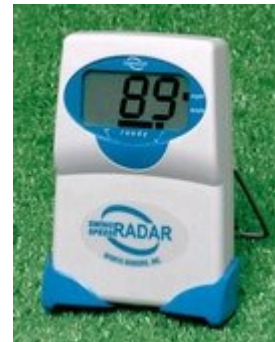


Review: Swing Speed Radar

By Brent Kelley of About.com Golf, <http://golf.about.com>

The Swing Speed Radar is a small electronic gadget that is positioned near the golf ball and measures the speed of a golfer's swing as the clubhead whizzes past.

The Swing Speed Radar is only about the size of a clock radio (and a smaller one at that). It comes with a metal stand that allows the unit to be positioned near to the golf ball and facing the path of the golfer's swing. It runs on three AA batteries.



When a golfer swings, an LED display shows the speed of the clubhead as it passes in front of the Swing Speed Radar. The unit can be set to display the speed in miles per hour or kilometers per hour.

The unit automatically clears the previous reading and is ready for its next reading within seconds. It will also shut off automatically if not used within a certain period of time.

The Swing Speed Radar comes with a guide to proper use that tells golfers how it can also be used to measure takeaway speed.

Nifty - But What's It Good For?

Sounds nifty enough. But is the Swing Speed Radar more a fun gadget or a true golf instructional aid that can help golfers improve their games?

It's a little bit of both. There's no doubt it's fun to be able to get clubhead speed measurements. Previously, such measurements were only likely to be available to recreational golfers who were willing to pay for access to a launch monitor (assuming a launch monitor was available at all).

Of course, the Swing Speed Radar only provides clubhead speed, nothing more. Still, it's easy and fun to use.

As for possible benefits to the golfer? Let's keep in mind that, as the company itself points out on its Web site, it's now how hard you swing but how *well* you swing that counts.

Still, the Swing Speed Radar can be used in conjunction with strength training programs designed to improve a golfer's swing speed and, therefore, his distance. For example, a golfer working with a Power Stik can use the Swing Speed Radar to monitor progress.

It can also be used to throttle back one's swing. Davis Love III has said he swings at about 85-percent of what he's capable. Golfers can use the Swing Speed Radar to dial down their swing, identifying a speed that offers better control.