



KLONES

Of all the boutique pedals produced in the past 30 years, the Klone Centaur is probably the most infamous. Originally produced by Bill Finnegan between 1994 and 2000, getting your hands on one of the original units could set you back over £1,000. As a result, it's no surprise that a number of Centaur clones, or 'klones', as they're now known, entered the market once the supply of originals dried up. Bill briefly returned with a modern version, the KTR in 2014. Defiantly emblazoned with the caveat/maxim, "kindly remember that the ridiculous hype that offends so many is not of my making" the KTR was still costly and hard enough to get hold of that the klon market is still booming. Here, we've chosen four of the best to examine just whether they stack up...

Wampler Tumnus

FAUN OVER THIS ONE **£139**

Besides the J Rockett Archer and Soul Food, the Tumnus is probably the most popular klon on the market. Unlike the Soul Food, the Archer and Tumnus are as close as you can get to the original circuit outside of a KTR. The pedal is open and rich, with a charge-pump juiced headroom and a slew of higher-order harmonic content. Greater chime is close at hand, thanks to the tone control, but the real joy is in finding the two magic drive points: pushing a dirty amp into saturation with the gain low, and articulate high-gain crunch as the hard-clipping diodes kick in at hairier settings.

SUMMARY	FEATURES	★ ★ ★ ★
	SOUND QUALITY	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
	VALUE FOR MONEY	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
	BUILD QUALITY	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
	USABILITY	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
	OVERALL RATING	★ ★ ★ ★ ★

MXR Sugar Drive

SWEET TONES **£132**



In this diminutive enclosure is a full-fat Klone Centaur, with selectable buffered or true-bypass switching. Where the original Klone was relay-bypass only, the KTR made this switchable, so that players who didn't like the Klone buffer could have a true-bypass Centaur. As a result, the Sugar Drive is perhaps closer to the KTR, and it certainly delivers the trademark Klone transparent drive sound. Pushing a dirty amp, it doesn't have the pure volume punch of a Tube Screamer or Timmy-style drive, but it's enough of a kick to get some decent saturation. With the drive dimed, there's a metallic edge to the clip that's vicious, yet still open-voiced.

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	BUILD QUALITY	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
	USABILITY	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
	OVERALL RATING	★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Can't afford a real Klon Centaur? Don't worry, we've picked some of the best clones available on the market

Electro-Harmonix Soul Food

FOOD FOR THOUGHT **£76**

Where the original Klon had germanium diodes, the Soul Food makes the change to silicon, drastically changing the sonic character of the circuit. At lower gain settings, it's crunchier and more compressed. There's a debate to be had about how close this pedal is to the original, but of the units on the bench today it doesn't pack the most punch. It sounds more brittle and thinner, although switching from a cleaner amplifier to a Marshall on the edge of break-up brings the unit to life. With the drive pulled back and used more like a boost, you can get closer to a transparent-style overdrive.

SUMMARY	FEATURES	★ ★ ★ ★
	SOUND QUALITY	★ ★ ★
	VALUE FOR MONEY	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
	BUILD QUALITY	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
	USABILITY	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
	OVERALL RATING	★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Anasounds Savage MK II

UNLEASH THE BEAST **£179**

With all the knobs at 12 o'clock, the Anasounds feels like a darker take on the Klon-style sound. That's not the only change. Perhaps due to diode choice – the original used a specific type of Russian 1N34A germanium diode, notoriously variant in their specs – it's a crunchier affair until the drive knob is pushed to the right. With the drive up, it's shred city in front of a good amp. Inside, there are switches for tone range, clipping diode choice and a tone insert for the drive stage. While this makes for a more versatile pedal, most players are probably unlikely to open up the pedal and tweak them.

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	SOUND QUALITY	★ ★ ★ ★
	VALUE FOR MONEY	★ ★ ★ ★
	BUILD QUALITY	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
	USABILITY	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
	OVERALL RATING	★ ★ ★ ★ ★

AT A GLANCE

BYPASS
Wampler: buffered; MXR, EHX: true or buffered; Anasounds: True

POWER
Wampler, MXR, Anasounds: 9VDC centre-negative power supply; EHX: 9V battery or power supply

CONTACT
Wampler: First Line Distribution 01626 832410 firstlinedistribution.com
MXR: Westside Distribution 0844 326 2000 westsidedistribution.com
EHX: ehx.com
Anasounds: Sounds Great Music 0161 436 4799 soundsgreatmusic.com