



Don't knock the spaceman look – it will keep your lungs clean

# Protection at half the price

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**Ollie Clark** is impressed by the efficiency, comfort and value of Trend's Airshield respirator

**T**he Airshield is a powered respirator that has been designed to give facial protection against solid dusts. It also claims to offer eye protection from impact and chemical liquid splash. Powered by one or optional two rechargeable batteries located under the main cover, it is mounted on an adjustable headband and comes with a heavy-grade plastic carry bag.

A fan and two filters supply a flow of clean air to the worker's face.

A soft face seal ensures positive pressure is maintained within the visor, preventing dust or

contaminated air from entering.

When not in use the visor can be pivoted out of the way while still on your head.

## In use

It takes a while to get used to having this on your head as it seems odd, out of balance and top heavy, but after a few minutes I had all but forgotten the minor discomfort.

Adjusting the headband – which caters for big heads – is easy, and I found it worthwhile to experiment with the fit until it was comfortable.

Trend have clearly worked hard to keep this device as light as possible, a tough brief as the batteries, fan and filters are all housed above your head.

I was delighted to find that no toxic MDF dust got through and there was none of that horrible gagging taste and smell you get at the back of your throat, when you use

paper masks. The filters were covered with MDF dust, a clear guide to how much I would have inhaled without the Airshield.

Airflow was good, with no steaming up, something confirmed by my woodturning friend Ron Frost who gave the product the thumbs up for turners and spectacle wearers.

The fan proved not to be too noisy.

Changing the filters is straightforward: simply release the cover by lifting the left and right lower sides to disengage the lugs, then pull forward and lift. This process can't be done too quickly as the filter needs to be accurately located and the cover slowly guided back to a closed position.

If you intend to work for many hours at a time then it would be prudent to buy the extra four-hour battery.

## Verdict

The comparatively modest price of the Airshield makes it a good solution to the need for protection from wood dust.

I personally like respirators where the heavy battery pack is clipped to my belt rather than on my head; however, you then have an irritating cable running down your back that can snag. Also, these systems are expensive, up to double the price of the Airshield, and for that reason alone the Airshield is a very worthy contender.

The Airshield is well made, looks as if it would last if treated decently and is suitable for amateur and professional use. ■



## Facts and figures

- **Manufacturer** – Trend
- **Price (RRP) inc VAT**  
Airshield £188  
fine filters (3) £32  
pre-filter (3) £7.60  
four-hour battery £19.40
- **Availability** – stockists around the UK
- **Tel**  
technical 01923 224681  
Sales 01923 212497
- **Website**  
[www.trendmachinery.co.uk](http://www.trendmachinery.co.uk)