

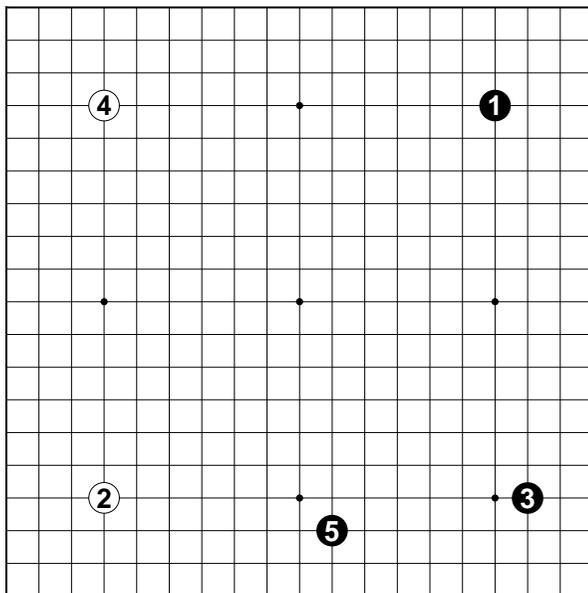
Game 1

Black and White are both rated at about amateur 3 or 4 dan AGA; this game was played on one of the go servers on the Internet.

This is the position after the first five moves.

Black is aiming for the popular mini-Chinese opening. The more usual approach to this opening is to play as in Diagram 1 (② is sometimes at A).

However, Black is not sure White will answer as in Diagram 1. White might play as in Diagram 2 with a pincer at ② or an approach at A.



Game Record 1: 1 – 2

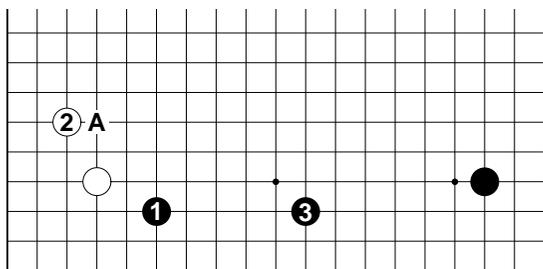


Diagram 1

Black plays as in the game in order to avoid the possibilities in Diagram 2, and, of course, Black can still hope to get in the approach move at the bottom left later.

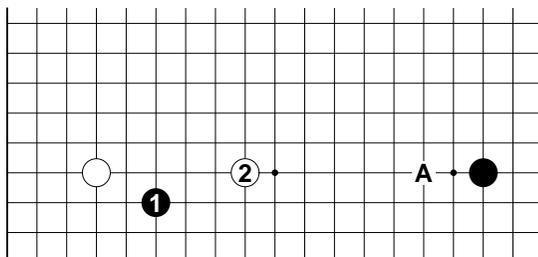
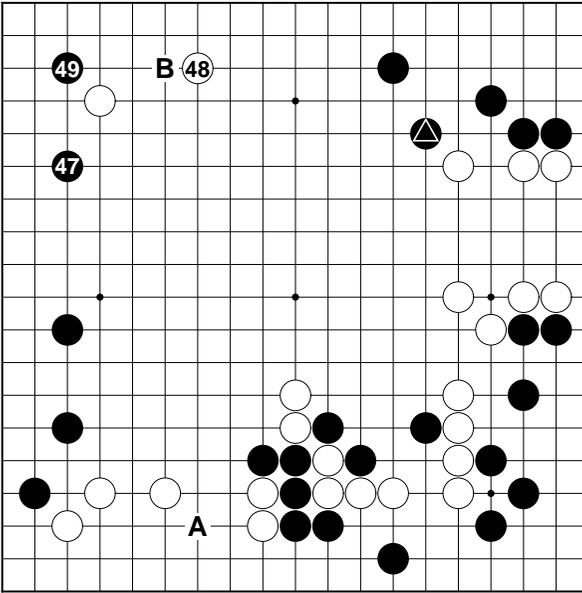


Diagram 2



Game Record 21: 47 – 49

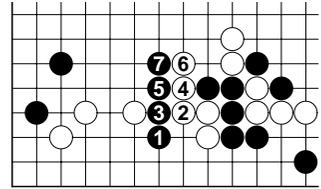


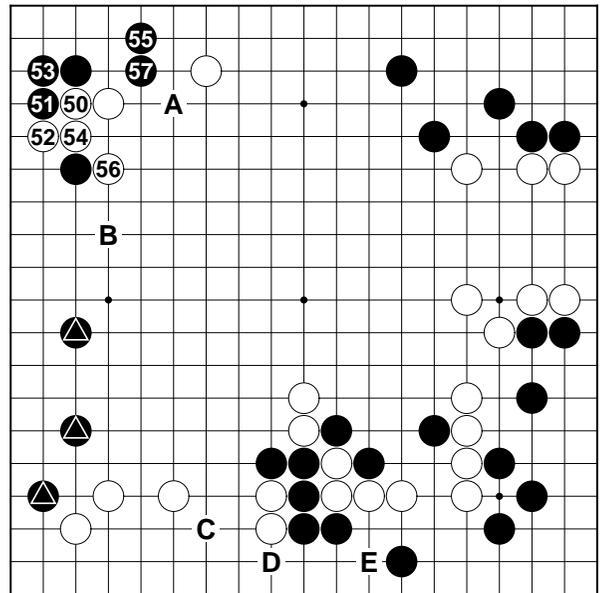
Diagram 44

Black leaves the bottom to play at 47 (although this move should be at A). 48 is too close to Black's thickness in the upper right corner (it should be at B); recall Black played an extra move (△) to make that corner very strong.

49 is correct, punishing the large knight's move.

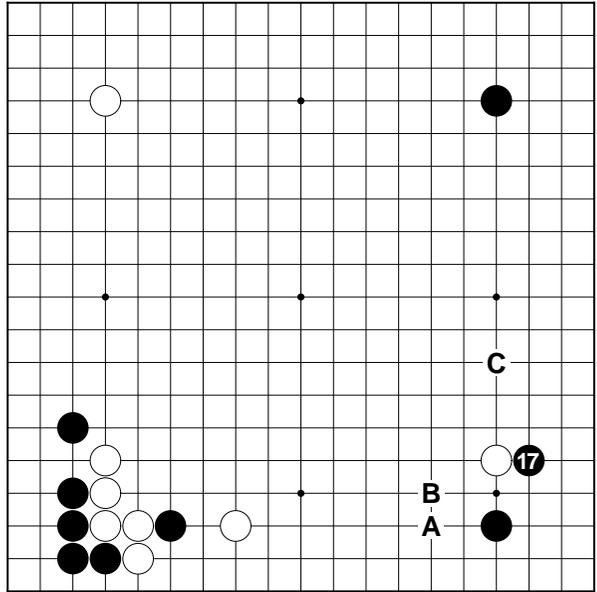
Now the △ stones look even better, as they counter the white thickness in the upper left.

57 is not good. It takes away the possibility a later play at A cutting off the lone white stone. Black would play at B first to prepare for this cut, after which White would have two weak groups. Playing A right away just gives White one weak group. And, of course, the key point at C for Black at the bottom still waits. If White descends to D, Black at C no longer works, and Black will probably defend against a white move at E at the bottom, separating the black group.



Game Record 22: 50 – 57

17 is only one of several choices here for Black. Others are at A, B, and C (see Diagrams 1-3).



Game Record 5: 17

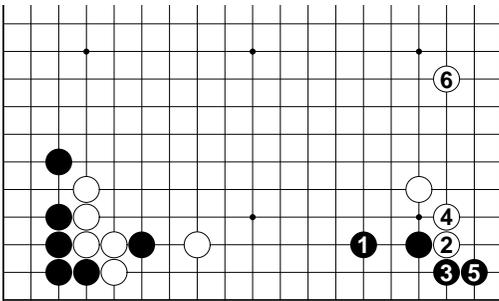


Diagram 1

Here Black has reduced the influence of White's wall on the left, but White settles a nice group on the right. Black's corner is small.

This variation is not as effective as the first one because with △ on the third line, Black is better off making third line territory.

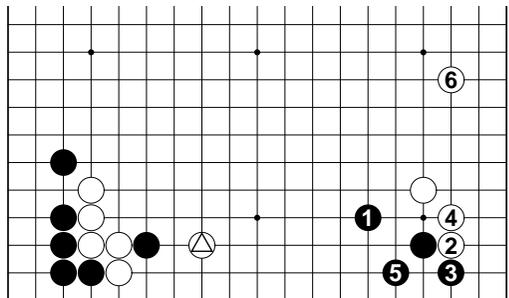


Diagram 2

