

Trend Airshield Pro

First impressions of Trend's new respirator



Whenever possible we like to recommend removing dust at source by effective use of extractors, but for turning, especially, this is only ever going to be reasonably successful. Dust flies everywhere when you turn, and not just when you're sanding. There is also the risk of chips and dust particles getting in your eyes at the lathe. Which is why respirators are so attractive to turners, who will spend hour after hour at the lathe. The same is true of power carving, using angle grinders to remove quantities of stock and sand your work smooth. Routing will produce lots of dust, but you should be able to control a fair amount of that with extractors, and there's less risk to your eyes.

With that in mind we took the new Trend Airshield Pro over to Chas Jones, a nearby turner who's well known on UKWorkshop. He's had the old model of Airshield for a few years (as we have too in the *British Woodworking* workshop) and was interested to see how it compares. His first impression was that the new Airshield is heavy, and needs careful adjustment of the crown and head bands to get it comfortable. "The little pull-down table is obtrusive," he reported (and we'd agree), "and I think most people

will cut it off rather than having to poke it out of the way. The unit has visor overlays for splash protection and is generally well engineered. Putting on and removing the mask is easy, with ample clearance for spectacles," Chas said.

He used the respirator for a few hours a day for a week, and concluded that you do get used to the top-heavy feel after a while. He calls it the Pendulum Effect, with the mask wallowing a little when you move your head. Even after a few days he still noticed it when bending down. The optional ear defenders aren't so important for turning, but would be great when using screaming angle grinders, but they don't stabilise the unit on your head very much.

Chas still has an open mind about the Airshield Pro. He likes the old model, which has had to be upgraded because of changes to health and safety laws we're told. Watch out next issue when we put it up against the PowerCap, and see how the power carvers from our sister magazine, *Living Woods*, get on with them.

Trend Airshield Pro: airflow 160-200l/min; weight 995g; battery 8hr; motor sound 70dB; trend-uk.com.