

Getting started with Shogi.

The first thing you need is a Shogi set!

The 2nd page of this document is a mock-*kaya* 'wood-effect' paper. In Japan, the best Shogi boards are made of *kaya* wood which is rare and very expensive. This is a cheaper alternative!

The 3rd and 4th pages are templates for a standard 9x9 Shogi board and a complete set of pieces. (*) Pieces get lost, so there are some spares!

What should you do with this stuff?

- Print two copies of the wood-effect page (2nd page) preferably on a laser printer. Use good paper – at least 100 gsm.
- Put the two copies back in the printer, 'right way up'.
- Print one copy each of the board and piece templates (3rd & 4th pages).
- You should now have a 'wooden' board and pieces.
- Get your local copy-shop to stick the board to a suitable backing board (for example, my local copy-shop will do this using a very lightweight foamed board).
- Cut the piece templates into the strips in which they are arranged and lightly crease the strips along the dividing line between the top and bottom of the pieces. Carefully stick the strips to pieces of light card. Try to avoid 'air bubbles'. You may need to experiment with the glue – 3M PhotoMount is not bad, and PVA craft glue works too. **Careful** – the glue may 'bleed' through the paper and cause the ink to run – this is particularly the case if you use an ink-jet printer and thin paper.
- Once the glue is dry, carefully cut out the pieces with a craft knife or sharp pair of scissors.
- Result – a cheap, usable Shogi set.

If you want a copy of this document, email me at rjhare@outlook.com. The document is free – it's part of an effort to make Shogi better-known in the West, so please feel free to give copies away. It's also available from Dropbox location: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2wicm2bnw5lv3t0/AADyepK_y_3e819UAbwJJoza?dl=0

If you want a free Introduction to Shogi, go to the same Dropbox location, and download a copy of the 180+ page 'book' *Introduction to Shogi*. It's free too (and is also available from: <http://eric.macshogi.com>). Covers many aspects of Shogi at an introductory level – equipment, moves, rules, strategy, tsume, bibliography, etc.

What next? Go and buy a real book. *Shogi for Beginners* by John Fairbairn is the best starter book for new players. **Don't** pay over the odds for this book, it's quite old, but it's still available at a reasonable price. Go to the Aobo Shop (<http://en.aobo-shop.com/>) to get a sensible price – it was less than £16 last time I looked.

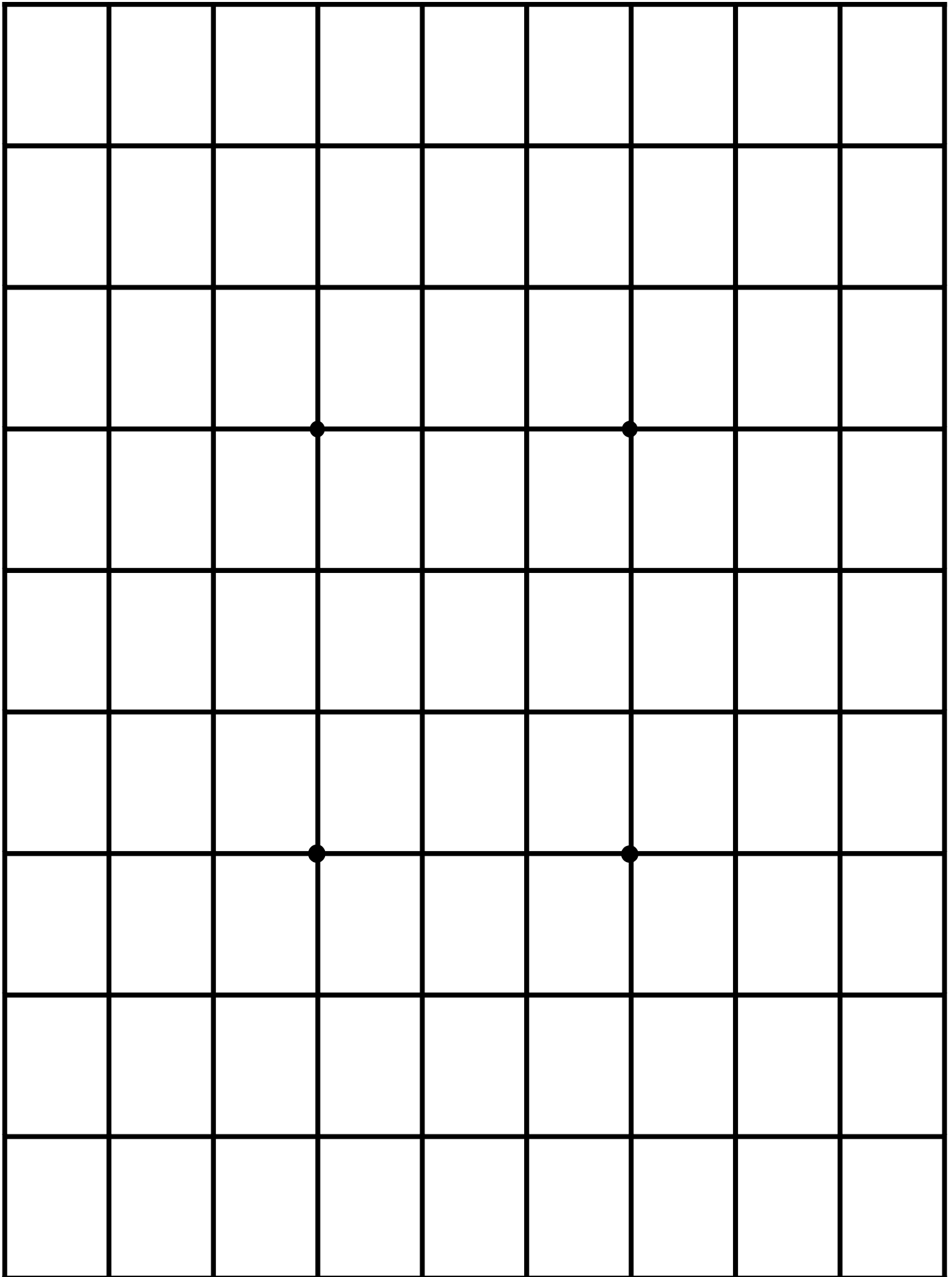
Want to know even more about Shogi? Go to Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page) and type 'Shogi' into the search box. **Lots** of information here (some people might say too much!).

Can't find anyone to play against? Go to <https://www.techsupportalert.com/content/shogidokoro.htm-0> and download the free *Shogidokoro* program. It comes with one 'engine', and you can play against the program (Windows only). Experienced players can also download and install stronger engines for a better game.

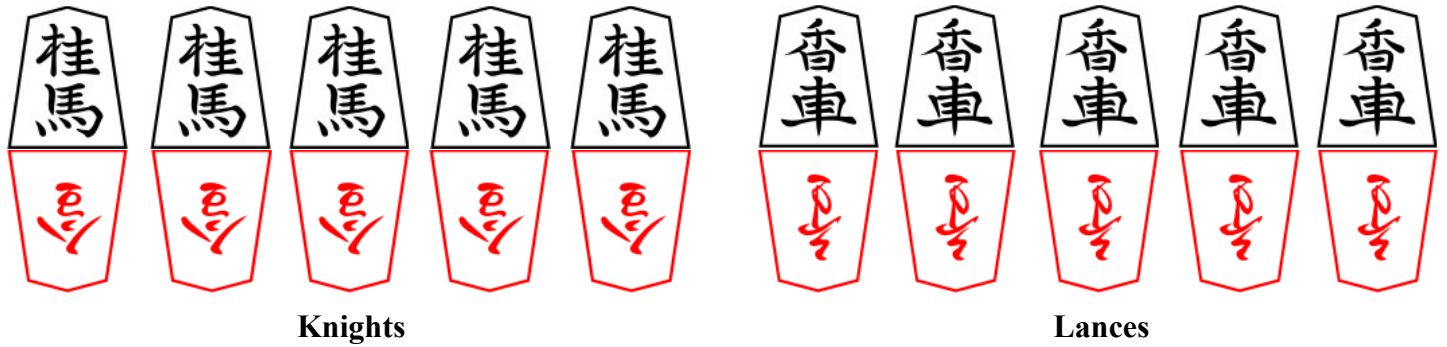
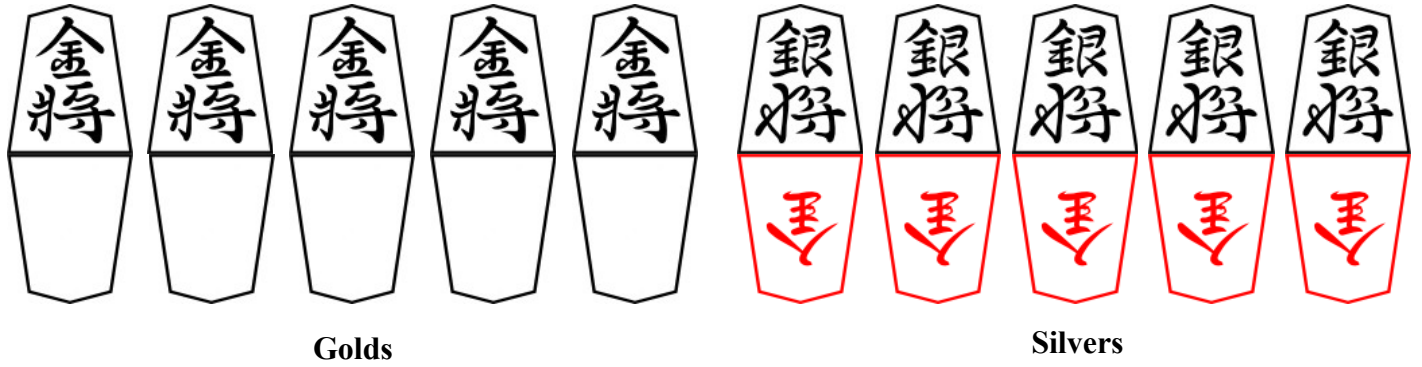
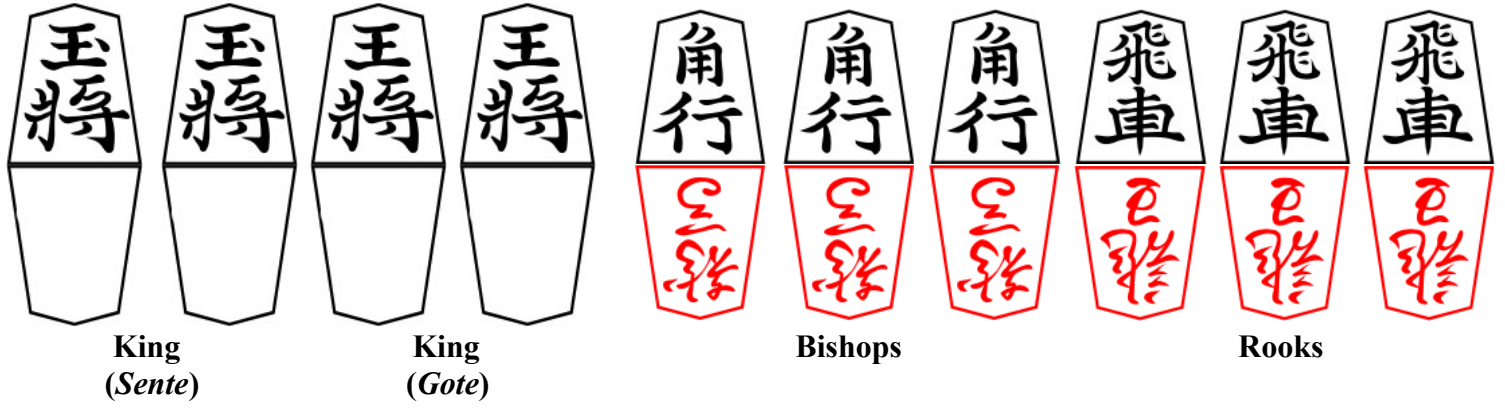
Hooked? Want a real Shogi set? You can find reasonably priced sets on Amazon – really good sets will be more expensive though.

Really hooked? Want to learn Japanese? There are free online lessons at: <https://www.nhk.or.jp/lesson/english/>.

(*) The piece images are from Wikipedia. I believe my use of the images is in accordance with the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution ShareAlike Licence. If you know differently, please let me know.



Shogi piece templates – with one spare for each piece – four for the Pawns.



Pawns