

GIANT TEST

The Verdict...

A good vacuum is an important part of your workshop machinery. To get the most benefit it should be regularly cleaned and particular attention needs to be paid to the condition of the filters which must be replaced when they become damaged. For the professional user the choice is really between the Bosch, the Hilti and the Festo. If you need a really large capacity choose the Bosch, though it is obviously more cumbersome to transport. In the mid range, the Trend stands out, with its efficient filtration and quiet motor, it will greatly improve your working conditions. For those on a tight budget the Earlex offers good value for money, though it is rather noisy.

Or you could try...

The De Walt DW790 which has a 1000 watt motor, autoswitching, a 30 litre capacity and is supplied with a 4 metre hose.

**List price is £334.88
DeWalt 01753 567055**

Trend T30AF

Motor power	1200 watts
Max power tool rating	2000 watts
Container capacity	34 litre
Hose length	5 metres
Accessories supplied	Complete cleaning kit, dustbag, fine dust filter and pre-filter
List price	£169

Trend 0800 487363

The Trend T30 combines all the best features of a good vacuum. It is powerful, quiet, has good filtration and is supplied with a long hose and a good range of accessories. It is available in two versions; the T30A which has a standard 12 micron filter, which is ideal for general cleaning jobs, and the slightly more expensive T30AF which is equipped with a 0.3 micron filter and prefilter, which is better able to cope with fine dust. The T30AF was supplied for this test and it proved to be an impressive machine. The filter cartridge is quick and easy to fit and the



large nylon prefilter hangs in the container around the main filter. The hose inlet has a clip system to hold the hose in place, even if it is pulled, and the five castors on the base of the machine offer stable manoeuvrability around the workshop. Overall a well designed and competent machine with good capacities and impressive performance, at a very good price.

Earlex Combi Power Vac

Motor power	1200 watts
Max power tool rating	1800 watts
Container capacity	20 litres
Hose length	4 metres
Accessories supplied	Complete cleaning kit, dustbag, power tool adapter
List price	£89.99

Earlex 01483 454666

The little Earlex is a compact machine suited to general workshop use. It is entirely constructed from plastic and has four castors mounted on outriggers. It is light and easy to transport. The top and the base fix together with plastic clips built into the upper flange. There is a fairly coarse corrugated paper filter on the base of the motor and a dustbag supplies added filtration. The power tool socket is mounted on the back just above the exhaust outlet. The auto switching is good and has a generous 7 second over run time after the tool is switched off. The Earlex generates powerful suction and can also be used as a blower, by connecting the hose to the exhaust outlet. In use it is fairly noisy as there is little in the way of acoustic shielding. It coped well with general cleaning up around the workshop and short term power tool use. The filter is, however, rather coarse, and soon becomes clogged with fine dust, so care is needed when sanding, or routing. This is an ideal DIY machine and Earlex offer a good range of accessories to extend its capabilities, such as an HVLP spray gun, which is driven off the exhaust port and also a sink unblocking kit. Fine dust separate paper filters are available which would no doubt improve its performance. Overall a good basic machine for home use.

