

**When missing J-10-x-x or J-x-x-x, if you hold equivalent tenaces or near-tenaces, retain as many winners in one hand as there are missing honours.**

These situations are treated identically:

Dummy	(1) K 10 4 3	(2) K Q 10 3	(3) Q 9 4 3
Declarer	A Q 9 5 2	A 9 5 4 2	A K 10 6 2

In each case you have three winners and, as the 10 and 9 are equivalent, the K-10 tenace is equivalent to the A-9 or Q-9 tenace. As you are missing only *one* honour, keep *one* winner in each hand. Therefore, in (1), play the ace or queen first, not the king; in (2), play the king or queen first, not the ace; and in (3), play the ace or king first, not the queen. This guards against a 4-0 break against either opponent.

These situations are treated identically:

Dummy	(4) K Q 9 2	(5) A Q 8 3 2	(6) Q 8 3 2
Declarer	A 8 5 4 3	K 9 5 4	A K 9 5 4

In each case you have three winners. The 9 and 8 produce equivalent near-tenaces. This time, as *two* honours are missing, you must retain *two* honours to capture the jack and ten if the suit does break 4-0. Thus in (4), play the ace first. If LHO does have J-10-7-6, you can lead twice towards the K-Q-9 to avoid a loser. In (5), play the king first, retaining the A-Q-8 in case LHO has J-10-7-6. In (6), play the queen first to cater for J-10-7-6 with RHO.

J 10 7 6	Q 8 3 2	---	If a 4-0 break exists but the J-10-x-x lie over your two honours, you are unable to escape a loser.
	A K 9 5 4		

If you lead low from hand, West can simply play the jack or ten to ensure a trick.