



Trend Airshield Respirator

I first tested the Trend Airshield in GW 100 and since that date I have used the helmet regularly in my workshop; now I would be lost without it. Originally I thought it was a rather expensive item and gave it a score of 3½ for value because it was difficult to judge at the time how robust the helmet would be and how long it would last.

I am pleased to say that three years later it is still in very good condition and no part has failed. However, it should be noted that all parts of the Airshield are replaceable should any piece be damaged. The product is £33 cheaper than it was in 2000, and if I was assessing it today I would award full marks for value and performance.

Although non-powered disposable face masks and rubber respirators are very effective, as long as they comply fully with the EN regulations, they do require considerable lung power to draw air through the mask's filtering system, and this can make some wearers quite tired and short of breath over time.

The Airshield offers no such resistance and is cool and comfortable as the filtered air passes over the face. It appears quite bulky but the helmet is lightweight and the motor quiet in operation. It is ideally suited to those who wear glasses or have a beard.

I have found that a spare battery pack is a must if you are going to be in the workshop frequently. One fully charged battery will give four

hours of use and a battery takes 14 hours to recharge. Charging for just 3½ hours will produce enough power for one hour, which can be useful, and the battery cannot be overcharged. If a fully charged battery is not always ready it is all too easy to get into the habit of not bothering to put the helmet on at all.

Like many other pieces of equipment it is very important that the Airshield is well maintained if it is going to work efficiently – buying the product is not the end of the story! It will be necessary from time to time to replace the filters and the visor overlay. Trend sell a pack containing one main filter, three pre-filters, a face shield seal and 10 clear visor overlays; I would expect such a pack to last a year. It is not possible to say when the filters should be changed because this will depend on the amount of use, but clearly it is important to replace them as soon as you suspect that they are losing their effectiveness. The visor overlay simply peels off to be replaced.

I am now convinced that this powered respirator is a good investment for the hobby woodworker and woodturner. In addition to filtering out fine



Tips for use

- After use clean the Airshield with a damp cloth both inside and outside and store it in a bag. Before use check that the flow of air is sufficient using the airflow indicator provided.
- When applying cellulose or liquid polish to an item turning on the lathe take care that it does not splatter over the visor.
- Keep the respirator running whilst you clear up the workshop and do not remove it until you have left the dusty environment to give maximum protection.



GW verdict

Value for money ●●●●○
Performance ●●●●●

Price inc VAT: £154.94
Spare battery £20.54
Filter pack £34.00
Trend ☎ 0800 487363