

2009 TAT-OFF PATTERN TATTED DOG TICK

Background: I love dogs; my husband and I currently share our home with a fur-kid of the double-coated, long-haired variety. But I really *hate* it when a tick attaches itself to my fluffy boy-- whether it's a Brown Dog Tick, American Dog Tick, or one of the other species. Ticks not only engorge themselves with the blood of their so-called "hosts" (yech!) but they also may leave their hosts with serious diseases such as Lyme's Disease or Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (mega-yech!). If your dog has ever acquired a tick, you probably have found yourself trying to c-a-r-e-f-u-l-l-y coax the nasty beast to *detach* itself—preferably without leaving any of its mouth parts behind. Anyway, here is an engorged dog tick for you to tat. Thankfully, it won't bite, and it doesn't carry any diseases! In fact, it's actually kind of cute (in a slightly repulsive sort of way), and we're betting that some of the visitors to the PTG's State Fair booth would LOVE to take one of these "beasties" home with them—if you are inclined to donate a few for that purpose!

Information for Tat-Off Contestants: Leave your string of ticks all attached to one another. Competition winners will be determined based on a count of the number of completed pattern repeats. In case of ties, judging also will consider the extent to which a final attempted pattern repeat was completed.



Abbreviations:

- Regular-sized decorative picot (for the tick's head).
- A long picot (which eventually will be clipped to represent a pair of tick legs): height/closed measurement of about 1/4" for Size 5 thread, about 3/16" for Size 10 thread, or about 1/8" for Size 20 thread.
- Cl R Close ring.
- R Ring.

Requirements: One shuttle--wound with Size 5, Size 10, or Size 20 thread. Picot gauge optional (see "—" in the Abbreviations section above for long picot size suggestions).

Pattern: Make a ring as follows—being sure *not* to tat over the beginning or ending thread ends:

R: 3-3—2—18—2 Cl R.

Leave about an inch (or more) of unworked thread before starting the next tatted tick.

After you finish tatting a string of ticks:

Clip the three long picots (to form six of the tick's eight legs).

The tick's remaining two legs will be formed when the starting and ending thread ends are cut to about the same length as the other six legs.

Have fun!

©Barbara Hevener, 2009: The foregoing is my work, produced in good faith; to the best of my knowledge, this pattern has not been previously published by anyone else. I encourage you to use these materials to tat items to use yourself, to give as gifts, or to sell for profit. I also grant you the right to reproduce these instructions and/or patterns (without cost or the need to obtain special permission) so long as you mention me, by name, as the source of the materials. Thank you for your courtesies! If you should wish to contact me, please feel free to do so at barbara_hevener@hotmail.com.