

Mic review - JZ mics V11



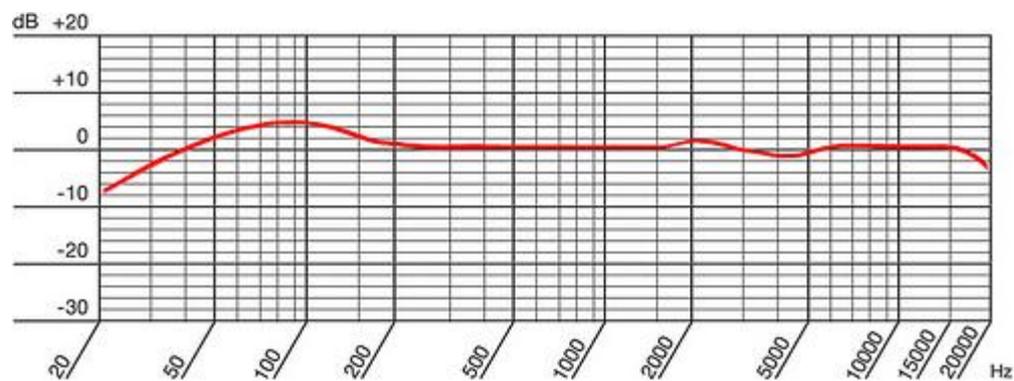
JZ mics, are a Latvian Mic company with very distinctive designs and very big promises. With their vintage range of mics they have a simple approach, create modern takes on Studio Classics such as the U47 & C12 keeping the standard high and the cost affordable.

To their credit, they've managed to fulfil both those key ingredients. Keeping the manufacturing within Latvia and delivering well regarded microphones since 2007. Notable users include Lady Gaga (Born this way), Christina Perry (Lovestrong).



The look

The JZ V11 microphone is a brand new addition to the vintage range and the design, once again, is striking. This is a beautiful mic, no doubt about it. Elegant in black, well proportioned with gentle curves that feel great in the hand. The final addition to the look is the bespoke Mic cradle that finishes the look off beautifully. A great deal of skill has gone in to the design and It feels like an expensive mic.



JZ Microphones Vintage 11 frequency response

The sound

I didn't know what I was expecting with the sound of this microphone after reading the blurb.

"The V11 is turning point for the praised Vintage series with absolutely new microphone design which follows the same vintage traditions and qualities as all the JZ Microphones products. ... Vintage 11 is dedicated for everyone who loves recording in highest quality possible and wants something better than all known studio standards."

better than all known studio standards? Blimey.. these people either make great mics and are extremely confident, or they're painfully deluded. It was time to find out.

I briefly checked out the frequency graph that came with the mic and there's a bump in the low end, which I assumed was some way of achieving a "vintage" sound. As i plugged in the mic, I assumed that was slightly gimmicky. And then I heard it.

The first thing that struck me, was excitement. The vocals coming through the V11 were very up front. Clear, rich and as strange as this sounds from a mono signal, Centered. It has a ribbony dark vintage

quality to it with subtle highs that respond well to EQ. In all honesty, it sounded much like it looked, expensive. The frequency bump didn't sound much like I expected, it translated as warmth, that I tried not to like, but did.

I immediately insisted we record some other sources, and tried acoustic guitar, female vocals, male vocals and spoken word. In particular this mic worked for me on spoken word and female vocals. The rich vibrant signal having the cleanness of a new condenser with some subtle warmth of an older mic.

In the mix, the mic responded well, The V11 sounds like you'd expect a great Large Diaphragm Condenser would, with a low end warmth of it's own.

Over the next week the Mic made it in to several mic shootouts. It came up against a 4033, Globe, C414, Sm7b, SE voodoo and it was nearly always one of the last to be removed from the runnings. It had a distinct flavour that all the engineers here at Flipside began to enjoy. My gut is that the longer we have the mic, the more we will start to use it's flavour, because a distinct flavour is what it offers.

In Conclusion

The V11 is a really fresh offering. It's beautiful to look at, with a versatile sound and at \$699 (roughly £440) it's good value for money and that's a knockout combination. I have no problem suggesting this mic is punching well above it price point.

My only gripe with the mic is that the mic clip, as beautiful as it is, came apart during it's first use. The metal inner screw came apart from the plastic housing. It was still usable, but rather irritating. This has been fed back to manufacturer who is looking in to it and I'm confident will rectify any issues if mine wasn't a one off.

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