Free sample from The Golf Sim Build & Practice Planner. This is worksheet 4 of 20. Get all 20 worksheets: golfsimcave.com/kit/golf-sim-build-planner

Launch Monitor Decision Sheet

Radar vs camera-based, the data you actually want, software fit, and subscription cost

Room depth available behind the ball (ft)

Ceiling height (ft)

Primary use (practice / full course play)

The launch monitor is usually the single biggest line item and the one with the widest price range, so it is worth a real decision instead of a guess. Score a short list before you buy.

Radar vs camera-based (photometric) units

Two different measurement technologies, each with its own space needs. Confirm which one a specific model uses before assuming it fits your room.

Type	How it measures	Typical space need
Radar-based	Tracks the club and ball with Doppler radar through impact and along the flight	Usually placed a few feet behind or beside the ball with a clear read down the intended flight path
Camera-based (photometric)	High-speed cameras positioned beside, in front of, or overhead near the ball infer data from images at or near impact	Often works in a shallower room since it does not need to track the ball far down range

Data points that matter to you

Check the ones you actually want; more data points generally costs more.

- [ ] Club speed
- [ ] Ball speed
- [ ] Launch angle
- [ ] Spin rate
- [ ] Spin axis / side spin

- [ ] Carry and total distance
- [ ] Club path
- [ ] Face angle / face-to-path

Software compatibility

Confirm the unit actually runs the golf software you want before buying; not every monitor supports every platform.

Software I want	Compatible with this monitor? (check the maker's current list)

Subscription / software cost, first year

From this site's own build cost calculator.

Software tier	Typical first-year cost
Bundled or free app	~$0
Subscription platform	~$200/yr
Premium course platform	~$700 (first year)

Shortlist scoring

Candidate	Type	Fits my depth?	Has the data I want?	Runs my software?	Budget

Launch monitors

Current prices and all our picks: golfsimcave.com/kit/golf-sim-build-planner/gear/.

- **Approach R10 Portable Golf Launch Monitor**: The budget entry point for real club and ball data, well under $500.
- **SkyTrak Golf Launch Monitor**: A camera-based unit that anchors a serious mid-range bay and fits shallower rooms.
- **Launch Pro Photometric Launch Monitor**: Tour-level ball data from a three-camera system, for a finished, permanent room.

Current prices and our latest picks for each item: **golfsimcave.com/kit/golf-sim-build-planner/gear/**

Researched guidance, not professional advice. This is researched golf simulator build information, not electrical or professional advice. Test your own full driver swing in the room, follow manufacturer instructions, and use a licensed electrician for any new circuit or wiring.