SIMV – Synchronised Intermittent Mandatory Ventilation

- Volume Controlled … but it can be pressure-controlled
- Time-Triggered AS WELL AS Flow-Triggered
  Volume- limited OR Pressure-limited, Flow-limited (but doesn’t have to be flow-limited)
- Time-Cycled (but it can be volume-cycled if you don’t want inspiratory pauses)

The key feature is, ITS SYNCHRONISED.
The patient can decide on their own respiratory rate and they can take a number of pressure-supported breaths. However, among those, the machine also gives a set number of mandatory breaths. If the patient makes an effort around the same time the next mandatory breath is due, the ventilator delivers to them an assist-control breath, with volume control.

You get little control over the minute volume. The patient may take as many pressure-supported breaths as he feels like, all you can do is guarantee a certain minute volume with volume-controlled IMV.

A wide awake patient would still find this mode relatively comfortable, because of the way it synchronises breaths.