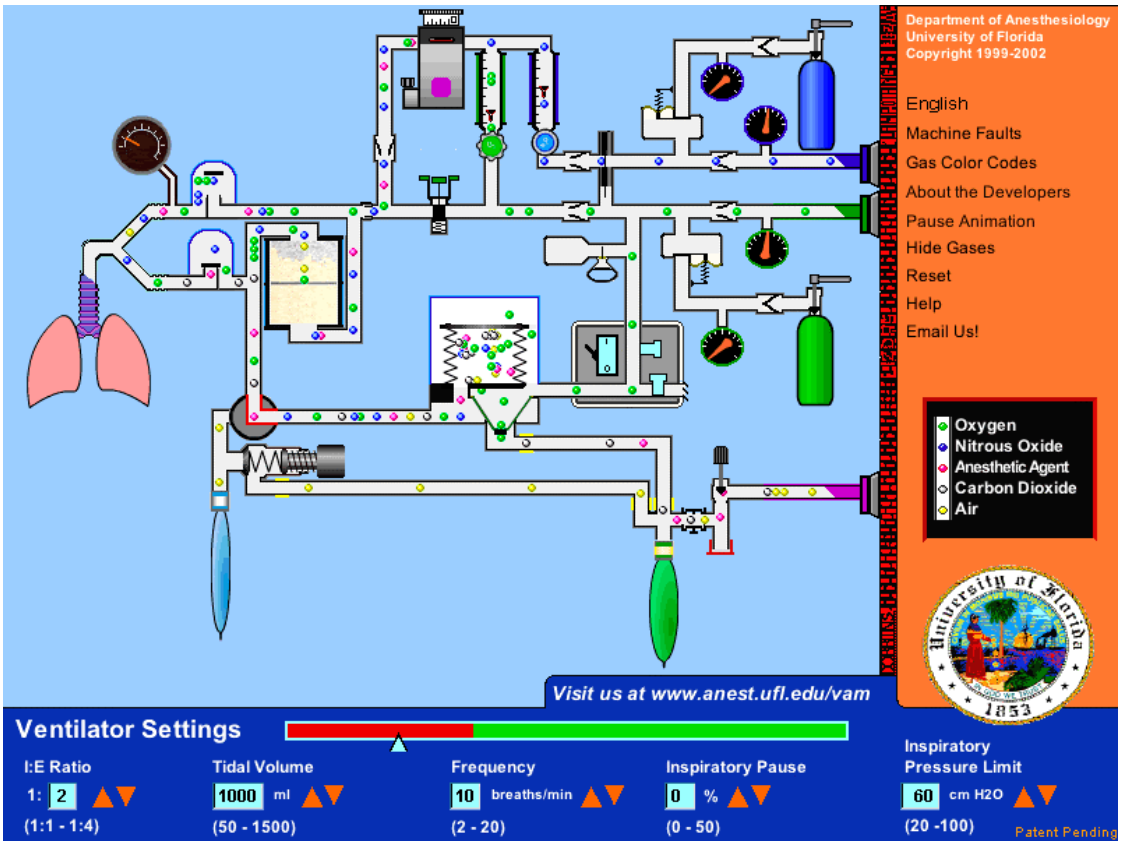
The Virtual Anesthesia Machine

At the Virtual Anesthesia Machine (VAM) web site: http://www.anest.ufl.edu/vam, you will find tutorials, fault algorithms, pre-use checklists, the APSF anesthesia machine workbook, a bulletin board open to all parties to discuss anesthesia equipment issues, and VAM, an interactive, real-time simulation of gas flows in a generic, traditional anesthesia machine. The APSF workbook, available in Chinese, English, German, Italian and Korean, is a free, 50-page document containing self-paced structured exercises designed for instructional use or self-paced learning, as a companion learning aid to the VAM simulation.

Instead of complex, dimensional drawings of an anesthesia machine, VAM presents a simplified mental model designed to help viewers appreciate and retain basic concepts. Gas "molecules" can be made visible/invisible and color-coded (4 gas color codes). Users can adjust 30 controls and observe in real time the essential effects of their interventions on gas pressures, flows, compositions and volumes. Machine faults can be simulated. The simulation can be paused. On-line help to use the simulation is available as an animated tutorial. The simulation features Albanian, Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, English, French, Georgian, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish or Turkish legends.



All materials on the VAM web site, including the simulation and APSF workbook, are accessed **free of charge**. To keep costs low, the materials are made available only via the Web. Macromedia Shockwave (a free download, if not already pre-installed on a new PC) is required to view the simulation from the Web. Upon first use, user registration is required. Registration data are not shared with third parties but are used to inform users of web site updates and tailor future developments based on broad user demographics. Instructions for off-line use at teaching locations without Web access are provided at the VAM web site.

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October 2003