

## Automatic or Fixed Shade

The choice between an automatic or fixed shade welding lens depends on your specific needs and preferences. Automatic welding lenses, also known as auto-darkening lenses, are designed to automatically adjust to the appropriate shade depending on the welding process, arc brightness, and other factors. This can offer convenience and increased productivity. On the other hand, fixed shade welding lenses are set to a specific shade and do not automatically adjust. They may be more cost-effective but could require you to frequently lift the hood to see the workpiece and then lower it for welding.

Consider factors such as the type of welding you'll be doing, the range of shades required, and your comfort level. Some people prefer the convenience of automatic lenses, while others find that they can successfully work with fixed shade lenses. It's essential to choose the option that best suits your needs and provides the necessary protection for your eyes and face.

Auto darkening lenses are great for reducing arc marks on the work piece and improving starts and stops especially while learning to weld. Often times auto darkening lenses become a problem when welding in confined or restricted access locations. A common occurrence of getting “flashed” when the sensor gets blocked by an obstruction and causes the lens to lighten while you are welding. This can become very frustrating and will have most welders switching back to a fixed shade in these situations.

