

76. We do not employ energy conservation since, in reaching equilibrium, some energy is dissipated either as heat or radio waves. Charge is conserved; therefore, if  $Q = 48\ \mu\text{C}$ , and  $q_1$  and  $q_3$  are the charges on  $C_1$  and  $C_3$  after the switch is thrown to the right (and equilibrium is reached), then

$$Q = q_1 + q_3 \quad .$$

We note that  $V_{1 \text{ and } 2} = V_3$  because of the parallel arrangement, and  $V_1 = \frac{1}{2}V_{1 \text{ and } 2}$  since they are identical capacitors. This leads to

$$\begin{aligned} 2V_1 &= V_3 \\ 2\frac{q_1}{C_1} &= \frac{q_3}{C_3} \\ 2q_1 &= q_3 \end{aligned}$$

where the last step follows from multiplying both sides by  $2.00\ \mu\text{F}$ . Therefore,

$$Q = q_1 + (2q_1)$$

which yields  $q_1 = 16\ \mu\text{C}$  and  $q_3 = 32\ \mu\text{C}$ .