



Clew of Earthworms

Once upon a time, I was the companion of a three-toed box turtle that I named Thunderclaw. I also worked in the most wondrous yarn store in the world - Fancy Tiger Crafts! While straightening yarn one day, I saw a skein of yarn that looked exactly like the rosy beige of an earthworm. I knit a scarf from it and wrote it all down.

Make one or make a whole clew of them - it's up to you.

GLOSSARY:

k - knit

p - purl

Kfb - Knit into the front and the back of the next stitch. One stitch has been increased.

Rnd - "round," one row in circular knitting

MATERIALS:

1 skein Malabrigo Worsted in Polvoriento

Double pointed needles in sizes 4 and 6

Yarn needle for sewing pieces together and weaving in ends

Earthworm ridge pattern:

Purl one round

Knit three rounds

You will turn the piece inside out before tying off the end. The pattern will be reversed but you get to knit more and purl less.

BODY:

Cast on 6 stitches onto three double-pointed needles.

Round 1: KFB around (4 stitches per needle, 12 total)

Round 2: K 1 round

Round 3: KFB in each stitch (24 stitches)

Round 4: P 1 round

Round 5-6: K 2 rounds

Round 7: Knit to last stitch, KFB (25 stitches)

Round 8: P 1 round

Round 9-10: K 2 rounds

Round 11: Knit to last stitch, KFB (26 stitches)

Round 12: P 1 round

Round 13-14: K 2 rounds

Round 15: Knit to last stitch, KFB (27 stitches)

Round 16: P 1 round

Round 17-18: K 2 rounds

Round 19: Knit to last stitch, KFB (28 stitches)

Work earthworm ridge pattern until the piece measures 6".

Switch to size 6 needles to knit the clitellum. Knit every round for 6", then switch back to smaller needles.

Work earthworm ridge pattern until piece measures 16".

At this point, your worm will get gradually thinner. Work earthworm ridge pattern, but after every three or four ridges, work a k2tog somewhere in a knit round. At 28", you should shoot for 24 stitches.

Keep working in earthworm ridge pattern, always decreasing in this organic manner until 6 stitches remain. The sample measures 52" total and weighs 88 grams, but your worm will be perfect however long it is.

When 6 stitches remain on a knit round, turn entire piece inside out.

Break yarn leaving a 6" tail, then run tail through remaining stitches and gather tightly. Tie a knot and send the yarn back into your earthworm's body. Ouch! Go finish the other end in the same way, and you are done!

