

# Breathe Easy!

## Resp-O-Rator Review

by Gary Lansinger

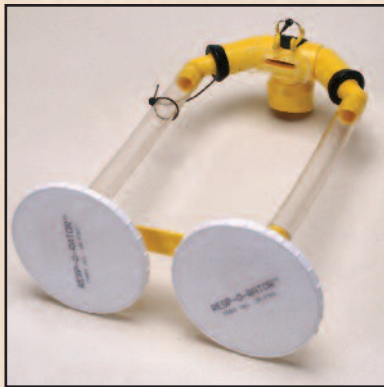
Now that I've already spent \$3500.00 on dust collection to protect my precious lungs, I found a new gizmo that may make it safer to breathe in the woodshop for less than \$50.00! The Resp-O-Rator, developed, patented, and manufactured by Jim Duxbury, is part snorkel and part high-tech air cleaner. For those of us who refuse to shave daily, it works especially well by eliminating the air that leaks around the facemasks of traditional respirators.

The inventor is a long-time woodturner, scuba diver, and engineer who has successfully combined several of his passions into an inexpensive, light, functional, yet efficient product.

The Resp-O-Rator boasts 99% efficiency due to a large (45 square inches) filter surface that traps nuisance particles down to 0.3 microns—more than sufficient for ordinary shop dust. The two filters are approximately 3" in diameter and are positioned, behind the head, which allows clean air to be drawn in from a usually less-dusty environment.

### DESCRIPTION

Two clear tubes run to the front of the device and connect to a scuba-type mouthpiece that houses the exhaust check valve. The whole apparatus slips over the head by disconnecting one of the clear plastic tubes attached to a plastic bar which holds the two respirator-type filters. The tubes are clear to allow you to see any dust in the tubes and thus check for leaks. The Resp-O-Rator rests comfortably on the shoulders and around the neck.



A nose clip is connected via a short safety tether, and when used to pinch the nostrils, it keeps dust from being inhaled by the user. The Resp-O-Rator's design keeps it from interfering with any other protective equipment, such as hearing protectors/aids, face masks, or safety glasses.

### HOW IT PERFORMED

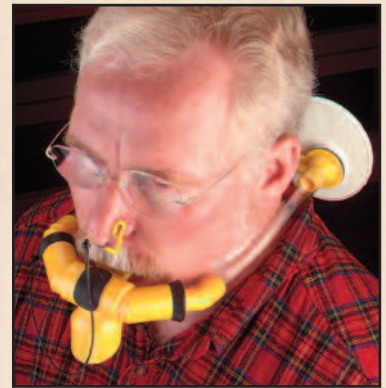
I used the Resp-O-Rator over a six-month period while repeatedly sanding epoxy, a toxic dust, with no ill effects. I could breathe in the evening without the usual "dusty lung" feeling that accompanies a long day in the shop.

Although the exhaust valve did occasionally drip condensation onto my forearms (either that or a ghost "slimed" me!), I felt this was a small price to pay for cleaner lungs. However, this leakage can be avoided if the user closes his/her teeth behind the

mouthpiece and swallows occasionally. I had been holding the mouthpiece in my teeth, which is not the prescribed technique.

If I had it to do all over again, I would definitely opt for the Resp-O-Rator instead of all the other dust protection devices that I have bought in the past. It is simple and comfortable to use and it may just save me from a multitude of lung ailments in the future.

Additional information on the Resp-O-Rator and a list of retailers can be found on the website at [www.duxterity.com](http://www.duxterity.com).



Here's Gary using the Resp-O-Rator!

### Gary Lansinger

Gary Lansinger's life-long fascination with wood has developed into both a vocation and an avocation. In the mid-70's, he made firewood and lumber from the trees on his property. In the early 80's, Gary took a woodturning course from Rudy Osolnick and Dale Nish at Berea College and his interest in woodworking (and especially woodturning) began to develop. In the mid-80's, he and four friends organized the first local chapter of the then-fledgling American Association of Woodturners in the Cleveland, Ohio, area. Gary recently was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the AAW.

Now, having retired from 30 years of teaching in public schools, Gary has taken a job with Hart Design and Hartville Tool, a woodworking tool and catalog sales company. As time allows, he will still pursue his personal woodworking interests while promoting woodworking at both the local and national levels.

Gary welcomes your questions and comments and can be reached by sending a SASE to him at 1370 Lockwood Road, Barberton, Ohio 44203-4561, or by e-mail at [garland@ameritech.net](mailto:garland@ameritech.net).