

Dust buster

There are many reports about the potential hazards of wood dust although it seems to take most people a while to really understand that the potential risk also applies to them. Dust really can damage a person's health and one possible solution is the MC1200, a drum-type ambient filtration unit that is suspended from a ceiling.

On test

The MC1200 will filter up to 1200 cubic metres per hour. This equates to the air in a workshop measuring 6 x 8 x 2.5m being filtered 10 times an hour. I put a ceiling hook into a joist about 1.5m behind my lathe, so that it extracted the dust away from me. The power cable, which is about 1.5m long, is detachable and connects into a socket at the top of the unit. I had a wall socket nearby so there were no problems there, although you may need an extension lead if you site the MC1200 too far from a socket.

Once switched on, it came to life producing 70 decibels at 1.5 metres. The sound is more like a constant whooshing wind across a window on a winter's day, but not so loud that you cannot hear a radio as you work. After five

minutes or so you don't really notice it anymore.

I immediately put it to the test by sanding two bowls, one yew (*Taxus baccata*) and one mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) so that the filter would show a different colour if it worked. The experiment was successful and the filter, which was an off-white colour to start with, had turned a dull brown.

As a test I switched the main lights off in the workshop and shone a halogen lamp across the work area after sanding with the filter units both on and off. This allowed me to see what dust motes were in the air and I noticed a significant difference. The MC1200 does not do away with the need to have a vacuum-type extractor for the larger chips and to collect the dust from as close to the source as possible for items like bandsaws, routers, jigsaws and so on. It does, however, deal with the bits that are otherwise missed.

One downside to the MC1200 is that it is located in one position and obviously this will not always be near to where you are working. Having said that, it still continually works filtering the air in the workshop. □

Woodturning Editor **Mark Baker** takes a look at an ambient air filter relevant for all small workshops



PLUS POINTS

- Excellent work rate
- Comparatively low noise
- Cost-effective dust removal

MINUS POINTS

- Fixed position
- Doesn't exclude the need for other protective equipment

Specifications & contact details

MC 1200 90W motor

- Flash and spark protected
- Thermally protected against overheating
- Protected against dust ingress to IP44 standard
- Fully earthed

Filters

- Fire-resistant Polyvee Glass
- EU4 grade, 90% arrestment of dust down to 1 micron in size, 64% at 0.5 micron
- EMC Shielded to not interfere with other electrical appliances.
- Price (RRP) £249.99

For further information and stockist details contact: Acrol UK Ltd, The Sanderson Centre, Lees Lane, Gosport, Hampshire PO12 3UL
Tel: 02392-502999 E-mail: frnchie41@fsnet.co.uk

The verdict

This MC1200 unit is highly efficient and in my opinion cost-effective. When using machinery or undertaking operations that will create lots of fine dust, it doesn't obviate the need for the usual PPE (personal protective equipment), such as a high-quality dust mask or better still, a respirator, but it will filter the air in the workshop quite a few times an hour, depending on the workshop size and the unit chosen, providing another line of defence against the dreaded dust. Call me a convert – so much so that I bought the unit.