

stranger to see an IO shield that seems to date to the days of serial ports, dot-matrix printers and AT specced motherboards. It's either a really cool in-joke, Antec trolling us, or possible evidence that the One (steady, Hollingworth – you're doing good) is based around a rather more ancient chassis than it first appears.

The side panel comes away smoothly, though we're still unhappy with any case that features plastic thumbscrews, and the interior is certainly clean. It's a bit cramped, but at this price you're probably not looking to pack out your build with video cards the size of Super Star Destroyers. In terms of numbers, your VGA card should be no longer than 260mm, and there's room for CPU cooler as tall as 150mm. Neither's a real killer.

What might be more problematic is the design of the HDD cage. It faces back into the case, requiring the other panel to be removed for access to drives. The cage itself is a tool-less design, and a good one too, and there's a cool hex-shaped pattern of cut-outs to keep the weight and material down, but it's still an odd and awkward choice. Most budget builders probably won't be doing constant drive swaps, so it's not a huge problem, but it's something to be aware of if you're an unrepentant tinkerer on a tight budget.

The ODD bays are also tool-less, using a levered system that is not only simple, but quite reliable. The theme of not much room continues with the mobo plate; while there's a generous cutout for cooler access, there's not a lot of room behind here.


The build quality is Antec's usual high-standard. It's light enough that you could even



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build a simple LAN rig into it; it's not built for high mobility, but if you're not tossing the One (easy...) around it should handle travel pretty well. Certainly, our patented 'bash it, see if anything rattles' test shows the case to be quite sound. It's also plain enough to serve as a cheap and

simple template for any case mods you might want to be trying out; it's always best to start with cases a bit more on the disposable side when you're breaking out the angle grinder for the first time.

The possible vintage providence of the Antec One aside, this is a great budget option. For the sub-\$70 asking price – and it'll likely get cheaper soon enough – you're getting two fans at stock, tool-less build options, and even rubber mounts for the PSU slot. It's solid, with room for modest expansion if the stock options aren't to your liking, and with an all black interior, it certainly looks the part. Antec's fired a nice little shot across Bitfenix's bows with the One (woohoo!), and we have a new budget standard.  DH

