



## Product Reviews

### DefNd Your Neck

We recently gave the DefNder neck brace an extended sampling at the NASA 25 Hours of Thunderhill. We came away intrigued with this entry into the head-and-neck safety derby. The DefNder has a lot of things going for it, but those advantages come with some asterisks.

The DefNder is highly adjustable, which is a good thing in the long run. The downside is that it needs to be properly adjusted before use, which is not a few-minutes affair. There are adjustments for tether length, rake and brace height, and all of them need to be tweaked for each particular driver and seating position before the unit can truly be considered comfortable.

These adjustments should be made from inside the race car. After all, there's a difference between sitting behind the wheel and sitting behind a desk. Once properly adjusted, however, the DefNder is rather comfortable and allows a decent range of motion for visibility.

Another major benefit is the ease of donning the device. The DefNder is specifically designed to fit over the head, so it can simply be left attached to the helmet. That means the brace and helmet are put on and



removed as one unit, making for quick exits from hot, sweaty race cars and into jungle-like pit stalls.

Finally, we like the unit's \$549 price tag, as it compares favorably with the prices of other available head-and-neck protection systems. The DefNder is SFI 38.1 certified, meaning it's legal for most major road race sanctioning bodies.

Bottom line: It's safe and comfortable, but you'll need to do some setup work first. Put in the time up front and you'll be rewarded down the line.

**DEFNDER USA**  
(619) 448-0053  
defnderneckbrace.com

### Royal Filtration

Our staff members have participated in dozens of heated debates over oil. What are the virtues of each brand? Which product is right for a particular car?

However, filtration rarely gets the same amount of attention. Conventional wisdom seems to suggest that any name-brand filter will do—as long as it's replaced according to a regular schedule.

In reality, most oil filters do a decent job. However, when we're dealing with a high-strung engine that's being pushed beyond its original specifications—like the one in our turbocharged Miata—a little extra insurance is very welcome. After finally investigating this important yet overlooked component, we got our

## the Ariel Atom 3

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- o Phenomenal Power to Weight Ratio.
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#### Versatile!

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- o Autocross.
- o Time Trials.



#### SPECIFICATIONS

- o Honda K20A Drivetrain.
- o 6-speed Transmission With Limited Slip Differential.
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