

# Kit & Tools

A collection of tests and press releases showing the latest tools and products on the market

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## Air Stealth half-mask

Mark Baker tries out the new half-mask respirator from Trend



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK BAKER/GMC PUBLICATIONS

ON TEST

Wearing appropriate personal and respiratory protective equipment (PPE & RPE) to protect eyes and lungs from hazards is a simple but often-ignored procedure. Ejected debris and dust is common in workshops, so eye and lung protection will help minimise some risks when used as part of an overall package of measures and procedures.

Trend Machinery has recently introduced a compact and lightweight half-mask respirator with full P3 protection, available in small/medium and medium/large sizes. Trend says: 'It is suitable for protection from all woodworking nuisance dusts, including MDF, as well as other industrial dusts such as silica, glass fibre and also agricultural related dusts. The Air Stealth has an Assigned Protection Factor of 20 and is certified to BS EN140 and BS EN143 P3R.'

### Initial inspection

The mask is well made and features adjustable straps. Once I had adjusted it and put it on in the right position it moulded easily and gently to my face and there were no gaps at any point where it had failed to seal against the skin.

Trend states: 'The mask is odour-free and non-allergenic, with latex and silicone-free thermoplastic elastomers offering a soft, comfortable fit to the

face while sealing against inward leakage beyond the standard recommendation for maximum protection. The mask offers superb all-round vision, can be worn with prescription or safety glasses, and is designed to prevent fogging and misting.'

### In use

I tried the mask for extended periods of time in the workshop when turning, sanding, power carving, hand carving, routing and drilling, carrying out wire brushing work and much more. So I really put it through its paces in a variety of work situations and also head positions.

The thing I noted first was how comfortable it was to wear and how lightweight too. The second thing was that the mask was easy for me to breathe in. The nature of the air coming through the filter by default creates some resistance, but I did not find it uncomfortable or difficult.

Of course, each person is different and needs to find out what suits and is appropriate for them in the environment they are working in. But with some other such respirators I have tried over the years, they became uncomfortable to use after a while – something I didn't encounter with this one. Trend comments that it incorporates 'easy-to-change flat

filters while the large filter area offers less breathing resistance in use'. As stated, I found the breathing aspect fine and I did not find any issue with fogging up of glasses or air getting past the face seal. It is worth noting that, for those with a beard, the seal of the mask against the face may be compromised.

Setting about seeing how easy it was, or was not, to change the filters, I found them easy to remove and replace. Checking the literature I received regarding the filters I noted that Trend also offers replacements, 'including a carbon filter option to deal with nuisance odours and fumes while still offering full P3 protection'. This makes the mask even more versatile.

### Conclusion

The mask is comfortable for me to wear and use. The filters are easy to change. The half-mask respirator did not cause me any issues whatsoever and was easily integrated as part of a range of measures to minimise risks in the workshop. I think it is well worth looking at.

### Prices:

**Air Stealth P3(R) Half Mask: £21.95**

**Additional filters start from £9.25**

**Contact: Trend Machinery & Cutting Tools**

**Web: [www.trend-uk.com](http://www.trend-uk.com)**