

# Neat Video quick start guide

## 1. Installing the plug-in

### To install the Neat Video v4 plug-in for Pinnacle Studio

1. Make sure you have started Pinnacle at least once before installing the plug-in. If you have not done it yet, start Pinnacle and exit it;
2. Close Pinnacle;
3. Download the EXE installer of Neat Video ;
  - 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 EXE file to start the installer;
5. Follow the steps of the installer wizard to complete the installation process.  
Make sure the installer finds the location of your version of Pinnacle in the **Additional tasks** step of the installation process. If necessary, manually specify the location of Pinnacle's **Plug-ins** folder there. For example, the location of that folder in Pinnacle Studio v20 is:  
`C:\Program Files\Pinnacle\Studio 20\plugins\RTFXV2\NeatVideo\`
6. Start Pinnacle and find **Reduce Noise v4** in the Pinnacle's **Effects** tab.

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

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

#### 1. Configure a new project in Pinnacle

- Create a new movie in Pinnacle.  
Pinnacle will then display the new project with the **Timeline**, **Preview** and other windows.

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

- Navigate to the **Media** tab, Right-click and select **Quick import...** to import the *SampleClip.mpg* file into the project.

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

- Drag and drop the sample clip from the **Media** tab to the **Timeline**.  
You will see that there is strong noise in the sample clip (in the preview window). The task of Neat Video is to reduce this noise.

## 2.2. Add Neat Video

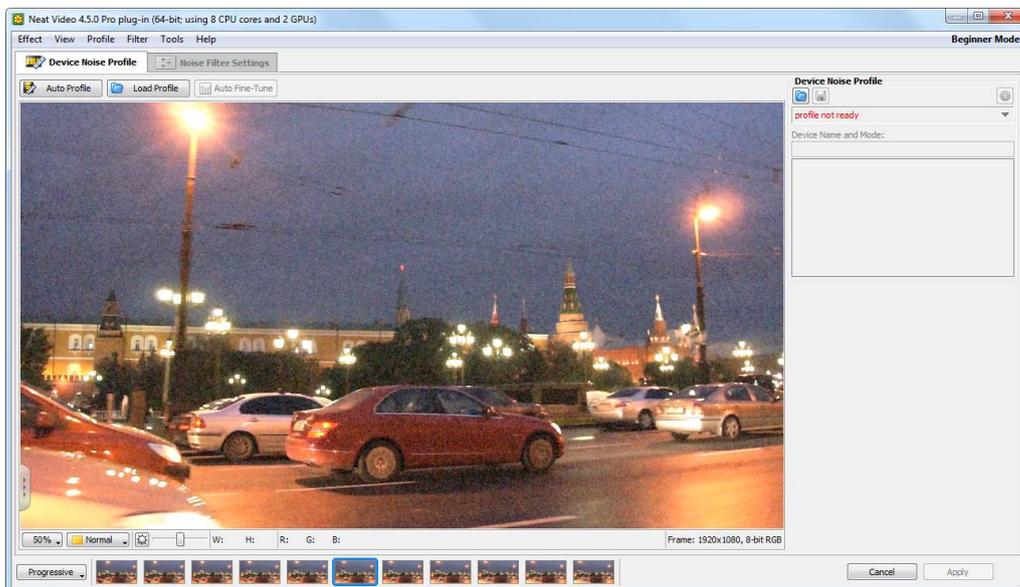
- 1. Navigate to the **Effects** tab, then find **NeatVideo > Reduce Noise v4**.
- 2. Drag and drop **Reduce Noise v4** from there to the clip in the timeline.  
Pinnacle will add the effect to the clip.

## 2.3. Configure Neat Video

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

- Use the timeline controls to select a frame with large flat featureless areas; the selected frame will be used for noise analysis in the next stages.
- 1. Double-click on the clip on the timeline to open the **Effects Editor** window;
- 2. Press **Plug-In: Open...** to open the **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.)

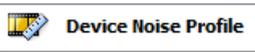
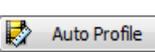
The **Neat Video plug-in** window will open and display the current frame from the clip.



- 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.

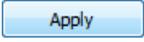
### 3. Check preview

- 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

- Press **OK** in the **Effects Editor** dialog to start background rendering of the effect. A progress bar will be displayed on the timeline above the clip.

Pinnacle 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 Pinnacle's compression settings).