

**Tested**

# Trend Airace safety respirator

**A**s we become more aware of the problems associated with dust and the serious health implications of finer particles in particular, it's important to make some provision for personal protection.

Powered respirators are undoubtedly one solution, but their high initial cost and the comfort factor of wearing such a bulky item for long periods may restrict their use. By far the most cost-effective method of protecting your lungs from harmful dust particles is a disposable mask of some sort.

However most of these offer minimal protection, become damp and soggy with use and usually steam up your spectacles. In addition you need to keep replacing them, and their low initial cost advantage is soon lost when you have to buy them in bulk.

## One-way valve

The Trend Airace claims to address all these problems by offering performance and economy far in excess of disposable masks. It's a non-disposable mask that uses disposable filters.

The key feature is a unique one-way valve that brings inhaled air in through a large filter and then diverts exhaled air out through the front grill. This prevents all that unpleasant soggy from water vapour in your breath and also prevents fogging of glasses.



The mask is easily dismantled for changing the filter or cleaning.

## Eye protection

An optional polycarbonate visor is available which clips onto the top of the Airace to give you face and eye protection against flying chips and shavings, making it ideal as a woodturners all-round mask.

The whole mask is easy and comfortable to wear, despite its apparent bulk, the dual straps and non-allergenic rubber face cup ensuring that the mask sits firmly against your face and gives a good seal without being too tight.

It can be dismantled easily for cleaning or changing the filter, and another option is a neat plastic storage box to keep it all clean and tidy when not in use.



A plastic storage box keeps it all neat and clean.

Tested by  
Alan Holtham



Standard mask is comfortable and light to wear.

The filter element is disposable and provides both electrostatic and micro filtration of the air. Each filter is approximately five times larger and is claimed to last up to ten times longer than the average disposable mask. It provides protection from the solid particles you encounter in most woodworking operations, including MDF dust. In addition, a charcoal pre filter can be fitted over the standard filter to provide protection against nuisance odours.

Optional clip on visor makes it ideal for woodturning.



## VERDICT

A very effective and comfortable mask, very light to wear. Even after prolonged use there was no evidence of it becoming damp, and spectacle wearers in particular will love it. The initial cost is more than offset by the claimed life compared to standard disposable masks, and the optional visor makes it a superb piece of kit for the woodturner. It takes the unpleasantness out of wearing a mask.

Price: £25.95 including spare filter  
Replacement filters £2.50 each (£12 for 5)

Charcoal filter £3

Clip on visor £12.95

Plastic storage box £6.95

(All prices plus VAT)

Contact: Trend, tel: 01923 224657 or visit [www.trendmachinery.co.uk](http://www.trendmachinery.co.uk)

**RATING ★★★★★**