Neat Video quick start guide

1. Installing the plug-in

To install the Neat Video v4 plug-in for OpenFX-compatible hosts (Win)

1. Make sure you have started OpenFX host at least once before installing the plug-in. If you have not done it yet, start OpenFX host and exit it;
2. Close OpenFX host;
3. Download the EXE installer of Neat Video:
   - if you already purchased the product and have a current license for the 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 EXE file to start the installer;
5. Follow the steps of the installer wizard to complete the installation process.

   The installer will automatically make the plug-in available to all OpenFX-compatible hosts (Win).
6. Start the host application and check whether Neat Video (**Reduce Noise v4**) is available in the list of video effects / filters.

If that menu item has **not** become available in OpenFX host, 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)
or via: https://www.neatvideo.com/project/resources/testkit-mp4.zip (MPEG4).

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 the host application and go through the steps below to clean the clip using Neat Video:

2.1. Create a new project with sample clip

1. Create a new project

➨ Use the host tools to set up a HDV 1080p25 project and/or sequence with the following parameters (when the corresponding settings are adjustable):

- Frame size: 1920x1080 pixels
- Frame rate: 25 fps
- Field order: Progressive scan
- Pixel aspect ratio: 1.0 (square pixels)

2. Add the sample clip file to the project

➨ Use the host tools to import the sample clip and insert it into the time axis.

3. Check the sample clip in preview

- Use the host preview window to check how the clip looks like.

You will see that there is some noise in the clip. The task of Neat Video is to reduce this noise.

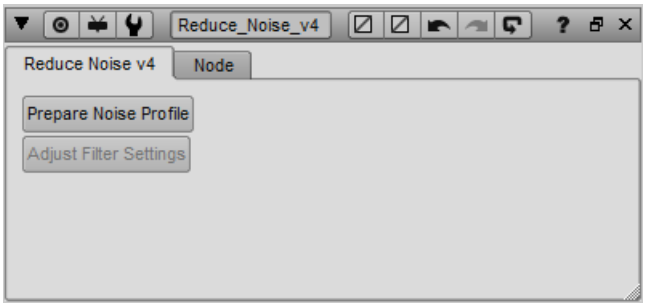
2.2. Add Neat Video to the clip

- Use the host tools to add the **Neat Video** (**Reduce Noise v4**) effect to the sample clip in the time axis.

2.3. Configure Neat Video

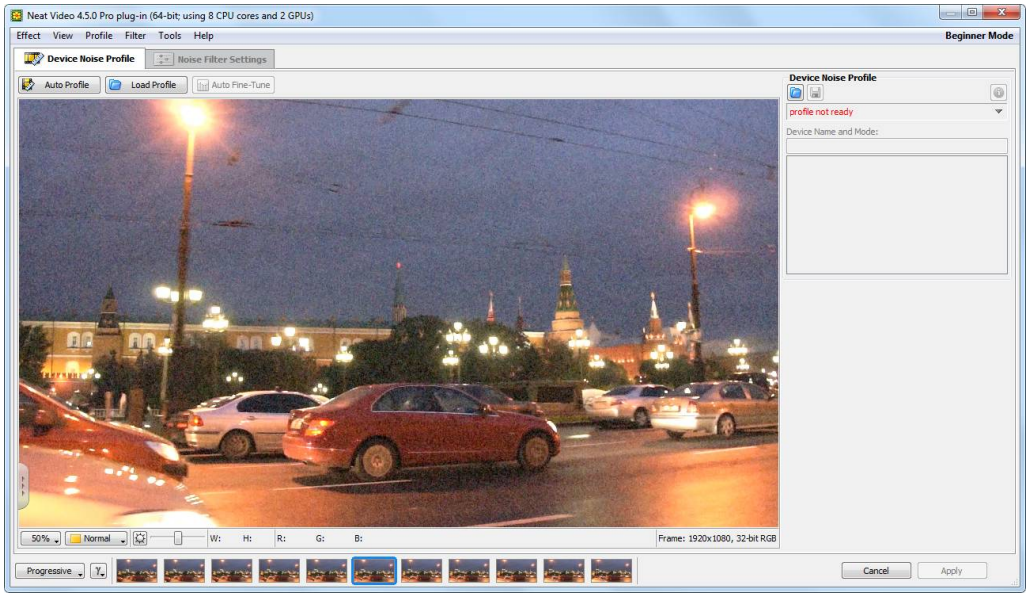
1. Open Neat Video plug-in window

- Use the host's time axis controls to 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 **Prepare Noise Profile** button in the effect's settings panel.



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

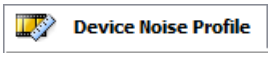
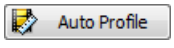
The **Neat Video plug-in** window will open and display the current frame from the clip.



- At this point Neat Video may ask to specify the scan type of the clip. Please select **Progressive**.

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 the tools of the host application to render the clip.

OpenFX host 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 OpenFX host's compression settings).