))Katadyn Vario

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SMART

The Vario uses unique technology and can be adjusted for different water conditions with a fast- flow mode allowing an impressive two litres per minute filtration through the glass fibre filter (0.3-micron) and charcoal filter, or a longlife mode for dirtier water. The long-life mode engages the ceramic pre-filter disk that protects the life of the charcoal filter cartridge by blocking larger dirt particles. Set-up is simple. There are numerous pieces but the filter is self-contained and

the hoses are stored in a small zip bag so you don't lose anything. Disassembly takes about 10 seconds. Hoses need lubricant to be connected where necessary. The unit is light (425gm), has its own carry bag, and won't take up much room in your pack. It also comes with spare O-rings, lubricant and cleaning scourer. The Vario can be connected to your bladder tube for a fast refill, or you can attach it to your water bottle neck. You then place the hose and strainer

DRINKING WATER

barb into the water and pump straight into the bottle. Maintenance is easy, including lubrication of O-rings, refilling of cartridge with activated carbon (every 200L) and replacing cartridges when necessary (2000L life expectancy in longlife mode).

Negative: None really, except that, like all microfilters, it does not remove viruses. RRP: \$239.95 Website: www.katadyn.com Phone: 02 9438 2266