



WILSON COMBAT DIVISION 77 PROJECT 1

1"/75' ACCURACY, GREAT STREET TRIGGER, ZILCH RECOIL FOR 19 ROUNDS OF 9MM+P... IT'S WORTH THE PRICE.

(\$3,995)

"DIVISION SEVENTY-SEVEN PROJECT ONE." That's a long name for a pistol, eleven syllables before you even get to the manufacturer's name.

Heck, it's almost as long as the list of features for this 2025 On Target *Editors' Choice Award*-winning pistol. Magazines that hold 18 rounds of 9mm inside a rounded grip frame that's more ergonomic than any of the squarish 2011s I've seen on the market. A direct-mount optics system that does away with troublesome plates. A recoil compensator, which the manufacturer promises, reduces muzzle rise by 42%. Ambidextrous safety properly adjusted for both "on" and "off," and no grip safety to worry about at all. And the famous Wilson Combat trigger pull, about which more soon. The frame is aluminum to

make this big, five-inch barrel pistol reasonably light, and, of course, the now almost obligatory light/laser mounting rail built into the dust cover of the frame.

BACKSTORY

I INTERVIEWED CAM ANKELE (PRONOUNCED "Ankly"), who became the Chief Operating Officer of Wilson Combat after its founder, Bill Wilson, retired. He explained the unusual name of this pistol. "Division 77 is our research and development section, named after the year Bill started the company. Its purpose is to develop things that haven't been done, or at least, haven't been done with maximum effectiveness," Ankele told *On Target*.

Ankele added, "We have a patent pending on our Accucomp system, which is built into the barrel. We have another patent pending

on our full-size guide rod. We've all worked with full-length guide rods that locked guns up; we wanted quick removability along with reliability. We call it the RPG guide rod because it's in the shape of a rocket-propelled grenade. It's one-piece and easier to remove because of its shape."

ON THE RANGE

AS NOTED EARLIER, WHEN THE TRIGGER breaks cleanly on this pistol, there is no undesirable "backlash" (rearward movement after the sear releases), and the

reset of the trigger is extremely quick. All good for fast, accurate shooting.

The entire pistol is well-adjusted: the thumb safety is "just right," the magazine release works flawlessly, and the humongous magazine well makes insertion of fresh magazines super-easy.

ACCURACY

OFF A CALDWELL MATRIX rest on a concrete bench, 147 grain subsonic Winchester jacketed truncated cone was the most accurate, with a 1.20" for all five shots and right at half an inch, 0.50", for the best three. This measurement was center to center between the farthest-flung

bullet holes measured to the nearest 0.05". 124-grain +P Speer Gold Dot measured 1.55" for the tightest trio, and Federal's famously accurate 115-grain standard pressure JHP went under an

WILSON COMBAT DIVISION 77 PROJECT 1	
ACTION:	SINGLE ACTION
CALIBER:	9MM
BARREL LENGTH:	5.0 INCHES
OVERALL LENGTH:	8.7 INCHES
WIDTH:	1.4 INCHES
HEIGHT:	5.5 INCHES
WEIGHT:	33.8 OUNCES
FINISH:	BLACK ARMOR-TUFF/COPPER PVD
SIGHTS:	PROJECT 1 OPTIC PIN SYSTEM, FIXED SIGHTS
CAPACITY:	18+1 RDS.
MSRP:	\$3,995

1— IN ADDITION TO THE DISTINCTIVE ENGRAVED MUZZLE OF THE PVD-COATED 9MM BARREL, THIS NEW PISTOL HAS FORWARD SLIDE GRASPING GROOVES, AN ACCESSORY RAIL, AND A UNIQUE INTEGRAL AND HIGHLY EFFECTIVE ACCUCOMP RECOIL COMPENSATOR SYSTEM. HIDDEN IN THIS PHOTO IS THE FULL-LENGTH "RPG" GUIDE ROD, WHICH ENHANCES RELIABILITY AND EASES TAKEDOWN. A FRONT SIGHT PLUG IS FACTORY-INSTALLED FOR AN UNOBSTRUCTED RED-DOT VIEW, BUT A FIBER-OPTIC SIGHT IS ALSO INCLUDED. **2**—THE DIVISION 77 PROJECT 1 PISTOL SHIPS WITH THREE 18-ROUND MAGAZINES. LIKE THE EDC X9/SFX9 SERIES THEY WERE DEVELOPED FOR, THESE MAGAZINES ARE A HIGHLIGHT OF THIS PLATFORM — THEY'RE REASONABLY PRICED AND FUNCTION FLAWLESSLY. A HUMONGOUS INTEGRATED MAGWELL MAKES RELOADS FAST AND EASY. TRAK PATTERN GRIP PANELS AND FRONT AND REAR STRAP TREATMENTS ADD THE PERFECT AMOUNT OF TRACTION MINUS THE ABRASION.





1—THE ENTIRE PISTOL PROVED WELL-TUNED AND WELL-ADJUSTED, WITH A “JUST RIGHT” FEEL WHEN ENGAGING AND DISENGAGING THE THUMB SAFETY. OVERSIZED WILSON COMBAT BULLET PROOF CONTROLS, AND EVEN THE GRIP SCREWS, RECEIVE THE SAME COPPER PVD COATING AS THE BARREL. THE FLAT-FACED TRIGGER PROVIDED A SMOOTH AND CONSISTENT PULL WITH A CRISP BREAK. WILSON COMBAT’S INNOVATIVE OPTIC-PIN SYSTEM PROVIDES RMR, RMSC, AND DELTAPoint OPTIC COMPATIBILITY. **2**—WHETHER IT’S A LONG GUN OR A HANDGUN, WILSON COMBAT HAS YET TO LET US DOWN IN THE ACCURACY DEPARTMENT — THE BEST 25-YARD GROUP OF TESTING THE PROJECT 1 PISTOL MEASURED JUST OVER AN INCH FOR FIVE SHOTS USING THE 147-GRAIN WINCHESTER LOAD. THE CARRY OPTIC HAD NOT YET BEEN SIGHTED IN, THUS THE OFF-CENTER CLUSTER.

inch, 0.90”, for best three. Wilson Combat doesn’t lie about the accuracy.

A long-standing truth about 1911 pistols: you can get a tight one that’s accurate but finicky about reliability or one that rattles and doesn’t shoot one-inch groups but runs reliably. To get both, you need something like a Wilson Combat, and you have to pay for the kind of workmanship that delivers that rare combination. The Division 77 Project 1 delivers on accuracy and reliability together.

Reliability? We shot it with steel case, nickel case, and brass case, 115 grain to 147 grain, round nose FMJ, and jacketed truncated cone, and hollow point, standard pressure, and +P, and +P+, and NATO spec. As expected, it fed and cycled 100%.

PERKS AND QUIRKS

I CAN’T PARSE IT FINELY ENOUGH TO ATTEST TO THE 42% muzzle rise reduction, but I *can* tell you that in flat-out rapid fire, the red dot of the Trijicon SRO simply danced around the point of aim.

Of course, there’s also the base price: \$3,995 suggested retail. You don’t pay that much for a pistol unless you want or even need its high performance, not to mention the prestige and pride of ownership factors. On all those elements, Wilson Combat has historically delivered.

Division 77 Project 1 lives up to that history. Cam Ankele promises that subsequent projects will be unique and not variations of earlier models. We’re eagerly looking forward to what comes next. See the Division 77 Project 1 pistol at your nearest Wilson Combat dealer, or contact **WILSON COMBAT**; Tel.: (870) 545-3618; Web: WILSONCOMBAT.COM—*Massad Ayoob*



3—TWO CASINGS IN THE AIR, AND THE DIVISION 77 PROJECT 1 STAYS ON TARGET FOR MAS, EVEN SHOOTING WITH THE NON-DOMINANT HAND ONLY IN RAPID FIRE. CONTROLLABILITY IN ACTION! TESTED BY WILSON COMBAT USING AN EXTREMELY ADVANCED DYNAMIC RECOIL ANALYSIS SYSTEM, THE DIVISION 77 PROJECT 1 PISTOL REDUCES RECOIL BY A MEASURED 42 PERCENT.

MDT BACKCOUNTRY & MOUNTAIN BIPODS

(\$299.95/\$449.95)

MDT’S NEW 2025 ON TARGET EDITORS’ Choice Award-winning Backcountry and Mountain bipods are a total game-changer for anyone who needs rock-solid stability without being weighed down. At a mere 5 ounces for the Backcountry and 5.6 for the Mountain, these are MDT’s absolute lightest bipods, which means they practically disappear in your pack on those long, grueling treks.

Built with tough carbon-fiber legs and a titanium-aluminum core, these bipods are designed to be incredibly light yet seriously durable. Quick push-button leg releases and twist-lock height adjustments allow you to set up quickly and quietly, even when your fingers are bundled up in gloves. They mount directly to either a Picatinny or ARCA rail, eliminating the need for extra adapters and saving you both time and hassle.

The Backcountry features a 360-degree pan capability, 80 degrees of cant,

and a height adjustment of 7.5 to 14.3 inches. The Mountain features 180 degrees of cant and allows you to get even lower (2.7”) and higher (15.8”) thanks to its leg-splay capability. Don’t let their

slim looks fool you; these things handle magnum recoil and serious backcountry abuse without breaking a sweat. Contact **MDT**; Tel.: (360) 922-3124; Web: MDTTAC.COM—*Eric Renander*



WINCHESTER 21 SHARP

(\$15.99-\$24.99 PER BOX OF 100)

DUE TO THE NEARLY 140-YEAR-OLD design of the 22 rimfire cartridge, ammo makers haven’t achieved optimal results loading the cartridge with lead-free bullets. That’s because 22 LR bullets use a heeled-base design with a diameter of .225 to fit in the case. Winchester’s new 2025 On Target Editors’ Choice Award-winning 21 Sharp is designed for enhanced accuracy and on-target performance with both lead and lead-free projectiles. Although it uses the same case, it employs a ballistically superior bullet with a diameter of .2105. The cartridge is initially offered in four loads:

- Game & Target 25 grain, Copper Matrix (1,750 fps) – Produces sub 1.5 MOA groups at 50 yards, outperforming other lead-free .22 LR offerings.
- Game & Target 37 grain, Black Copper Plated (1,335 fps) – An eco-

nomical round for plinking applications.

Game & Target 42 grain, FMJ (1,330 fps) – For high-volume range sessions with less frequent need for cleanings.

Super X 34 grain, JHP (1,500 fps) – Beats the 22 LR in accuracy, expansion, and impact energy.

See it at your local dealer or for more information, contact **WINCHESTER**; Web: WINCHESTER.COM—*Mike Dickerson*

