

THE HOME FAIRWAY

THE GOLF SIMULATOR THAT DISAPPEARS

OWNER'S COMPANION

Nine things that made my sim **worth using** every single day.

The screen is the hard part, and you already own it. What follows is the short list of small additions that turned my simulator from a room I had to set up into a room people walk into and start hitting.

Congratulations. Now let's make it effortless.

A simulator gets used in direct proportion to how easy it is to start. Mine sat idle plenty of nights early on, not because I didn't want to hit balls, but because getting it going was eight steps and I was tired.

Everything here solves one of three problems: protecting the screen, removing friction, or making the room obvious to a guest who has never done this before. These are the things actually in my bay, not a catalog. Where we have a partnership with a brand, our link is an affiliate link and The Home Fairway may earn a small commission if you buy through it, at no extra cost to you. Nobody paid to be on this list.

01 ClubTub

A CLEANING STATION AT THE DOOR OF THE BAY

THE PROBLEM A wedge that just came off a wet course carries mud, sand and grass in the grooves, and the first swing indoors throws all of it at your screen. Screens don't get ruined in one dramatic moment. They get stained a little at a time, by clubs nobody thought to wipe.

WHAT I DO A brush lined bucket of water sits where people walk in, towel beside it. Dunk the head, give it a twist, four seconds a club. The placement does the work for me: a bucket by the door is a rule people follow without being told.

PRO TIP Empty it after sessions. A grit loaded tub just re-applies what you cleaned off.

Find it: club-tub.com

02 Club Scrub

THE PORTABLE VERSION, AND IT GOES TO THE COURSE

THE PROBLEM The tub is the right tool at the door, but not for a quick mid session touch up, and it obviously doesn't travel.

WHAT I DO A neoprene bag with a waterproof lining and a scrubbing interior. Add water, work the clubface or a ball inside it, clip it to your bag. Indoors that's one club in ten seconds with no bucket. On the course it covers the fact that most places no longer have a ball washer anywhere near where you need one.

PRO TIP Buy two. One lives clipped to your golf bag, one stays in the sim. The one you have to remember to move is the one you'll leave in the car.

Find it: clubscrub.com, offered in Mini and Pro sizes

03 K2 Golf anchor bag and tether

REAL TEES INDOORS ARE A GENUINELY BAD IDEA

THE PROBLEM A wooden tee in a closed room snaps, becomes a small projectile aimed at your screen, or vanishes under the mat while you crawl around looking for it.

WHAT I DO A weighted anchor bag connects to a rubber tee by a bungee tether with swivel clips. The bag sits at about the one o'clock position for a right hander, out of the swing path. Hit, look up, the tee is already back where it was.

PRO TIP Check the tether isn't crossing your launch monitor's field of view before you settle on a position. A moving cord in frame can confuse an overhead camera unit.

Find it: k2golf.com

04 BirTee tees, in several heights

REPEATABLE TEE HEIGHT IS REPEATABLE DATA

THE PROBLEM Guessing tee height by eye adds a variable you didn't ask for, and indoors, where you're chasing numbers instead of watching a ball fly, that variable quietly ruins the feedback.

WHAT I DO Durable rubber tees in numbered sizes, roughly a quarter inch up to two inches. I keep three within reach: one for driver, one for a fairway wood or hybrid, one low one for irons. Same height every time, and they don't shatter.

PRO TIP Write the size number next to the club on a card by the mat. It sounds unnecessary until a friend asks which tee to use for the driver.

Find it: birteegolf.com

05 A pin light on the hitting spot

EVERYONE HITS FROM THE SAME SPOT, WITHOUT BEING TOLD

THE PROBLEM Every new person asks the same question: where do I hit from? You point at the mat, and the ball still ends up somewhere slightly different every time. Off the mat's hitting strip, outside the launch monitor's capture zone, or too close to the screen. Then you explain it again for the next guest.

WHAT I DO A small narrow beam spotlight throws a tight pool of light on the exact spot the ball belongs. Nobody has to be told anything. They walk in, see the lit spot, and set a ball on it. Ball position stays inside the capture zone, wear stays on one part of the mat, and the bay looks staged rather than assembled.

PRO TIP Aim it from in front of the ball rather than straight down, so the player's body doesn't shadow the spot at address. Put it on the same scene as the rest of the bay (see 07) so it comes on with everything else.

06 Roxor control box

STOP WALKING BACK TO THE COMPUTER

THE PROBLEM Changing clubs, re-teeing, running a flyover, switching a left hander in. Every one is a trip back to the PC. With one person it's a nuisance. With a foursome it kills the pace.

WHAT I DO A physical button box sits within reach of my stance. Club up and down and flyover get used constantly, and I mapped a spare button to switch hands, which is worth the box on its own when a lefty is in the group.

PRO TIP If the buttons do nothing in your sim software, check that the control box app is running as administrator before you troubleshoot anything else. That one setting is the answer far more often than a pairing problem.

Find it: roxorgolf.com

07 SwitchBot

ONE TAP RUNS EVERY PIECE OF HARDWARE IN THE ROOM

THE PROBLEM A sim bay is a pile of devices that each want their own remote: projector, TV, launch monitor, PC, lights, blinds. Finding three remotes and pressing seven buttons in the right order is why a lot of expensive sims sit dark on a Tuesday night.

WHAT I DO A small hub acts as an infrared blaster: it learns your remotes and fires those signals on command, from your phone, on a schedule or by voice. One command powers up my TVs, the projector and the launch monitor, and I can start the room warming up from the kitchen.

Infrared hub

Learns the projector, TV and AV remotes, then sends every power-on signal in sequence with delays between them.

Mechanical button pusher

A motorized finger that physically presses a hard power button, for gear with no remote and no smart plug option.

Smart plugs

Cut power to the pin light, sign lighting, a fan or a space heater as part of the same scene.

Curtains and blind tilt

Ambient light washes out a projected image. Closing the blinds automatically is a real picture upgrade.

Motion and door sensors

Lights come up when someone walks in, so the room wakes before they reach the mat.

Scenes, schedules, voice

"Golf Time," "Movie Night" and "Shut It Down" as three buttons, or a spoken phrase.

PRO TIP Get the hardware scene working on its own first, then have your startup script (next page) trigger it. Two working pieces chained together beat one tangle.

Find it: switchbot.com · Home Fairway readers can use code **10UPCA9GXQOHLQ** at checkout

08 The one-tap boot-up

AUTOHOTKEY PLUS CLAUDE, AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A PROGRAMMER

THE PROBLEM Even with the hardware handled, the software side is a ritual: launch the launch monitor software, answer its user profile prompt, get the right tab up, start casting to the TV, launch the sim, drag it to the projector, make it full screen, wake the control box. Eight steps in order, and if a window lands on the wrong display you start over.

WHAT IT IS AutoHotkey is a free Windows automation tool: a script can launch programs, wait for windows to appear, click buttons and move windows to specific monitors. Claude writes the script. You describe your setup in plain English and get working code back.

- 1 **Write the ritual down in normal words.** Every click, in order, including the annoying parts ("it asks which user profile and I always pick the same one").
- 2 **Describe how you actually use the room.** Mine has two modes, so the script opens with a small picker and I choose one.
- 3 **Claude writes it.** Mine launches each program in order, waits for its window, answers the profile prompt, casts to the TV, moves each window to the correct display, sets full screen and starts the control box.
- 4 **Run it and report exactly what broke.** "The club data window landed on the wrong screen." Specific complaints get specific fixes, and this is where the real work happens.
- 5 **Make it a desktop shortcut** with a golf icon. That's the entire user interface. My wife can start the simulator. So can a guest.

PRO TIP Some programs need administrator rights to be controlled, and the clean way to handle that is a Windows scheduled task the script triggers, so there's no permission prompt on every launch. Keep a plain English notes file beside the script, so six months later Claude can pick the work back up in one conversation.

Find them: autohotkey.com and claude.ai

09 The off button

EVERYBODY AUTOMATES THE START. ALMOST NOBODY AUTOMATES THE END.

THE PROBLEM Sessions end at ten at night when you're done thinking, so the projector stays on, the launch monitor stays powered and the room never resets. The next person finds a half running sim and no clear way to shut it down, so they leave it running too.

WHAT I DO The mirror image of the startup shortcut. One button closes the sim and launch monitor software cleanly, stops the cast to the TV, shuts down the control box watchdog and triggers the hardware scene that powers off the projector and displays. It protects gear you paid for, it means the next session starts from a known state, and it means a guest can finish and leave without needing you.

PRO TIP Windows remembers display arrangements per monitor configuration, so shutting down in a different order than you started can leave your resolutions scrambled. Have the shutdown undo things in reverse order.

Your setup checklist

In the order I'd do them. The first four take an afternoon between them. The automation is an evening well spent, and it's the one that changes how often the room actually gets used.

	UPGRADE	WHAT IT SOLVES	EFFORT
☐	ClubTub	Keeps course dirt off a screen you can't easily replace	10 minutes
☐	Club Scrub	Fast cleanups indoors, ball and club washer on the course	Zero setup
☐	K2 anchor bag and tether	No broken tees, no projectiles, no crawling on the mat	15 minutes
☐	BirTee tees, several heights	Consistent tee height, so the numbers mean something	Zero setup
☐	Pin light	Everyone hits from the same spot, with no explaining	An hour
☐	Roxor control box	Club changes and flyovers without leaving the mat	An hour
☐	SwitchBot scenes	All the hardware powers up and down on one command	An evening
☐	One-tap boot-up script	Eight software steps become one desktop icon	An evening
☐	The off button	The room resets itself, and anyone can end a session	An hour

One last thing about the screen

Nearly every mark I've seen on an impact screen traces back to a clubface that came inside dirty. If you only do one thing in this booklet, put a cleaning station at the door of your bay. For anything beyond routine dust, and for care specific to your screen material, check the guidance that came with your system or just ask us. We'd rather answer a question than replace a panel.