We get asked all the time, "What is the best projector for Golf Simulators like the SkyTrak Golf Simulator or the OptiShot Golf Simulator?" The projector you decide to go with is indeed a very important decision in creating your dream home golf simulator setup. The issue is, reading projector specification sheets can be extremely confusing for someone who has never used a projector before. In this guide, we will help you understand the key features to look for in a golf simulator projector and provide our top golf simulator projector recommendations.
**Lumens**

Lumens determines the brightness of the image your projector displays. The brighter your room is, the more important it is to have a high lumens projector. As a general rule of thumb, you can get by in dark rooms with lumens of 1500-2000, rooms with reduced lighting you will need lumens above 2000+, and rooms with a reasonable amount of lighting you will need lumens above 3000+

**Throw Ratio**

Throw ratio refers to the distance the projector is from the screen versus how wide the screen is. If you do not want your shadow showing up on your hitting screen, you will need what is called a short throw or ultra-short throw projector which range anywhere between 0.3:1 to 1:1.

To find the optimal throw ratio, you will divide the distance from your projector to your screen by the width of your screen. As an example, if your screen is 10 feet wide and your projector is 5 feet away from the screen, your optimal throw ratio is 0.5:1 (5 feet / 10 feet).

**Aspect Ratio and Resolution**

Aspect ratio and resolution tend to go hand-in-hand. To put it simply, aspect ratio refers to the shape the image will take on the screen or the ratio between the width and height of the image. Resolution refers to the number of pixels inside the image. The more pixels, the higher the image quality.

Most commonly, you will see the following aspect ratios & resolutions:

- **4:3 (XGA & SXGA)**
  - Image will take more of a square shape
  - Lowest resolution: 1024 x 768 resolution
  - Lowest cost option
  - These projectors are also more lightweight and portable

- **16:10 (WXGA & WUXGA)**
  - Image will be more rectangular
  - Higher resolution: 1280 x 800 resolution
  - Crisper picture but more expensive than XGA & SXGA

- **16:9 (standard HDTV, 1080p)**
  - Image will be more rectangular
- Highest resolution: 1920 x 1080p resolution
- If you want to turn your golf simulator into a home theater, we highly recommend opting for this resolution

Important note: We would recommend trying to match the resolution of your computer with the resolution of your projector. Your projector will never be able to project a higher resolution image than your computer is capable of!

- For example, if your computer has a resolution of 1024 x 768, and you have a higher resolution projector such as 1280 x 800, the projector will only project an image in 1024 x 768.

**HDMI Connectivity**

A final feature to make sure your projector has is the necessary HDMI Input. Almost all new projectors have this, but it is necessary to work with any of our golf simulators.

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**Best Golf Simulator Projector**

**Optoma EH200ST Full 3D 1080p 3000 Lumen DLP Short Throw Projector with HDMI Port**

Time and time again we hear about how much our customers love this [Optoma Golf Simulator Projector](https://rainorshinegolf.com/pages/golf-simulator-projector-buyer-guide). All-around, At HD 1080p (1920 x 1080) resolution, this projector is a great pick for an HD quality golf simulator experience that you could easily turn into a home theater. With a 0.49:1 throw ratio, [Optoma Projectors](https://rainorshinegolf.com/pages/golf-simulator-projector-buyer-guide) also fit the criteria for our top golf simulator screen [The Net Return Simulator Series](https://rainorshinegolf.com/pages/golf-simulator-projector-buyer-guide). All around, this is the best projector for golf simulators.

- 3000 Lumens for a bright image
- 0.49:1 Throw Ratio
• HD 1080p (1920 x 1080) resolution
• HDMI Connectivity

Buy the Optoma EH200ST Now

Other Projectors for Golf Simulators

**ViewSonic PJD5353LS 3200 Lumens XGA HDMI Projector**

Our customers have had success with this budget-friendly ViewSonic Golf Simulator Projector. ViewSonic Projectors have everything you need and fits perfectly on The Net Return Simulator Screens at a 4:3 Aspect Ratio.

• 3200 Lumens for a bright image
• 0.6:1 Throw Ratio
• Native XGA 1024 x 768 resolution with 4:3 Aspect Ratio
• HDMI Connectivity

If you would like to upgrade the resolution while still getting the 3200-lumen bright image, 0.6 throw ratio, and HDMI Connectivity, you may want to opt for the ViewSonic PJD5553LWS 3200 Lumens WXGA HDMI Short Throw Projector.

**BenQ MW632ST 3,200 ANSI Lumen Colorific MHL DLP**

BenQ Projectors are another popular choice for golf simulators. This BenQ Golf Simulator Projector has a bright display, high resolution for a crisp image, and short-throw feature perfect for a golf simulator.

• High lumens at 3200
• 0.9:1 throw ratio

*Please note that this projector is built for use with a universal ceiling mount and will not work with The Net Return Simulator Series with Projector Mount Kit or our Platinum Studio, we recommend the Optoma Projector listed above since the projector mount will not extend out far enough for this projector*

XGA 1280 x 800 resolution with 16:10 Aspect Ratio
• HDMI Connectivity

Please note that since we need to hit wedges into our simulator, the screen must be slightly taller than it is wide. To get this height, the screen becomes more square rather than the true 4:3 ratio. Although these projectors can provide HD clarity to your golf simulation video, since the screens are more square than a true 4:3, you will be left with a slight blank space horizontally on the screen (about 18").

Golf Simulator Projector Mounts

The Net Return Projector Mount Kit ($499) + The Net Return Simulator Series (+$2,495)

The absolute best way to mount your projector for your golf simulator setup is with The Net Return Simulator Series Screen and The Net Return Projector Mount Kit. Why? Because you don't have to drill any holes in your wall! The mount kit and enclosure is completely self-contained allowing you to connect the projector mount directly to the Simulator Series Screen. Also, the recommended #1 Golf Simulator Projector, the Optoma EH200ST fits perfectly with this setup helping you create the dream golf simulator room you are trying to create. Reference the video on the right to see...
exactly how to set up The Net Return Projector Mount Kit.

**Mount-It! Wall or Ceiling Projector Mount with Universal Mounting** If you already have a golf simulator screen or opt for another hanging golf simulator screen, the Mount-It! Projector Mount is our favorite universal projector mount that allows you to mount your projector on your wall or ceiling. It also fits all top brand projectors including Optoma, BenQ, Epson, ViewSonic, and more.

Want to take this guide with you? Download a PDF version of the Golf Simulator Projector Guide here.

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