

YGK Ventilator Controller Configuration

This walk through assumes you have a functionally complete ventilator that still needs to be checked for final assembly, geometric configuration and calibration coefficients.

Confirm CPAP Output Pressure

1. Set both CPAP machines to 20 cm H₂O pressure output.
2. Attach a hose to the output port of the CPAP #2 housing.
3. Start CPAP #2 and close the housing.
4. Start CPAP #1 — there should now be a high volume flow coming out of the hose.
5. Immerse the end of the hose in water. (A large bucket would be ideal to limit splashing.)

The flow should continue at significant volume out the end of the hose until you reach a depth of approximately 40 cm under the water. Below 40 cm there should be no flow. If this functions as expected, you can treat the combined steady CPAP pressure as 40 cm H₂O at normal breathing flow rates.

Reconnect the control valve system to the CPAP output port.

Configure Valve Geometry

1. Disconnect the power supply from the servos.
2. Remove valve gates from servos unless you are confident they are already positioned correctly. (Driving servos past maximum settings could do physical damage to the valves and / or servos.)
3. Connect a PC to the USB port of the microcontroller and run the Arduino IDE.
4. Open the Serial Monitor of the IDE to observe output from controller. It should be rapidly printing lines of numbers.
5. Enter “x” and return (all command lines end with hitting the return key) in the top line of the monitor. The printing should stop.
6. Enter “h”. You should see a list of possible commands.
7. Enter “W99” to wipe any previous configuration file.
8. Use the “C” and “S” commands with no arguments to see the current calibration and servo settings. Confirm that “S” shows all angles to be 90 degrees.
9. Enter “w” to write the config file.
10. Apply power to the servos and they should move to the fully open 90 degree positions.
11. Enter “s” and follow instructions to set the positions for your valves.

1. The first step will allow you to correctly place the gates for the 90 degree servo position in the middle of the range. Place the gates as close to the tubing as possible while leaving a full open area of the tubes.
2. The next step allows you to move the CPAP valve gate angle positive or negative until it is at a maximum closure position. Do not set this value beyond the closure position, as the servo motor will strain to reach the unreachable, possibly damaging the structure, or overheating.
3. Repeat for the PEEP valve.
4. Ignore the Dual Valve settings unless you have that hardware configuration.
12. Enter "S" to check that the servo angle settings make sense and note the values for the future.
13. Enter "w" to write the config file.
14. Enter "R" to return to run mode. The numbers should return and the servos should actuate the CPAP and PEEP valves in turn to control the ventilator.

Configure Pressure Sensors

1. Turn off the CPAPs so there is no flow and no pressure on the sensors.
2. Enter "x" in the Serial Monitor to go to full open and stop printing.
3. Enter "a" and note the three voltages reported. They should all be near 1.24 volts (+/- 0.10 volts?).
4. Turn on the CPAPs and let the flow develop, then enter "a" again. All of the voltages should now be higher than the original values. If any are lower, reverse the connection polarity of their signal lines and recheck. (There are multiple locations where these connections could be reversed, or the flow elements could be installed in either direction in the tubing.)
5. Turn off the CPAPs and let the pressures and flows drop back to zero.
6. Enter "a-1" and make a note of the offset voltage values that have been set. You can check them any time with the "a" command to show measured voltages, or the "C" command to show the recorded offsets. (Note that the offsets will have changed when you reversed the connections!)

Set Scale Factor for Pressure

1. Turn on the CPAPs and block the outlet so there is a very small flow and pressure of 40 cm H₂O on the patient pressure sensor.
2. Enter "x" in the Serial Monitor to go to full open and stop printing.
3. Enter "a" and confirm a value significantly above the offset for the pressure measurement.
4. Enter "C" to confirm offset you set previously and a scale factor of 1.0
5. Enter "f" to display flow data. The reading shown for pressure will be the voltage about the offset from the patient pressure sensor, a value that might be 0.63 volts.
6. If you have a manometer, or other reference instrument, use it to get an even better value for the actual pressure generated by the CPAPs and use that in the next step.
7. Calculate the scale factor in cm H₂O per volt by dividing the applied pressure by the voltage, e.g. $40 / 0.63 = 63.5$ cm H₂O per volt. Write this value down for later.
8. Enter "C0,0,0,63.5" using your own scale factor in place of 63.5, then enter "C" to verify the settings. (Note that the three leading zeros don't change the offsets.)
9. Enter "w" to write the config file.

Set the Scale Factors for Flow

1. Turn on the CPAPs and add a measurement device to the outlet. Restrict the output to a flow rate that is reasonable for normal operations, may 10 litres per minute, and insure the volume flow rate is known and steady. (If necessary, you can use an estimate for this flow

and the results will still show the right shapes, while the numerical values will depend on the quality of the estimate. This can be useful for getting qualitative data.)

2. Follow the same steps as in setting the Scale Factor for Pressure, but this time we are interested in the CPAP side flow values. The result might be a value of 0.0814 for a flow of 10 litres per minute, so $10 / .0814 = 123.9$ lpm / volt for the scale factor. Write this value down for later.
3. Enter "C0,0,0,0,123.9" using your own scale factor in place of 123.9, then enter "C" to verify the settings. (This time the four leading zeros leave the offsets and the pressure scale factor unchanged.)
4. Enter "w" to write the config file.
5. Now connect the output port straight back to the return port of the ventilator to make sure the same flow rate is present on both sides of the device. Restrict the tubing so that the flow is in the right flow rate range and steady.
6. Enter "f" and you should see the flow rate for the CPAP side, maybe 11.3 litres per minute, but still a lower value like 0.1234 for the PEEP side flow. Calculate a scale factor like $11.3 / 0.1234 = 91.6$ lpm / volt.
7. Enter "C0,0,0,0,0,91.6" using your own scale factor in place of 91.6, then enter "C" to verify the settings. (This time the five leading zeros leave the offsets, the pressure and CPAP flow scale factors unchanged, while setting the final PEEP side flow scale factor.)

It is important to be sure the scale factors for the PEEP side and CPAP side flows are balanced to give matching results, as the patient flow rate will be calculated from the difference between them. Independent calibration will introduce an unnecessary bias error.