KlangFormer: a Slate VMS alternative at half the cost?

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A combination of Sonimus' KlangFormer mic modeling software and a linear condenser mic, the Weissklang V13. · Source: sonimus.com

Microphone modelling simulations are a burgeoning new field in digital music technology. Slate's [VMS](#), a combination of software algorithms, a neutral-sounding hardware pre-amp, and condenser mic – which according to Slate has the flattest possible frequency response – had only a single competitor, the Townsend Labs [Sphere L22 MMS](#). Both solutions are in the higher price ranges, starting at $999 for the Slate VMS and a whopping $1499 for the latter. Yet technology prices tend to fall over time, and a new product brings mic modelling to a more reasonable $500. Enter the KlangFormer.

The Weissklang v13 is a bit of a Rode lookalike.

KlangFormer is a two-piece system resulting from a partnership between German mic maker WeissKlang and the software studio Sonimus, known for some convincing simulations of vintage British gear and the free SonEQ plug-in. It utilises almost the exact same principle as the Slate VMS – that is, there's a linear condenser microphone (the WeissKlang V13) and software (Sonimus KlangFormer) to do the modelling., This system, however, ditches the pre-amp. The latter is hardly a problem, for virtually all popular audio interfaces nowadays boast clean, neutral microphone pre-amps with plenty of gain. This makes them suitable for the purposes of mic modelling.

The Sonimus Klangformer software has 5 mic models to cover old tube microphones, modern transform mics, and ribbons. The plug-in is exceedingly simple to use – simply fire it up, choose a mic model (or disable modeling), and adjust the input/output setting. This is a great way to make the most of the WeissKlang V13's potential and have some fun exploring the sound of famous microphones from the past.

The KlangFormer software is an exclusive [from Sonimus](#) for owners of the aforementioned microphone. It's available in Audio Unit, VST 2.4, VST 3, and AAX formats for 32-bit and 64-bit systems. If you happen to own the WeissKlang V13, don't be shy, do tell us how the system fares in the comments below!