > Video > Effects**) to see all filters added to the clip. You will see that **Reduce Noise v4** has been added there.

## 2.3. Configure Neat Video

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

- In the clip in the **Timeline** window, select a frame with large flat featureless areas; the selected frame will be used for noise analysis in the next stages.
- Open the **Neat Video plug-in** window using the **Options...** button in the **Reduce Noise v4** section in the **Filters** or **Effects** panel (in FCP X: use the **Options window** popup menu);  
(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 clip

- ▶ Use Final Cut controls to render the clip (for example, in FCP 7/6 the menu **Sequence > Render Selection > Both** or in FCP X the menu **Modify > Render All**).

Final Cut 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 Final Cut's compression settings).