

Tatted Cardinal

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If you sell items made from this pattern, you must credit me as the designer.

You may not sell this pattern.

If you adapt or modify this pattern, you still must credit me as the original designer; you may add a line stating “Modified by...”

Please feel free to e-mail me if you have any questions about this pattern.

Abbreviations:

C Chain
 R Ring
 DR Dimpled Ring
 Set a Make 2 1st half
 stitches
 Set b Make 2 2nd half
 stitches
 SLT Shoelace Trick
 - Picot
 — Long Picot
 + Join

This pattern requires three colors of thread — red, black, and yellow — in the same size, and one shuttle. For the yellow and black portions, you may choose to finger tat rather than wind the shuttle with a very small amount of thread.



Special Instructions:

A ***dimpled ring*** is made just like a regular ring, with one addition. At one point, the ring will be joined *to itself* by a picot made a few stitches earlier. This results in a ring that is heart-shaped. A DR will be easier to close if you tat it just slightly more loosely than normal. In this pattern, the DR forms the outline of the cardinal's beak.

NEEDLE TATTERS: When making a dimpled ring, you will need to take the first stitches off of the needle before making the join.*

A ***downward-facing picot*** is formed between two "sets" of half-stitches. If you make the first half of the double stitch several times in a row, the stitches will start to spiral around the core thread. If you make the second half of the double stitch several times, the stitches will spiral in the opposite direction. In this pattern, the sets consist of only 2 half-stitches each, so it is not much of a spiral; it is just enough that the long picot made between set a and set b will face downward. This downward-facing picot is made at the midpoint of the DR and will represent the division between the upper and lower halves of the beak.

To do a ***shoelace trick***, simply tie the two threads left over right, just like the first step of tying your shoes. This switches the positions of the threads so that the chain will curve in the opposite direction from before. The SLT counts as the first half of the following double stitch.

A ***lock stitch*** is made just like a double stitch, except that you do not flip one of the half-stitches; it doesn't matter which one. This "locks" the core thread so that the stitches before it can no longer slide freely. In this pattern, the lock stitch allows the chain to come to a sharp point before continuing on a different curve.

NEEDLE TATTERS: Tat the chain up to the lock stitch, and take the stitches off the needle. Bring the needle behind the ball thread from right to left, and then in front from left to right. Pass the needle through the loop thus formed to make a half-knot, and pull it tight. This forms the first half of the lock stitch. Make the second half of the lock stitch on the needle, just like the second half of a normal double stitch. Continue tating the chain as usual.*

*Special thanks to needle tatter Kelly Dunn for helping me to figure this out!

Beak (yellow thread):

Do not tat over first tail. DR 3-2-1, set a — set b, 1+ to last regular picot, 2-3. The long, downward-facing picot should be just long enough to reach from the dimple of the DR to the bottom of the ring. Close the ring and cut off the shuttle if you have used one. Twist the long picot 2 or 3 times, pass one of the thread tails through it, tie the two tails together, and sew them in.

Mask (black thread):

Join to first picot on beak. C 2-2+ to same picot, 2-1+ to the picot that makes the dimple, 1-2+ to next picot, 2-2+ to same picot. Cut threads and hide ends.

Body (red thread):

R 4-4-4

C 4-4

R 3+3-3

C 4+ to bottom picot on black chain, 4
R 4+4-4
C 8
R 4+4-4
C 8
R 4+4-4
C 8
R 3+3-3
C 8
R 3+3-3
C 4-4
R 4+4+4
C 4-4+ to base of first ring
Do not cut threads.

Head:

C4-4
R 4+ to picot on first chain, 4+to next black picot, 4
C 1-1
R 4+ to next black picot, 3-3
C 4-4
R 3+ to previous ring, 3+ to next black picot, 4
SLT
C 8, 1 lock stitch, 3 regular stitches, + to picot of last chain, 4
R 3+ to short chain, 3+ to next chain, 3
C 10+ to next chain, 6
Do not cut threads.

Wing:

R 4+ to next chain, 2-2
C 6
R 3+ to previous ring, 3-2-2
C 8
R 4+ to last picot of previous ring, 4
C 8+ to 2nd picot of next to last ring, 4-4
Join to the same body picot that first wing ring was joined to. Do not cut threads.

Tail:

C 4+ to last wing chain, 4
R 2-2-4
C 6+ to picot at top of ring
R 2-2-4
C 6+ to picot at top of ring, 6+ to next picot on same ring, 6
R 2+ to same picot as last join, 2-4
C 6+ to picot at top of ring
R 2+ to free picot of first tail ring, 2-4
C 6+ to picot at top of ring, 4
Join to base of 2nd small ring made in body. Cut threads and hide ends.



Cardinal done in size 80 thread, attached to a 3-inch Christmas ornament. Pine boughs and cones designed by Karey Solomon, in her book *Tatting Turns Over a New Leaf*.