RESOURCE

Turn Practice Into Useful Distance Data

Every distance-based tool on this site is only as good as the data behind it. A guessed carry number produces a guessed bag map, a guessed wedge matrix, a guessed simulator target session. This resource is about the other half of the equation: how to spend a practice or simulator session so the data it produces is actually worth feeding back into those tools.

Where measured data ends up

Once you have a real measured carry, it feeds the Club Carry Estimator for any gap you have not yet measured directly, keeping estimated distances clearly separate from measured ones rather than blending them into one undifferentiated number.

Define a question before you start

"Go hit some balls" is not a data-collection plan. "Measure my 7-iron carry across ten reasonably solid strikes" is. Before a session, decide what specific question you are answering: a single club's carry, a full wedge matrix, or a set of simulator targets across your whole bag. The Practice Session Planner helps structure the time around that question.

Choosing a sample plan

A single shot is a data point, not a range. A realistic sample plan for one club is somewhere between five and ten reasonably struck balls, ignoring obvious mishits, per session. The Wedge Calibration Session and Bag Mapping Session both structure this as a grid of cells with a target repetition count, so you know exactly how much data you have for each club rather than an impression of "I hit that one pretty well today."

Recording source and conditions

A carry measured on a calm range day is not the same data as one measured into a headwind, and a number from a launch monitor is not automatically more accurate than a well-paced-off range shot; both need their source noted. Recording where a number came from, and roughly what the conditions were, keeps you from mistaking a favorable-wind outlier for your typical carry.

Measured versus estimated, kept distinct

Every tool on this site that consumes distance data separately labels a value as measured or estimated, because collapsing the two into one undifferentiated number is how false precision creeps in. When you record data from a practice session, keep that same distinction: a genuinely measured carry from ten balls is different from a number you are fairly confident about but have not actually tested this season.

Wedge calibration specifically

Wedges deserve particular attention because they cover the scoring zone where distance control matters most. The Wedge Calibration Session schedules a grid of wedge-and-shot-length cells and summarizes each with a min, typical, and max range once you have measured it, feeding directly into the Wedge Distance Matrix.

A full bag-mapping session

Mapping a whole bag does not need to happen in one sitting. The Bag Mapping Session tracks which clubs have measured coverage and which do not, so you can build the map incrementally across several range visits and flags data older than a year as worth remeasuring, since your game or equipment may have changed since then.

Simulator target work

A simulator session benefits from the same discipline: pick specific target distances first, then use the Simulator Practice Planner to match them against your measured carry bands, flagging any target with no matching club as a coverage question rather than quietly skipping it.

Putting practice data

Putting is measured differently from full-swing distance work, but the same discipline applies: define your distance bands, set a repetition count, and record makes or attempts rather than a vague impression of how putting felt. The Putting Practice Planner structures a session this way, feeding evidence into the putting-evidence cluster elsewhere on this site.

A simple review loop

After a session, a short review, what did the numbers actually show, does anything need remeasuring, did any gap close or open, is what turns a one-off practice session into a cumulative record. Skipping this step is the most common way a good session's data gets lost before it can inform anything downstream.

Privacy and local storage

None of this data is sent anywhere; every calculator on this site runs entirely in your browser, and nothing you enter is retained beyond your own session unless you choose to save or record it elsewhere yourself. See the privacy page for the full posture.

A sample capture table

CLUB	SHOT TYPE	MEASURED CARRIES (YARDS)	CONDITIONS
7-iron	Full	148, 151, 153, 149, 152	Calm, range mats
SW	Half	55, 58, 52, 60	Calm, grass tee
Driver	Full	228, 235, 231	Light tailwind

None of this claims to improve your skill or diagnose your swing; it is a data discipline that makes every other distance-based tool on this site more trustworthy.