

80. (a) The equivalent capacitance of the three capacitors connected in parallel is $C_{\text{eq}} = 3C = 3\varepsilon_0 A/d = \varepsilon_0 A/(d/3)$. Thus, the required spacing is $d/3$.
- (b) Now, $C_{\text{eq}} = C/3 = \varepsilon_0 A/3d$, so the spacing should be $3d$.