



Airshield pro

Rob Sandall takes a deep breath, and finds it clear of dust!

Extraction in the workplace is a tricky one. Even the best large extraction units can miss the odd particle, and exposing yourself to the potential problems is never going to be fun for your lungs.

The router's friend

It's no surprise that Trend feel the need to produce adequate extraction – routing produces perhaps the most dust in a workshop, and the deadliest, fine dust too. The airshield may well look like a space helmet but it's designed to give you complete visibility. The face seal and hood are designed to keep the little blighters away, and unlike respirators I've dealt with before there's a definite emphasis on comfort here

too: everything feels balanced and not unduly heavy: I've worked with these masks for long stints before without any problems. The motor that runs the respirator, too, is carefully placed away from the front of the unit to avoid any chance of a buzzing headache, although it must be said that the motor actually runs very smoothly anyway.

Filtration

With two filters on the Airshield Pro, the blurb tells me we're working at 98 per cent efficiency. While I can't confirm that without some serious hardware, I can certainly testify that I was breathing free and easy throughout the tests, and even when gutting some MDF the Airshield Pro did a great job of keeping airways clear.

AT A GLANCE

- Comfortable and not too heavy
- Eight hours of use per charge
- Two filters for more protection

THE NUMBERS

- Airflow min. 160 l/min
- Airflow fully charged 200 l/min
- Size of headband 52cm-62cm
- Motor sound level 70 dB
- Battery 8 hrs
- Weight 995g
- Voltage 230v
- Eye protection to BS EN 166 (low energy impact)
- Respiratory protection (NPF50) to BS EN 12941 THP2
- Includes: 1 x 8 hour battery, 1 x battery charger, 1 x Pair THP2 fine filters,
- 1 x Airflow indicator, 1 x Clear visor overlay, 1 x Storage case

WHERE TO BUY

- Contact: Trend
- Tel: 01923 249911
- Website: www.trend-uk.com

5 STAR RATING

- VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★★★
 PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 BUILD QUALITY ★★★★★

All the bases covered

There's the capacity to clip on ear defenders with the unit, so you don't have to choose between breathing badly and going deaf! Your hearing will be important anyway, as you'll be listening out for the clearly audible alarm to signify low battery charge. This can be removed and placed in the included charger, and at full whack gives you eight hours – a full woodworking day!

Verdict

Can you put a price on good health? The Airshield Pro is a great product for anyone conscious of the negative connotations of woodworking on the lungs, but loathe to plump for the huge extraction systems. Of course, there's no reason you couldn't work with both together for supreme protection, but especially when it comes to the little jobs it's great to be able to just chuck on the Airshield and go for it. It's a great idea, executed well too. ■