

BOOK REVIEW

Anesthesia Equipment: Principles and Applications, 3rd edn

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Elsevier, St Louis, MO, USA, 2021. Pp. 613. Price £138.99. ISBN: 978-0-323-67279-5

This is not just an anaesthesia equipment book! *Anesthesia Equipment: Principles and Applications* collates in one place a wealth of information on every conceivable aspect of the anaesthesia workstation and delves into some topics usually covered in physics for anaesthetist texts. The 27 chapters are divided into seven colour-coded parts: gases and ventilation; system monitors; patient monitors; other equipment; vigilance alarms and ergonomics; special conditions; and safety, standards, and quality. Text is complemented by a multitude of pictures, schematic diagrams, graphs, etc. Access to an online version is provided with the physical book.

The book is written from an American point of view, and most UK anaesthetists will be aware of the subtle differences in terminology and equipment (e.g. cylinder colour coding). The book, however, does highlight these differences.

Given the rare differences mentioned and the availability of UK texts on anaesthetic equipment, the question of what this book has to offer arises. For us, the answer is clear.

- (i) Not just an anaesthetic equipment book: In addition to covering equipment, there is in-context intertwining of relevant physiology and physics, limiting the need to scramble for other texts on physiology or physics for anaesthetists to clarify our understanding. Although this makes for a bigger book, the reasons why this is not a disadvantage are explained as follows.
- (ii) Clear, easy-to-understand language: Sometimes, when I pick up a textbook or article, I spend a significant amount

of time on the web browser trying to find the meaning of this or that. In this text, the authors express their content in clear language, making this a very accessible and smooth read. This goes some way to compensate for the size of the book.

- (iii) Amazing graphics and a lot of them: There are many strong points regarding the use of illustrations in this book, but for the purpose of brevity, I will focus on the schematic drawings. In some other books, schematic drawings that are supposed to be explanatory are not. The schematics in this book are intuitive, clear, and simple to grasp virtually at a glance.

So, are there any downsides? I alluded to the size of the book, but given the value of the content and the illumination provided in the diagrams, larger is better in this case. Provision for portability is given via the online version.

Overall, this is a very good, comprehensive, and accessible book on anaesthetic equipment and related concepts, one that I expect to refer to time and again, and that I highly recommend.

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doi: [10.1016/j.bja.2020.12.013](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bja.2020.12.013)