

soot sprites



Cause I lurve me some Hayao Miyazaki (<http://www.ghibliworld.com/>). These fluffy little guys were seen featured in such fabulous films as "My Neighbor Totoro" and "Spirited Away". In fact, in "Spirited Away," they were seen munching on the candy shown in the picture. It's a traditional Japanese candy (according to someone else of the not-me variety,) I found it on J-List (<http://www.jbox.com/PRODUCT/TAJ763>). My son and I had a blast feeding our soot sprites their candy while watching our almost complete collection of Miyazaki films. Then the candy ran out and I've substituted all kinds of candies, he's none the wiser. Or at least he plays along well. Tucked behind one of these guys is the clip I put mine on my backpack with.



Wow, you've been very nice with the not saying "shut up and just give me the pattern." A little bit of the why and how: I personally think the soot sprites should appear just ever so scruffy over fluffy. So, this is made with two strands together, not only does this minimize fluffiness it also keeps the stuffing in and helps retain shape. It is knit on dpns because I like to do things the hard way. I suppose you could forgo the worsted yarn, and maybe only use the purl stitch if you wanted a fuzzier fluff ball. And thank you again Jennigma for the heads up on the button size. By the way, this pattern is fan art and not an official product of Studio Ghibli. If you want to share it with your friends, please do so by linking to my blog: <http://saradippity.blogspot.com>

Materials

- Caron Simply Soft in black (or any black worsted yarn)
- Patons Cha Cha in black (or other eyelash yarn)
- Four size 3 or 4 dpns or a circular needle or two (for using magic loop or two circs)
- Two white buttons, half an inch in diameter, the domed kind with a loop on the back large enough to string the yarn through. Paint black irises on and seal with clear fingernail polish, let dry at least an hour.
- A very small amount of stuffing, two cotton balls could work or even some wadded up yarn.

On the worsted yarn, strand the two buttons, slip toward the yarn ball.

Cast on 3 stitches, one each needle, holding the two yarns together as one.

1 ~ Inc in each st

2 ~ *Inc, k1* 3x

3 ~ *k1, inc, k1* 3x

4 ~ *inc, k2, inc* 3x

5 ~ K 1, slide a button up, p1, k1, slide a button up, p1, k to end

6-9 ~ k

10 ~ *dec, k2, dec* 3x

11 ~ *k1, dec, k1* 3x

Stuff (firmly. Understuffing can result in shape loss as I discovered on my son's toy.)

12 ~ *dec, k1* 3x

13 ~ dec in each st

Use a drawstring closure to bind off. Leave the tail long and use to sew on a clip if you wish.

Now go make a whole bunch of them and perch them precariously just inside the top shelf of a hall cabinet. Laugh uproariously when a snoopy child experiences a soot sprite rain and tell the child you found where Mei's friends migrated to. Or knit some Woodins with their log and some Totoros and the three patterns can live harmoniously in a little corner of your living room. Hmm, maybe a Totoro themed bathroom.....