

Here's the step-by-step approach that I used to get VASL up and going. Tested proven and I'm locked and loaded. There's a lot of steps but I got a bit long winded...didn't want to omit anything or have you get stuck 1/2 through and get frustrated and quit. :) I think you'll find this pretty simple once you get going. Good luck - and just kidding on that comment...please do ask if you have any questions or problems!!!

1. First, I made sure that Java was up to date: [www.java.com](http://www.java.com)
2. Then I downloaded VASSAL (currently 3.1.15) for my OS (Windows XP) by clicking download and choosing to "Run": <http://www.vassalengine.org/download.php> <- redirects to sourceforge.net
3. For VASSAL, I chose a "custom" install and installed it where I had it before (C:\games\vassal). This is just a personal preference.
4. I clicked to run VASSAL and since I had it installed before, it kept my old username and settings and displayed a list of modules that I had last opened.
5. So VASSAL is installed and working, now on to the hard part.
6. Popped over to [advancedsqadleader.net](http://advancedsqadleader.net) and clicked the quick link to the VASL section. Found my way to the download page here:  
[http://advancedsqadleader.net/index.php/VASL\\_mods](http://advancedsqadleader.net/index.php/VASL_mods)
7. Grabbed version 5.9.2 which shows that it works with VASSAL 3.1.15 which I just installed.
8. The link for the 5.9.2 VASL is for a .zip file. Click and save that somewhere. I previously had VASL installed to C:\games\VASL and so I extracted the zip file to there (places a vasl.mod file dated 7/14/2010 where ever you extract it to).
9. In the directory that you extracted vasl.mod to, you will need to create the following directories:

- A. boards
- B. extensions
- C. scenarios

Inside the 'boards' directory, make a sub-directory called 'overlays' so that you're hierarchy looks like:

```
C:\games\VASL
  -boards
    -overlays
  -extensions
  -scenarios
```

I also made another directory called 'saves' where I store all of my log files (in separate folders). This isn't mandatory but keeps your VASL directory clean. So mine looks like:

```
C:\games\VASL <-contains vasl.mod
  -boards
    -overlays
  -extensions
  -scenarios
  -saves
```

10. So now I go back to VASL downloads page (<http://advancedsquadleader.net/index.php/VASL#Downloads> <- V5 boards redirect to the VASL Map Bazaar where you need to have your rulebook handy for first time use) and I start grabbing the boards. As you can guess, these should be extracted into your 'boards' directory. I just grabbed to packs (i.e, bds 00-09, etc).

10a. It appears that the link for bds 60-63 is dead so I just grabbed them individually. Luckily it's only 4 boards. (Edit, the link is missing the 'p' in .zip at the end)

11. Next you might as well grab some overlays. They of course extract into your boards/overlays directory. That link is on the Map Bazaar just below the list of maps or direct link here:

[http://home.comcast.net/~tomrepetti/boards/overlays/Standard\\_overlays.zip](http://home.comcast.net/~tomrepetti/boards/overlays/Standard_overlays.zip)

12. You can grab the transparent overlays if you want - they look better but I passed on those for now.

13. Back at [http://advancedsquadleader.net/index.php/VASL\\_Extensions](http://advancedsquadleader.net/index.php/VASL_Extensions) to look for some old extensions that I liked to use. Extensions just add functionality that is not built into VASL. I wanted the turn record track and turn-phase pinwheel extension that I had made and then I remembered, it is now a standard part of VASL. Some other good ones that I did grab (goes in your extensions folder) are 3d6.mdx, MapInv.mdx, obaFlowchart.mdx, Tray.mdx

14. Ok, now for the scenario set up files. Almost there, still with me?

15. Went here for those <http://vasl.org/scenarios.htm> and for now just grabbed the ASL Starter Kit scenarios as that's all we'll be playing for the time being.

16. Ok, now to test fire. Open up VASSAL (not VASL) and you should see the Module Library window (I'm guessing - there may be some initial steps like entering your name, etc)

17. Go to FILE > Open Module and navigate to where ever vasl.mod is. Select it and open or double click.

18. If all is happy, you'll see the VASL welcome screen. Choose to "Start a new game offline" (default), we have some things to do before we can play.
19. Click "Next" and then when it asks you to choose a board, choose "Cancel". Again, if it's your first time it will probably ask for your name to use and a password. I'm sure you can follow the prompts there. Now, at the pick a board screen, just cancel so that we can get into the program.
20. If you're still with me, the VASL Controls panel should be open on your screen. Now we need to set some settings. Click on FILE and then PREFERENCES.
21. I think the default checkboxes are ok - unless I changed mine and mine aren't the default. But I have High-quality scaling, Show wizard, ask to ensure logging after, prompt for a log file comments, auto-report moves, center on opponent's moves, let opponent unconceal my units and I unchecked "use combined application window" because I have dual displays and I want the map on one screen and this control panel on the other.
22. I also changed to initial heap size to 1024 and the max to 1024. I may play with that depending on my system's performance (I have 3GB in this PC so a gig (1024) devoted while running VASL should be ok).
23. Now an important modification. Need to click the SELECT button and point to your boards directory. Mine is in C:\games\VASL\boards. Make sure yours is pointed correctly.
24. Under the LOS tab, I have "snap thread to grid, enable LOS checking and verbose LOS mode" checked.
25. Changed my Chat Window (tab) font to size 15 because I'm going blind....
26. Under the Extensions tab, make sure you select to where your extensions directory is. Again, mine is c:\games\VASL\extensions
27. So now I closed VASL (in order to disable the combined window thingie) and then with the VASSAL module library window still open, I selected to open VASL again.
28. Start a new game offline- and then cancelled at the board select window (this can be disabled if you uncheck the use Wizard at start up)
29. Went to FILE > LOAD GAME and then navigated to my scenarios folder. All the Starter Kit scenarios begin with "SK" so I picked SK1.v5 and wow - flashback! There was board 'y' with counters in place, ready for a new game to be played on it!