RESOURCE

Budget and Sequence a Home Golf Simulator

A home simulator build succeeds or fails as much on planning discipline as on equipment choice. This resource is a worksheet mindset, not a buying guide: it explains how to structure a personal budget, why sequencing matters, and how to think through whether the whole project makes financial sense for how you would actually use it.

Editable categories, not a fixed shopping list

The budget planner deliberately supplies no default categories or prices. Every build is different: some golfers already own a launch monitor and only need a screen and enclosure; others are starting from nothing. Define your own categories that match your actual plan, and let the tool handle the arithmetic of summing them against your total budget.

Contingency is not padding, it is honesty about uncertainty

Nearly every home build turns up at least one unplanned cost: an outlet that needs relocating, unexpected flooring work, or a mount that costs more than the one you priced. A contingency percentage applied to your category total, rather than guessing which specific category will run over, is a more honest way to plan for this near-certainty than pretending your first estimate will be exactly right.

Shared-room tradeoffs

A room that also serves another purpose trades some ready-to-play convenience for getting the space back for other uses. The multi-use room planner makes this tradeoff explicit by scoring dedicated, fold-away, and shared approaches against your own weighted priorities, rather than assuming a dedicated room is always the goal.

Irreversible decisions come first

Room measurements, layout choices, and impact-zone dimensions are expensive to change once a screen is mounted or a mat is installed. Budget and purchasing decisions remain flexible much longer. The build sequencer encodes this principle directly: it will not let you treat budget-setting as an early stage, because doing so risks budgeting for a screen size your room cannot actually support.

Use-frequency scenarios and the break-even question

Whether a simulator build is worth its cost depends heavily on how often you would actually use it compared with paying for an alternative like a nearby lounge or range per session. The break-even planner compares your entered one-time and recurring costs against an alternative's per-use cost and reports the exact point, if any, where owning becomes cheaper. A "no crossover" result is a legitimate and useful answer, not a tool failure; it means the numbers you entered do not support owning being cheaper within your projection window.

A cumulative-cost example

Suppose a build costs 6,000 up front with a 5-per-session recurring cost, compared against a 40-per-session alternative. Each session, owning gains roughly 35 in relative value. Reaching the 6,000 upfront cost back takes about 172 sessions. If you expect to use a simulator twice a week, that is roughly two years; if you expect daily use, it is a matter of months. The same arithmetic applies whether you measure in sessions or months, and the break-even planner produces this exact calculation from your own numbers rather than a generic industry estimate.

What "sufficiently repeatable" looks like once built

After installation, the session calibration tool helps you judge whether your new setup's readings are consistent enough to trust, by capturing a small set of attempts with one club and target and reporting the count, mean, and range. This does not validate your device's own accuracy against an external benchmark; it only tells you whether your own results are internally consistent.

Retaining your assumptions

Every number you enter into any of these planning tools stays in your own browser's local storage unless you clear it. There is no account and no server-side record of your budget, your room

dimensions, or your build sequence progress. Revisit any tool later and your prior entries, and any shared-field values like a saved bag or handicap, will still be there. See the privacy page for the full detail on how that storage and its export/clear controls work.

What this resource does not do

This is not a product recommendation, a price guide, or installation or electrical-code advice. No product, brand, or price appears anywhere in this resource or the tools it links to. Use it to structure your own decision, not to shortcut research into your specific equipment choices.