

WILSON COMBAT BULWARK	
TYPE	Internal hammer fired, recoil operated, single action, semiautomatic
CARTRIDGE	9mm
CAPACITY	15+1 rds.
BARREL	4 in., stainless steel
LENGTH	7.5 in.
HEIGHT	5.38 in.
WIDTH	1.35 in.
WEIGHT	2 lbs., 1 oz.
FINISH	Anodized (aluminum), black nitride (steel)
GRIPS	G10, Brick pattern (inserts)
SIGHTS	Red fiber-optic post (front), U-notch, serrated (rear)
TRIGGER	4 lbs., 2 oz. (tested)
SAFETY	Trigger lever, grip lever
MSRP	$1,899
MANUFACTURER	Wilson Combat, 800-955-4856, wilsoncombat.com

HANDGUN OF THE YEAR

WILSON COMBAT BULWARK

For years, shooters asked manufacturers to make a pistol that combines the capacity and reliability of the G19 with the trigger from a Model 1911. The Bulwark fullfilled that request in 2026.

The grip module is machined out of billet aluminum, and the slide is stainless steel. Both were given texture for control, but the profile is remarkably snag free. Rough texture exists on control areas behind the trigger, while Wilson Combat's more aggressive BRICK pattern wraps around the frontstrap, across each side panel, and the backstrap. The grip module also possesses relief cuts to ease access to controls, improve aesthetics and shootability. There's a high-grip undercut beneath the magazine-release button, and a scallop underneath the magazine release for the middle finger.

The front and bottom of the triggerguard are flat, and the underside of the dustcover offers a two-slot rail to accept accessories.



The Bulwark fire control module is a modular, serialized, stainless steel assembly with integrated frame rails, a red hammer and black grip-safety lever.

At the back of the grip is a safety lever, part of the fire control unit.

You may ask, *Why does it have a grip safety?* The Bulwark is a single-action-only (SAO) hammer-fired pistol with no thumb safety levers. *So, where's the hammer?* The hammer is part of the internal fire control assembly. The chassis is serialized, the number visible through a slot at the top of the grip module.

The hammer's rotation is shrouded within the slide. The benefit of the internal hammer-fired design is the Bulwark's trigger experience, advertised between 3¾ and 4½ pounds. (G&A's sample averaged 4 pounds, 2 ounces.) A red safety lever bisects the center of the trigger shoe, but the feel remains akin to an M1911.

The Bulwark is an all-new design abundant with innovative features. It demonstrated flawless reliability and excellent accuracy. The Bulwark shooting experience is entirely familiar to those who have shot any Wilson Combat product. It's a blend of high quality and match-grade performance. If a duty pistol could ever be considered an heirloom piece, the Bulwark would be it.

The Bulwark is a perfect amalgamation of several concepts. Those who carry a pistol for protection or need a handgun that withstands extreme duty can benefit. Duty pistols must be accurate, reliable and safe. You can count on Wilson Combat's internal hammer-fired Bulwark to work, and material selection makes for a robust winner. ■

— J. Tarr

PHOTOS: MICHAEL ANSCHUETZ