

QUICK START

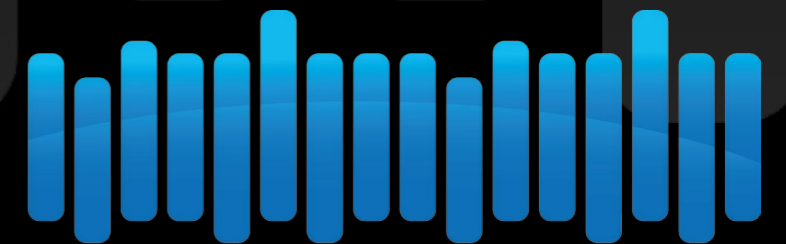
Install and Authorize your New Plugin:

- Double-click the .mpkg (Mac) or .exe (Win)
- Follow the installation instructions
- Open the plugin in your DAW of choice and click on the interface to activate.
- If your computer is connected to the internet, click the “I’m Online” button and enter your Plugin Alliance credentials on the following page.
- For offline activation instructions and additional information, please refer to the Activation Manual included in the installation folder of this plugin.
- You will also find the [online version of the manual](#) by visiting:

www.plugin-alliance.com

System Requirements and supported Platforms

For latest System requirements & Supported Platforms, please visit the [product page](#) at www.plugin-alliance.com to see the product specification on each product’s respective page.



PLUGIN ALLIANCE

Vertigo Sound VSM-3

Faithfully Modeled Emulation of the Classic VSM-2 Mix Satellite
Powerful Tone and Color Box - Gentle Saturation - Vivid Distortion



Thank you for using the Vertigo VSM-3 plugin, modeled faithfully by Brainworx after the VSM-2 a.k.a The Mix Satellite hardware by VERTIGO SOUND. The VSM-3 is a creative Mix and Mastering tool. The VSM-3 offers MS, blending and two sophisticated Coloration Generators.

You can “Crush or Blend” your master, “Search and Rescue” lost instruments or just enhance individual tracks like vocals, drums or whatever your creativity comes up with.

Differences between the hardware and the plugin version:

The insert sections of the VSM-2 hardware have been replaced by two new modules: namely, the “THD Mixer” and the “Monitoring” section. That’s why we decided to call the plugin emulation ‘VSM-3’. The new features are described in detail below.

The VSM-3 provides several tools for Recording, Mixing and Mastering

- Fast input and output metering plus various level LEDs
- MS De- and Encoding
- AFL Solo for M, S- and generator-Signals
- Two independent stereo coloration circuits
- Stereo and M or S Generation of pure 2nd and 3rd harmonics
- Coloration is independently switchable to M, S or LR
- Serial or parallel operation of generator units
- Crossfade between 2nd and 3rd harmonics

Developed under license by Brainworx GmbH Germany for Plugin Alliance LLC USA.



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The 2nd Harmonic *FET Crusher* and 3rd Harmonic *Zener Blender*

Tube sound is often subjectively described as having a “warmth” and “richness”. It may be due to the nonlinear clipping that occurs with tube amps, or due to the higher levels of 2nd order harmonic distortion. The VSM-3 “Fet Crusher” circuitry produces pure 2nd order harmonics emulating a Class A and triode tube stage. This versatile coloration, saturation or distortion circuitry is adaptable, easily.

The “Zener Blender” creates 3rd order harmonics but will also generate some higher-order odd harmonics depending on the amount of Drive. It is like driving a pentode into overload. The Zener circuitry makes things sound brighter, and brings out detail, adding a subtle compression or limiting effect.

[3] Drive

Sets the Input level or threshold to “What” and “How much” is going into the distortion stage. The Green / Red LED shows how much gain is used at the moment. If the LED is lighting red the distortion will produce a quite drastic effect to the music.

[4] Level

The “Level” pot is very important if you don’t work in Full or Track mode. With this level you can adjust a new level for the processed band similar to a multiband compressor. The left yellow LED shows the original level and the right LED the new level added.

[5] Input Filter

With the Input Filter you can define what frequency goes into the harmonic generator. The “Track” mode is designed to process individual instruments or to Limit the full frequency response. In this Mode the THD Mix control is switched off. The Shape control is filtering the output of the distortion only. No frequencies of the original unprocessed signal are filled in.

The Filter Modes

Low: 10 Hz to 120 Hz
Mid: 120 Hz to 1.5 kHz
HiMid: 800 Hz to 4 kHz

High: 4 kHz to 20 kHz
Full: 120 Hz to 20 kHz
Track: 10 Hz to 20 kHz

[6] Shape

Shape is a Low Pass filter that affects very high harmonic artifacts to prevent a harsh and gritty, or too “brilliant” result. The Filter cuts the Highs of the distortion band while filling in the unprocessed frequency content. In “Track” Filter Mode no original frequencies are filled in.

[7] THD Mix

This is a dry/wet control where you can mix between the unprocessed signal and the output of the harmonic generator.

[8] LR and M or S Selector

This toggle switch defines if either LR, M or S is sent to the harmonic generator. (You can e.g. generate harmonics only onto the High frequencies of the S part of your program material). Note: This switch is grayed out when the plugin is inserted on a mono track.

[9] Style

Here you can define the attitude and style of the harmonic generator; you can select a softer or harder characteristic. This is very similar to a hard or soft knee switch on a compressor. If you use a very high “Drive” (LED Red) both characteristics will sound more similar because processing occurs outside the knee.

[10] System In

With this switch the harmonic generator can be engaged or bypassed.

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Mixing and Monitoring Sections

[1] Input Level

Start with the Input Knob in the 12 o'clock position. You can use the Input pot to trim the stereo level for all following stages. The "Global System" Switch is a bypass for all stages of the VSM-3 processing chain.

[2] Global System

Switched 'Out', this disables all harmonic modules on the VSM-3.

[11] THD Mixer

In parallel mode the "THD Mixer" allows you to control the balance between the signals generated by the 2nd Harmonic Fet Crusher and the 3rd Harmonic Zener Blender. Turning the mix pot all the way to the left is equal to only having the 2nd Harmonic Fet Crusher engaged while turning it all the way to the right equals only having the 3rd Harmonic Zener Blender engaged. Turn it to the 12 o'clock position to obtain a 50% mix of both signals. The THD Mixer has no effect when the VSM-3 runs in serial mode.

[12] Parallel / Serial Switch

Set this switch to "Parallel" in order to make the two distortion units work in parallel. In this mode the blend between 2nd and 3rd harmonics can be controlled using the "THD Mixer" pot (see below). Switching to "Serial" mode overrides the mix pot setting and routes the signal to the 2nd Harmonic stage first followed by the 3rd Harmonic stage.

[13] MS Solo

The "MS Solo" switch allows you to monitor either the mid or the side signal of the MS encoded output of the plugin. This can be especially useful when evaluating the coloration added by a unit that's put into M or S processing using its respective M/LR/S switch. Note: This function is disabled in mono instances of the plugin.

[14] Distortion Solo

Use the "Distortion Solo" switch to monitor the generator signal being added to the dry input signal of each stage by either the 2nd Harmonic Fet Crusher or the 3rd Harmonic Zener Blender unit, or by both units.

[15] Output

The Output section allows you to compensate for a gain cut or boost caused by your selected settings. You will want to apply the same gain to the left and right output channel in most situations. That's why we added a link switch in the plugin version which can be toggled by clicking on the green LED between the two Output gain pots labeled "Link". Note: The link control is not accessible in mono instances of the plugin.

[16] Meter

A level of 0dBFS in the digital domain results in a readout of +22dB on any of the peak program meters in the plugin's user interface.

[17] Power

This switch deactivates the VSM-3

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Parameter Specifications

Input: continuous, -10 dB to +10 dB

Global System: discrete 2 step, On / Off

Drive: continuous: 0% to 100%

Level: continuous: 0% to 100%

Input Filter: discrete 6 step, Low / Mid / HiMid / High / Full / Track

Shape: continuous, 0% to 100%

THD Mix: continuous, 0% to 100%

Style: discrete 2 step, Soft / Hard

System: discrete 2 step, On / Off

LR, M, or S Selector: discrete 3 step, M / LR / S

THD Mixer: continuous, 0% to 100%

Harmonic Balance: discrete 2 step, Parallel / Serial

MS Solo: discrete 3 step, M / Off / S

Distortion Solo: discrete 4 step, 2nd / Off / 3rd / 2nd & 3rd

Output L / R: continuous, -10 dB to +10 dB

Link: discrete 2 step, Link / Unlink

Power: discrete 2 step, On / Off

Plugin Alliance Toolbar

“KEY” ICON

Opens the plugin Activation Dialog

“WRENCH” ICON

Shows information regarding the plugin version, software specifications, and user account.

“?” ICON

Opens a dialog through which one can access the plugin’s help documentation, online product page, or any available updates.

“\$” ICON (When Applicable)

If you’ve purchased your VSM-3 using the Plugin Alliance Installment Payments option, the “\$” icon, links to your account so you can make a payment on your Lease-License

For More Information

Please Visit:

Vertigo Sound Website: vertigosound.com

Plugin Alliance Website: plugin-alliance.com