

# Wilson Combat UT-15 Urban Tactical Carbine



**MANUFACTURER:** Wilson Combat, 2234 CR 719, Berryville, AR 72616-4573, (800) 955-4856; www.wilsoncombat.com

**CALIBER:** .223 Rem.

**ACTION TYPE:** gas-operated, center-fire, semi-automatic rifle

**RECEIVER:** forged 7075 T6 aluminum alloy upper and lower receivers

**BARREL:** 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ " fluted carbon steel, match grade

**RIFLING:** six-groove, 1:9" RH twist

**MAGAZINE:** detachable box, 10-round capacity

**SIGHTS:** front protected post adjustable for elevation; Wilson Combat Flip-Up Rear Sight, Picatinny rail

**TRIGGER:** JP Enterprises trigger and hammer, 3 $\frac{1}{4}$  lbs. pull

**STOCK:** length of pull, 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ "; drop at heel, 5/8"; drop at comb, 5/8"

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

**WEIGHT:** 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. (base gun); 10 lbs. as tested

**FINISH:** anodized aluminum and Parkerized steel (standard)

**ACCESSORIES:** tactical 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " nylon sling, owner's manual, hard plastic case

**OPTIONS:** various sight/mount combinations; Wilson Combat Tactical Light/Sling Mount with SureFire 6P flashlight; Armor-Tuff finish

**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$1,575 (Parkerized), \$1,699 (Armor-Tuff)

own forged aluminum alloy lower and flattop upper receivers, the latter having a Picatinny rail for sight mounting. Its fluted, 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ " match-grade carbon steel alloy barrel has a permanently installed Wilson Combat Tactical Muzzle Brake and features a standard SAAMI .223 Rem. chamber. Rifling is six-groove with a 1:9" right-hand twist that will stabilize bullets up to 69 grs. in weight.

The rifle has a conventional A2 buttstock and an Ergo custom pistol grip, while at the front, a 2"-diameter, ventilated tubu-

Staying up with current trends is essential to the success of any company. Wilson Combat of Berryville, Ark., is an excellent example of a company that has done just that. Founder Bill Wilson, a superb custom pistolsmith as well as the originator of many custom M1911

parts and accessories, capitalized on the explosive growth of practical handgun shooting in the 1980s and '90s. Now that the AR-15 and its clones have become the hot ticket to accessorize and customize, Wilson Combat has again kept pace by offering a varied line of custom AR-15-

style rifles and carbines. The newest of these models is the Urban Tactical, introduced in 2003.

Chambered in .223 Rem., the Urban Tactical has a host of features designed to appeal to the law enforcement or civilian tactical shooter. The rifle is built on Wilson's

The American Rifleman has used the phrase "Dope Bag" at least since 1921, when Col. Townsend Whelen first titled his column with it. Even then, it had been in use for years, referring to a sack used by target shooters to hold ammunition and accessories on the firing line. "Sight dope" also was a traditional marksman's term for sight adjustment information, while judging wind speed and direction was called "doping the wind."

**WARNING:** Technical data and information contained herein are intended to provide information based on the limited experience of individuals under specific conditions and circumstances. They do not detail the comprehensive training procedures, techniques and safety precautions absolutely necessary to properly carry on similar activity. Read the notice and disclaimer on the contents page. Always consult comprehensive reference manuals and bulletins for details of proper training requirements, procedures, techniques and safety precautions before attempting any similar activity.

## SHOOTING RESULTS

.223 Rem. Cartridge	Vel. @ 15' (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs.)	Group Size In Inches		
			Smallest	Largest	Average
Federal No. GM223M 69-gr. HPBT	2688 Avg. 47 Sd	1,107	0.80	0.97	0.89
Hornady TAP No. 80266 75-gr. HPBT	2564 Avg. 52 Sd	1,095	1.31	1.88	1.66
Winchester Ranger No. RA223BST 50-gr. BST	3004 Avg. 57 Sd	1,002	0.88	1.16	0.97
Average Extreme Spread:					1.17

Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ " barrel. Range temperature: 80° F. Humidity: 44%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 100 yds. from a bipod. Abbreviations: BST (Ballistic Silvertip); HPBT (hollow-point boattail); Sd (standard deviation).



The base Wilson Combat Urban Tactical carbine received for testing had a Leupold 1-4X scope and a SureFire 6P flashlight attached by way of custom Wilson mounts.

lar aluminum handguard allows the barrel to be free-floated. A single QD-type sling swivel stud on the underside of the handguard permits bipod mounting.

Controls on the Urban Tactical adhere to the standard mil-spec pattern with no competition-style over-size safeties or ambidextrous magazine releases that can complicate the mechanism or catch on clothing. The rifle's JP trig-

ger and hammer break at a fairly crisp 3 $\frac{1}{4}$  lbs.

The base Urban Tactical comes only with iron sights: an A2-type protected post front and Wilson's own Flip-Up Rear Sight, a windage- and elevation-adjustable unit that clamps to the Picatinny rail. Several sight/mount options are available with the gun, including both optical and red-dot units. Our Urban Tactical

came equipped with a Leupold Vari-X II 1-4X scope attached by way of a Wilson Combat Lo-Mount Tactical Scope Mount. That placed the centerline of the scope about 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " above the rail—high enough for the scope to clear the Wilson flip-up sight in its folded-down position.

Supplied with each carbine is a 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ "-wide black nylon tactical sling attached in the front by way of a sling swivel stud on the side of the light mount and in the rear via a harness that slips through the rear sling loop on the buttstock.

On the standard Urban Tactical, aluminum parts are anodized and all steel components are given a black mil-spec manganese phosphate (Parkerized) finish. Optional, and present on our sample gun, is Wilson's proprietary Armor-Tuff baked-on epoxy finish. It is applied to the upper and lower receivers and the barrel.

Available in gray, olive drab and black, it provides excellent corrosion and wear resistance, and increases the lubricity of the receiver surface.

An additional option available on the carbine, and supplied on our test gun, is a special Wilson Combat light mount for a SureFire 6P flashlight. The mount puts the push-button on/off switch at the end of the light just forward of the support-hand thumb when the handguard is held normally. The mount allows the light to be placed on

either side. The Wilson light mount also has two short Picatinny rail sections for mounting of a laser sight or other accessory, as well as a side-mounted stud for sling attachment.

We tested the Wilson Combat Urban Tactical for accuracy off a Harris bipod at 100 yds. Additional firing was performed at ranges from 50 to 200 yds. to assess the rifle's tactical applicability. With two of the three factory loads tested, the carbine achieved the Wilson Combat standard of 1 m.o.a. accuracy at 100 yards. There were no malfunctions of any kind during our testing.

With the Wilson Tactical Light/Sling Mount, SureFire 6P light, tactical sling, Wilson Lo-Mount Tactical Scope Mount, Leupold 1-4X scope and Harris bipod attached, the rifle came in at exactly 10 lbs. This made it heavy enough for quick sight recovery and balanced, steady offhand shooting. In tests performed at night, the SureFire provided sufficient illumination for both target recognition and aiming to at least 40 to 50 yds.

Wilson Combat's Urban Tactical Carbine is a versatile arm suitable for anything from practical rifle competition to dynamic entry to target engagement. It should prove a useful addition to a competitor's equipment list, a police armory or an armed citizen's home-defense battery.



The 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ " barrel has six flutes and terminates in Wilson's own Tactical Muzzle Brake, which is permanently installed.



With the scope removed, aiming can be accomplished using Wilson's Flip-Up Rear Sight.



Wilson's Tactical Light/Sling Mount puts the SureFire 6P light in the perfect location for easy operation by the support-hand thumb.

# Remington Model 332 Over-Under



In 1932, Remington's new over-under shotgun, the Model 32, quickly became a Depression-era classic beloved for its strength, clean styling, light weight and excellent handling. Production ended a decade later amid rising costs and America's entry into World War II. In 1973, Remington introduced the Model 3200 (May 1973, p.17), which sought to capture the fierce loyalty of Model 32 shotgunners. At 8½ lbs., though, the 3200 was heavy and never really caught on in an era of light, single-barrel repeating shotguns.

The new Model 332, the lines of which were designed by Remington's Custom Shop in Ilion, N.Y., has improved upon the 3200, the later Peerless (September 1994, p. 52) and the Ideal (July 2000, p. 38) and captures the essence of the appeal

of the classic Model 32—strength, quality, clean styling, light weight and superb handling. As with the Model 32, the 332 has a low-profile, flat-bottomed action made of carbon steel alloy with a modest amount of light engraving on the receiver. Also, its low-profile receiver is 1.6" in diameter and approximately 2½" in height. Whereas the Model 32 has a sliding top lock, however, the 332 has a split

under lock system with a sliding lock pin on both sides of the breech face that engage protruding lock surfaces on the mid-rear sides of the monobloc. Additional locking on the 332 is provided by integral side lugs on the monobloc that engage slots cut in the receiver's top rear.

The 332's receiver sides are flat and blued; the outer hinge pin surfaces are

lightly engraved; and the receiver top is contoured in the style of the Model 32. The 332 opens via a top-lever and sports a sliding, non-automatic safety button on the tang.

A key component in the superb handling of the Model 32 was its light-weight barrels. Remington engineers did not miss that important point and

## REMINGTON 332

**MANUFACTURER:** Remington Arms Company (Dept. AR), 870 Remington Drive, Madison, NC 27025; (800) 243-9700; www.remington.com

**GAUGE:** 12, 3" chamber

**ACTION TYPE:** box-lock, over-under shotgun

**RECEIVER:** carbon steel with black oxide finish

**BARRELS:** 26", 28" (tested) 30" with selective automatic ejectors; full length, 8 mm, ventilated rib; white front bead, silver mid-rib bead

**CHOKES:** interchangeable, choke tubes

**TRIGGER:** single-selective, mechanical; 4½ lbs. pull lower barrel; 4½ lbs. pull upper barrel

**STOCK:** satin-finished walnut; length of pull, 14"; drop at heel, 1¼"; drop at comb, 1½"

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 45"

**WEIGHT:** 7 lbs., 12 oz.

**ACCESSORIES:** choke tube wrench, three choke tubes, (full, modified and improved cylinder)

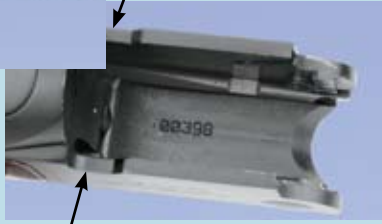
**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$1,624



Remington's new Model 332 over-under succeeds in filling the shoes of the revered Model 32 by combining traditional and modern quality, styling, features and handling into a new, American-made classic from Ilion.



The Model 32's receiver (above) is flat and blued and the outer hinge pin surfaces are lightly engraved.



The 332 has a flat-bottomed, box-lock action machined from solid steel (above). Slots in the rear of the receiver top (arrows) engage shoulders on the monobloc to provide additional locking.



The 332 features selective, automatic ejectors (above). The gun's lightweight barrels are silver-soldered into a steel monobloc and have interchangeable, screw-in choke tubes (below).



The single-selective, mechanical trigger of the Model 332 does not depend on recoil to reset the fire control system for the second shot. Barrel firing order selection is by means of a small rocker button (arrow) on the non-automatic safety.



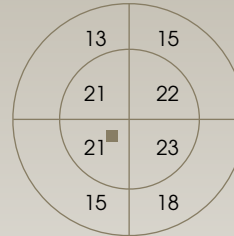
designed the Model 332 with lightweight, chrome-moly steel barrels and a 0.297"-wide ventilated rib with fine serrations to reduce glare. The Model 332 has a full-length, permanently affixed steel filler rib between the barrels. It features a modest amount of engine turning on the monob-

loc's sides. Modernity has blessed the Model 332 with 3" chambers, a high-visibility, 0.125" diameter, white front bead with 0.080"-diameter silver mid-rib bead and interchangeable, internal, screw-in choke tubes.

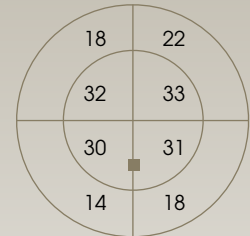
The single-selective, mechanical trigger does not depend on recoil

## SHOOTING RESULTS

AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS AT 40 YDS.



Modified Tube



Full Tube

■ = Point of Hold  
Federal Heavy Field Load  
12-ga.—2½"—1¼ oz.—No. 6 lead  
Average Pellet Count: 278  
Measured Velocity @ 3 ft.: 1230 f.p.s.

Total hits:	148 (53%)	Total hits:	198 (72%)
21" Inner Circle:	87 (31%)	21" Inner Circle:	126 (45%)
30" Outer Ring:	61 (22%)	30" Outer Ring:	72 (27%)

to reset the fire control system for the second shot. Barrel firing order selection is by means of a small rocker button on the non-automatic safety. When moved fully right, the top barrel will fire first; the bottom barrel will fire first if the rocker button is moved fully left. Selective, automatic ejectors are standard.

The 332's dark walnut stock has a satin finish. Checkering is machine-cut at 20 lines per inch in a flat diamond pattern on both sides of the pistol grip and fore-end. The latter is dominated by a functional, nearly full-length finger groove, and the pistol grip is notched. A recoil pad of solid black rubber with a black spacer is standard.

The Model 332 has a no-nonsense, semi-matte black oxide finish on all metal parts. It is evenly applied on a polished surface and quite durable and attractive. We found metal-to-metal fit excellent. Wood-to-metal fit was well

above average, too.

Coming up to the shoulder, the Remington 332 feels lively and well balanced. It also swings smoothly. Although perceived recoil with target, light and heavy field loads was modest and easily controlled, it was heavy with 3" magnum steel shot loads.

When we took the Model 332 on a migratory waterfowl hunt, the lively handling and excellent balance proved a significant asset for pass shooting. We fired several hundred rounds of shotshells of various brands and loads through the Model 332 without incident. Pattern results indicated dense, even patterns fully consistent with expected percentages. The point of impact for both barrels was about 3" high at 40 yds.

Has Remington's Model 332 succeeded in filling the shoes of the classic Model 32? Yes, we think so. The 332 combines traditional and modern quality, styling, features and handling into a new, American-made

# Weatherby Vanguard Synthetic



*Offered in calibers ranging from .223 Rem. all the way up to .338 Win. Mag., the Weatherby Vanguard Synthetic is priced at just \$476, regardless of chambering, which represents a remarkable value in a magnum bolt-action rifle.*

**W**hile best known for its mammoth Mark V bolt-action and its proprietary magnum cartridges, Weatherby has offered a “little brother” line of bolt-action rifles in standard and selected magnum calibers since 1970 under the Vanguard name. Built to Weatherby’s specifications by Howa in Japan, the Vanguard is based on the proven Howa Model 1500 bolt-action with some Weatherby styling cues, such as the bolt sleeve, trigger guard and stock design.

Two Vanguard models are currently offered: The Stainless, which sports a black synthetic stock and stainless steel barrel and action, or the Synthetic, which includes a black composite stock and blued carbon steel metal work. We selected a Vanguard

Synthetic in .300 Wby. Mag. for evaluation.

The Vanguard’s flat-bottomed forged receiver has a stout 1.11”-wide recoil lug that tapers from 0.53” to 0.428” at its bottom. The lug is integral with the receiver, which has a rounded top drilled and tapped at the factory to accept scope mounts. No iron sights are supplied.

The forged bolt has a fluted body with three gas relief holes and 0.43”-wide, 0.52”-long dual opposed locking lugs at its front. To guide the bolt in its travel, the right lug has a slot that engages a guide rail in the receiver. The bolt face extends past the locking lugs into a recess in the barrel face. The external extractor is a hook on the top right of the bolt face that pivots on a pin behind the locking lugs. Ejection is via an internal plunger ejection

lever on the top left of the bolt face. When the bolt is cocked, the tail of the firing pin protrudes rearward to act as a cocking indicator.

Fed from a fixed internal magazine, the Synthetic holds either five rounds in standard calibers or three in magnums. Loading is through the top of the ejection port, and the magazine may be unloaded by depressing the release at the front of the trigger guard and allowing the floorplate to swing down.

Bolt removal is via a release lever on the left rear of the action. Pressing it forward allows the bolt to be pulled out to the rear. The stock is secured to the action by a tang screw at the rear and by another at the front that threads into the recoil lug. Turning out those two screws allows the Vanguard’s barreled action to be removed for a

## VANGUARD

**MANUFACTURER:** Howa Machinery Co., Nagoya, Japan  
**IMPORTER:** Weatherby, Inc., 3100 El Camino Real, Atascadero, CA 93422; (805) 466-1767; www.weatherby.com  
**CALIBER:** 22-250-Rem., .223 Rem., .243 Win., .270 Win., .308 Win., .30-06 Sprg., 7 mm Rem. Mag., .300 Win. Mag., .300 WSM, .300 Wby. Mag. (tested), .338 Win. Mag.  
**ACTION TYPE:** bolt-action, center-fire, repeating rifle  
**RECEIVER:** carbon steel  
**BARREL:** 24”  
**RIFLING:** six-groove, 1:10” right-hand twist  
**SIGHTS:** none; drilled and tapped for scope bases  
**TRIGGER:** single-stage, adjustable; 3 lbs. pull  
**STOCK:** black synthetic; length of pull, 13½”; drop at heel, 7/8”; drop at comb, 1/2”  
**OVERALL LENGTH:** 44½”  
**WEIGHT:** 7 lbs., 11 ozs.  
**FINISH:** medium-polish blued steel  
**ACCESSORIES:** sling swivels, trigger lock, factory target, trigger test printout  
**SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE:** \$476



more thorough cleaning or inspection.

The trigger-blocking safety is on the right rear of the action and locks the bolt in place when engaged. To disengage it, press it fully forward and the lever will rest next to a red "F" for "fire" stamped in the bolt shroud. The single-stage trigger unit comes with a factory read-out of how and where it breaks. The unit is also adjustable using simple

tools. Our sample broke at a crisp 3 lbs. pull, and we saw no reason to change it.

The .300 Wby. Mag. Synthetic features a hammer-forged, 24" No. 2 contour barrel with a 1:10" right-hand twist that tapers externally from 1.19" at the receiver to 0.619" at the muzzle. The latter has a recessed crown to protect the rifling origin.

The Synthetic sports a black, injection-molded Butler Creek composite

SHOOTING RESULTS					
.300 Wby. Mag. Cartridge	Vel. @ 15' (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs.)	Group Size In Inches		
			Smallest	Largest	Average
Weatherby No. 1729 165-gr. JSP	3306 Avg. 37 Sd	4,006	1.58	2.34	1.97
Speer No. 24516 180-gr. JSP	3193 Avg. 26 Sd	4,077	1.29	2.17	1.78
Hornady No. 8500 180-gr. JSP	2949 Avg. 22 Sd	3,477	1.63	2.06	1.84
Average Extreme Spread:					1.86
Measured average velocity for 10 rounds from a 24" barrel. Range temperature: 81° F. Humidity: 50%. Accuracy for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 100 yds. from a sandbag. Abbreviations: JSP (jacketed soft point); Sd (standard deviation).					

stock that follows traditional lines with its straight comb, as opposed to Weatherby's familiar "California" style stocks. There is a cheek-

piece molded into the left side and raised checkering on the wrist and fore-end. Quick detachable sling swivel studs and swivels are supplied by the factory. A generous black rubber recoil pad is standard equipment and proved efficient in dampening perceived recoil in our tests.

From the bench, the average extreme spread for five consecutive, five-shot groups was 1.86". Although the .300 Wby. Mag. cartridge is no pussycat—the factory muzzle velocity of a 180-gr. bullet is 3540 f.p.s. and muzzle energy 4,173 ft.-lbs. from a 26" barrel—our test rifle didn't prove at all punishing for a big magnum thanks to the straight stock design, open wrist and generous recoil pad. Over a 200-round test session, there were no failures of any kind, and the Vanguard impressed us as a rugged all-weather rifle well-suited for hunters who prefer reliability and performance over aesthetics.

Offered in calibers ranging from .223 Rem. all the way up to .338 Win. Mag., the Weatherby Vanguard Synthetic is priced at just \$476, regardless of chambering, which represents a remarkable value in a magnum bolt-action rifle.



The Vanguard is based on the proven Howa Model 1500 action with some Weatherby styling cues, such as the bolt sleeve, trigger guard and stock design. The forged bolt has a fluted body with three gas relief holes and dual opposed locking lugs at its front. To guide the bolt in its travel, the right lug has a slot that engages a guide rail in the receiver.



The bolt face extends past the locking lugs into a recess in the barrel face. The external extractor is a hook on the top right of the bolt face that pivots on a pin behind the locking lugs. Ejection is via a spring-loaded plunger on the top left of the bolt face.



The Vanguard's two-position safety (above) rocks forward to fire. The 24" hammer-forged, No. 2 contour barrel has a recessed crown (l.) that protects the origin of the 1:10" right-hand twist rifling.



The Vanguard's flat-bottomed action has a stout, 1.11"-wide recoil lug that tapers from 0.53" to 0.428" at its bottom. The lug is integral with the receiver.

