

19. (a) After the switches are closed, the potential differences across the capacitors are the same and the two capacitors are in parallel. The potential difference from a to b is given by $V_{ab} = Q/C_{\text{eq}}$, where Q is the net charge on the combination and C_{eq} is the equivalent capacitance. The equivalent capacitance is $C_{\text{eq}} = C_1 + C_2 = 4.0 \times 10^{-6} \text{ F}$. The total charge on the combination is the net charge on either pair of connected plates. The charge on capacitor 1 is

$$q_1 = C_1 V = (1.0 \times 10^{-6} \text{ F})(100 \text{ V}) = 1.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ C}$$

and the charge on capacitor 2 is

$$q_2 = C_2 V = (3.0 \times 10^{-6} \text{ F})(100 \text{ V}) = 3.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ C} ,$$

so the net charge on the combination is $3.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ C} - 1.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ C} = 2.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ C}$. The potential difference is

$$V_{ab} = \frac{2.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ C}}{4.0 \times 10^{-6} \text{ F}} = 50 \text{ V} .$$

- (b) The charge on capacitor 1 is now $q_1 = C_1 V_{ab} = (1.0 \times 10^{-6} \text{ F})(50 \text{ V}) = 5.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ C}$.
(c) The charge on capacitor 2 is now $q_2 = C_2 V_{ab} = (3.0 \times 10^{-6} \text{ F})(50 \text{ V}) = 1.5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ C}$.