knitted totoro pattern:

materials needed:

white buffalo "unspun" in grey - split and use only two of the six strands
white buffalo "unspun" in off-white - split and use only two of the six strands
9mm needles (us size 13)
black embroidery floss
fishing line ("extra limp")
sewing needle & grey thread

for body:

cast on 24 sts in grey yarn
row 1: k, increasing 7 sts evenly across row (31 sts on needle)
row 2: p
row 3: k, increasing 9 sts evenly across row (40 sts on needle)
row 4: p
row 5: k, increasing 11 sts evenly across row (51 sts on needle)
row 6: p
row 7: k, increasing 12 sts evenly across row (63 sts on needle)
row 8 - 18: continue knitting with no more increases in stockinette
row 19: (start belly pattern) k29 sts in grey yarn, attach white yarn and k 5 sts, attach second ball of grey yarn and k 29 sts
row 20: p 26 (grey), p 11 (white), p 26 (grey)
row 21: k 24 (grey), k 15 (white), k 24 (grey)
row 22: p 23 (grey), p 17 (white), p 23 (grey)
row 23: k 22 (grey), k 19 (white), k 22 (grey)
row 24: p 22 (grey), p 19 (white), p 22 (grey)
row 25: k 21 (grey), k 21 (white), k 21 (grey)
row 26: p 21 (grey), p 21 (white), p 21 (grey)
rows 27 - 40: continue knitting stockinette even in grey/white/grey strip
row 41: k 1, k 2 tog, k 19 (grey), k 19 (white), k 19, sl 1, k 1, psso, k 1 (grey)
row 42: p 20 (grey), p 19 (white), p 20 (grey)
row 43: k 21 (grey), k 2 (white), k 1 (grey), k1 (white), k 1 (grey), k1 (white), k 1 (grey), k1 (white), k 1 (grey), k1 (white), k 1 (grey), k1 (white),
k 1 (grey), k1 (white), k 1 (grey), k2 (white), k 21 (grey)
row 44: p 22 (grey), p 15 (white), p 22 (grey)
row 45: k 1, k 2 tog, k5, k 2 tog, k12 (grey), k 15 (white), k 12, sl 1, k 1, psso, k 5, sl 1, k 1, psso, k 1 (grey)
row 46: p 21 (grey), p 2 (white), p 1 (grey), p1 (white), p 1 (grey), p1 (white), p 1 (grey), p1 (white), p 1 (grey), p2 (white), p 21 (grey)
row 47: k 1, k 2 tog, k 19 (grey), k 9 (white), k 29, sl 1, k 1, psso, k 1 (grey)
row 48: p 21 (grey), p 7 (white), p 21 (grey)
row 49: k 5, k 2tog, k 6, k 2 tog, k 8 (grey), k 3 (white), k 8, sl 1, k 1, psso, k 6, sl 1, k 1, psso, k 5 (grey)   45 sts on needle
row 50: p all the way across in grey
row 51: k 5, k 2 tog, k 5, k 2 tog, k 5, k 2 tog, k 5, sl 1, k 1, psso, k 5, sl 1, k 1, psso, k 5, sl 1, k 1, psso, k 5
row 52: p
row 53: k 4, k 2 tog, k 4, k 2 tog, k 4, k 2 tog, k 5, sl 1, k 1, psso, k 4, sl 1, k 1, psso, k 4, sl 1, k 1, psso, k4
row 54: p

for body (continued):

row 55: k 1, k 2 tog, k to end of row, sl 1, k 1, psso, k 1
row 56: p
row 57: (start eyeball pattern) k 1, k 2 tog, k 9 (grey), attach white, k 2 in white, pick up grey, k 5 in grey, attach white, k 2 in white, pick up grey, k 9, sl 1, k 1, psso, k1 (grey)
row 58: p 10 (grey), p 4 (white), p 3 (grey), p 4 (white), p 10 (grey)
row 59: k 1, k 2 tog, k 7 (grey), k 4 (white), k 3 (grey), k 4 (white), k 7, sl 1, k 1, psso, k1 (grey)
row 60: p 10 (grey), p 2 (white), p 5 (grey), p 2 (white), p 10 (grey)
row 61: k 1, k 2 tog, k to end of row in grey, sl 1, k 1, psso, k 1 (continue all in grey)
row 62: p
row 63: k 1, k 2 tog, k 4, k 2 tog, k 7, sl 1, k 1, psso, k 4, sl 1, k 1, psso, k1
row 64: p
row 65: k 1, k 2 tog, k 3, k 2 tog, k 5, sl 1, k 1, psso, k 3, sl 1, k 1, psso, k1
row 66: p
row 67: k 1, k 2 tog, k 2, k 2 tog, k 3, sl 1, k 1, psso, k 2, sl 1, k 1, psso, k1
row 68: p
row 69: cast off.

to make base/tail:

cast on 7 sts in grey yarn
row 1: k 1, inc 1, k to end of row, inc 1, k 1
row 2: p
row 3: k 1, inc 1, k to end of row, inc 1, k 1
row 4: p
row 5: k 1, k 2 tog, k to end of row, sl 1, k 1, psso, k 1
row 6: p
row 7: k 1, k 2 tog, k to end of row, sl 1, k 1, psso, k 1
row 8: p. 7 sts on needle.
row 9: k, cast on 8 sts at end of row. 15 sts on needle.
row 10: p
continue knitting stockinette for another 8 rows.
row 19: k 3, k 2 tog, k 5, k 2 tog, k 3
row 20: p
row 21: k 3, k 2 tog, k 4, k 2 tog, k 2
row 22: p
row 23: k 2, k 2 tog, k 3, k 2 tog, k 2
row 24: p
row 25: k 1, k 2 tog, k 1, k 2 tog, k 1, k 2 tog
row 26: cast off.

to make ears:

cast on 14 sts in grey yarn
knit 4 rows in stockinette
row 5: k 1, k 2 tog, k to end of row, sl 1, k 1, psso, k 1
row 6: p
row 7: k 1, k 2 tog, k to end of row, sl 1, k 1, psso, k 1
row 8: p
continue decreasing in this fashion until you have 4 sts on the needle
row 15: k 1, k 2 tog, k 1
row 16: p
row 17: cast off

to finish:

fold each ear in half lengthwise, and sew down the back, leaving the last 1" and the bottom open.
fold body in half lengthwise, and sew down the back, leaving the last 1" and the bottom open.
sew ears to body, leaving an opening at the back for stuffing.
fold the wide tail section of the base/tail in half, and sew together, leaving an opening where the tail attaches to the base.
sew the base onto the body, leaving an opening at the back/tail for stuffing.

felt either in the machine or by hand, whichever you prefer.

to make the face:

cut 6 lengths of "extra limp" invisible fishing line, each 10" long, and 18 lengths of black embroidery floss, also 10". these will become whiskers.
take 1 length of fishing line and 3 lengths of embroidery floss. line the lengths up neatly, and tie in a single knot as close to the centre as possible.

fold in half at the knot - you should have 2 pieces of fishing line and six lengths of floss sticking out of the knot, all about the same length.
separate these pieces into three sections - two will have 2 pieces of floss and 1 of fishing line, the third will just be two pieces of floss.
start braiding these three sections down from the knot. hold the braid as tight and straight as possible while working. braid for about two inches (hold it up to totoro's face to see how it looks!). leave the tails hanging.
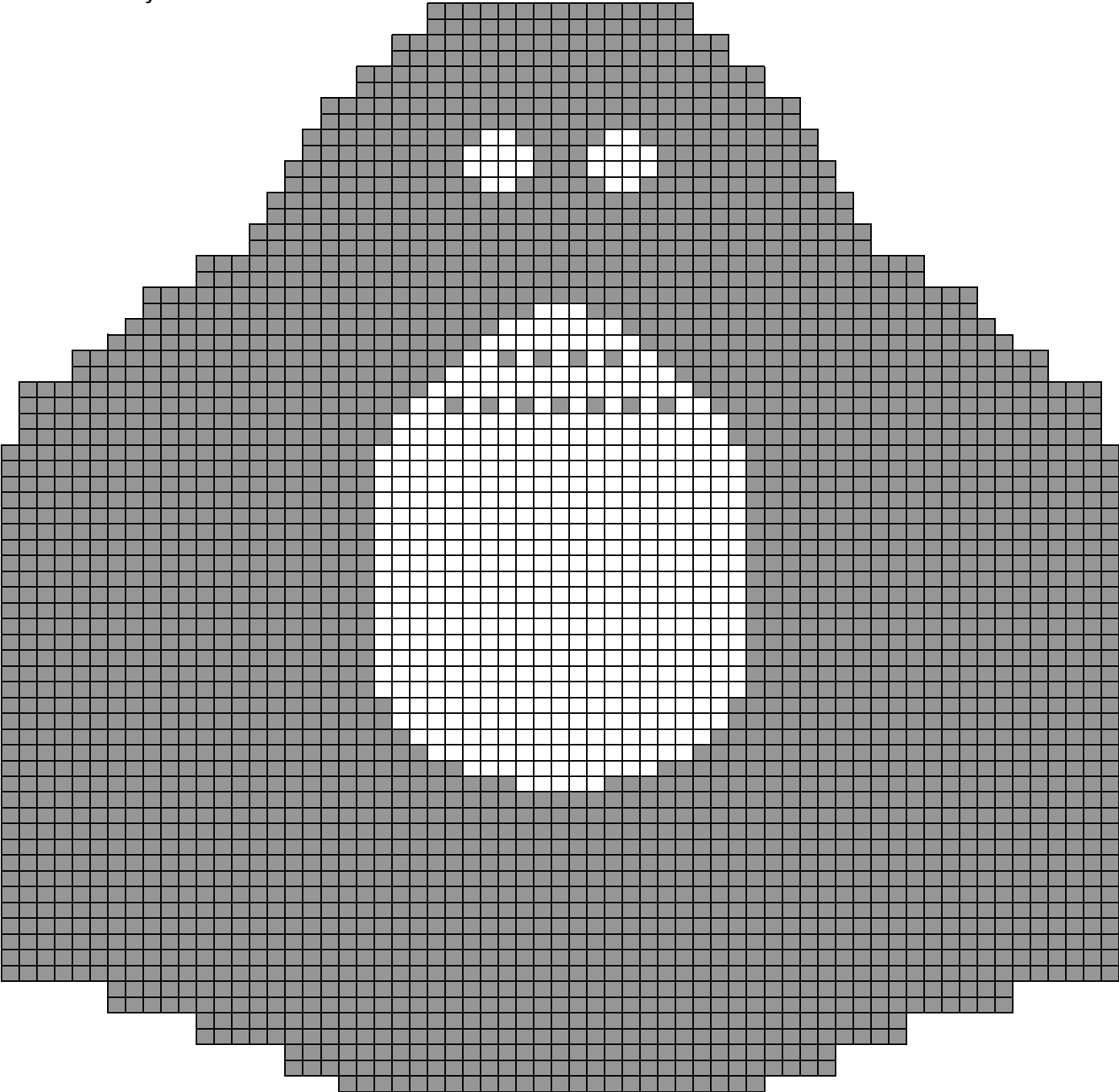using more black embroidery floss, embroider two round pupils in his eyes and a small oval for his nose.
attach the whiskers by positioning the whiskers on either side of the nose, and pulling the tails through to the inside (a crochet or latch hook will help, or you could use a yarn needle).

finally: stuff him up with stuffing, including ears and tail, and sew him up! finito!

knitted totoro body chart:

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cast on: