

Tapeworm!

Ann D'Angelo, wonderstrange

“It’s awesome, but it’s also creepy.”

- My 11-year-old son

Supplies:

- Yarn for tapeworm (any color you like)
- Scrap of white yarn for teeth
- Black safety eyes
- Hook 2 sizes smaller than suggested for your yarn
- Stitch marker

You will not stuff this piece, so you don’t need polyfill, just a scrap of cotton fabric or felt to stuff the head.

Lower Tail

You are about to read “Ch 85,” which may give you a mild apoplectic fit. If you would rather make a smaller tapeworm, you can certainly reduce the number of chains, but be aware that with tapeworms, bigger really is better - and creepier, which is kind of the point.

Ch 85.

1. Start in 5th chain from hook. TC to beginning of chain.
2. F/O, leaving a tail for stitching to the body.

The tail will probably curl, and that’s okay.

Body

The body of this feisty fellow is made up of small, medium, and large segments. I made two tapeworms: A **shorter guy** (over 2’ long) with 11 small segments, 4 mediums, and 1 large, and a **longer guy** (over 4’ long) with 20 smalls, 5 mediums, and 2 larges. You can adjust the length of your tapeworm as you like,

Abbreviations :

Ch = Chain

St=stitch

Sc = Single crochet

DC = Double crochet

TC = Triple crochet

BLO = Back loops only

2sctog = 2 single crochet together, or a decrease

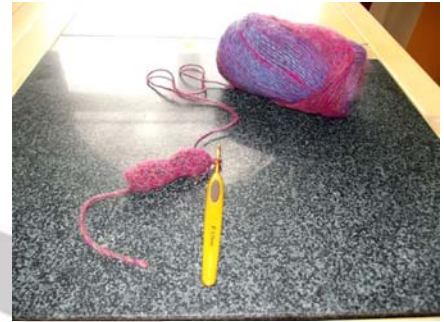


but for that realistic flair everyone loves in a fake parasite, keep the number of small segments significantly higher than the rest.

Small segments

Ch 10, join with sl st.

1. Sc around (10 total)
2. DC around (10 total)
3. DC around (10 total)
4. Sc next 2 st, 2sc tog, sc next 2 st, 2 sctog, sc to end (8 total)
5. In BLO, sc around (8 total)
6. DC next 2 st, 2 DC next st, DC next 2 st, 2 DC next st, DC to end (10 total)
7. DC around (10 total)
8. Sc next 2 st, 2sc tog, sc next 2 st, 2 sctog, sc to end (8 total)
9. In BLO, sc around (8 total)



To continue, repeat rows 6-9 until you have as many small segments as you desire. For *medium segments*, simply add an additional row of DC between row 7 and row 8. For *large segments*, add two rows of DC.

To create the head, which finishes off the body, make these variations:

1. DC next 2 st, 2 DC next st, DC next 2 st, 2 DC next st, DC to end
2. DC next 3 st, 2 DC next st, DC next 3 st, 2 DC next st, DC to end
3. DC around
4. DC around
5. Sc next 3 st, 2sctog, sc next 3 st, 2sctog, sc to end
6. F/O
7. Add safety eyes.
8. Using your scrap of white, whip stitch teeth.
9. Stuff head with a scrap of fabric or felt in a color similar to your yarn.



Assembly: Slip the top of the tail into the end of the body and stitch in place. Voila!