M-Edge Covers for the iRex Iliad

It is now way past midnight and I suddenly decided that it would be a cool idea to do a little review of the M-Edge (www.buymedge.com) book-cover for the iRex Iliad and in a format that displays well on the Iliad too...
Ideas like that always arrive in the early morning hours for some reason...

The iRex Iliad is a very expensive device as you probably all know and it would seem to be a good idea to make it very robust, or at least to supply a good pouch or cover to protect it.
iRex did not provide a cover or pouch with the Iliad and nobody can really say for sure how robust the device is without actually breaking it, so we're still a bit in the dark where that is concerned.
iRex is now finally offering covers for their device, at least for pre order, but they are rather expensive and from the pictures on the www.irexshop.com website they are not to everybody's liking.

One company, M-Edge from the US, was a bit faster at getting the iRex covered and is also offering their solution at a much lower price. The "luxury edition" cover they sell is only 39,99$, a fair price especially when compared to the 59,99€ iRex is charging for their top model.

The cover I've got here today is the "book-cover", a neoprene case that completely envelopes the Iliad and offers maximum protection.

The Iliad is attached to the case with a rather clever rubber fastening mechanism (see the pictures at the end of this document for a better impression) and as far as I can judge, the device won't slip out of the case even with the roughest handling. It is securely fixed inside it's new neoprene shell.

The front of the book-cover is stiffened to protect the screen. However, I feel that the front could be even stiffer since it is probably not hard enough right now to protect the Iliad from small, hard objects that might press against the front in you bag or backpack. The overall quality of the book-cover seems to be very good. The case is well-padded on all sides and the fit is rather good, especially if you take into account that the Iliad is a very asymmetrical device. I guess that the Iliad should survive most situations without harm with this "jacket".

The nice thing about the book-jacket is that you can fold the front-cover back completely so that you can still read one-handed. Although the cover adds about 250g of weight to the Iliad, it is still easy to hold because the cover offers you some additional "handholds". All the buttons on the Iliad and the connectors are easily reachable when the device is in the book-jacket. Removing cards, charging the Iliad and using it's flip-bar and other keys works just like it would with a "naked" Iliad. The only thing that does not work quite as well is the removing of the Stylus. You'll need to wriggle your finger in next to the stylus and then pull it out which can be annoying if you need to use the Stylus frequently.

The book-jacket from M-Edge is a very nice and well-made accessory. It does a good job of protecting the Iliad, offers lots of convenience and doesn't force you to remove the device for charging or for connecting to the Computer. M-Edge also seems to be a very customer oriented company. There was some trouble with shipping the device to Germany (probably got stuck in customs) but the company was very cooperative and the issue was soon resolved in a more than satisfactory manner. Apart from some very minor issues , the book-jacket is a very recommendable accessory and easily worth those 39,99$ it cost.

Since a picture can say more than a thousand word (or so the saying goes...) I'll add a bunch of photos for your viewing pleasure.

I hope you enjoyed my little review (my very first!) and now know a little more about the M-Edge book-jacket the the iRex Iliad.

Greetings to all fellow Iliad users (and those who are still thinking about joining in)!

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