

[1] The Mach 3 Razor is coloured predominantly black with grey moulded plastic on the handle. It has three stainless steel blades which are set into a plastic head guard, which also features a coloured lubricant strip. Most of each blade is guarded from contact with the user by the plastic head. The lubricant strip is imbued with a moisturising lubricant to help reduce friction while shaving. Overall the outcome is designed with elements reflecting priorities of safety, convenience, comfort and ease of use.

The Mach 3 razor is a safety razor, meaning that most of the blade is guarded and only the edge of the blade comes into contact with the user. Safety razors were historically developed as an alternative to straight razors which consisted of a simple blade. One of the advantages of a safety razor is that it makes it much more difficult to suffer a serious injury. Another advantage is that safety razors require less skill to use. It is therefore suitable for use by everyone, everyday and is more convenient.

[2] Early safety razors had only one blade, but the Mach 3 razor has three. The blades are made of stainless steel. Stainless steel is a good choice because it can be cleaned easily and is sharp enough to cut the hairs, as well as being light. Having three blades means that the user can cut off more hair with one stroke, which makes the process of shaving quicker.

[3] On the head of the Mach 3 razor, above the blades, there is a lubricating strip. This is made of a porous foam which is covered in a lubricating fluid. The lubricating strip serves two purposes. Having lubricating fluid reduces friction between the blades and the skin which makes it less likely that the user will suffer minor cuts or the tearing (as opposed to the cutting) of hair. This is the primary function of the lubricating strip. A secondary function is that the lubricating strip is coloured – as the razor is used, the amount of lubricating fluid diminishes and the colour of the strip becomes less vivid.

[4] The Gillette Venus razor is also a safety razor, with three stainless steel blades encased in plastic. The handle of the Venus razor is made of translucent light blue plastic with a soft rubber grip towards the end of the handle.. The handle is shaped to fit ergonomically into an average woman's hand.

Like the Mach 3 razor, the Gillette Venus razor has three blades encased in a guard, which is detachable. The handle of the Venus razor is made of translucent light blue plastic with a soft rubber grip towards the end of the handle. Having a plastic handle means that the Venus razor is lighter and easier to hold. The soft rubber at the end of the handle is intended be easier to grip when it is wet.

[5] In most respects the Venus razor is similar to the Mach 3 razor, but the differences in the design elements are a reflection of the different patterns of usage that are expected. The head of the Venus razor is larger and this might prove unwieldy if it was used to remove facial hair, but for the larger area of the legs, this is not a problem, and the designers have prioritised comfort over finesse.