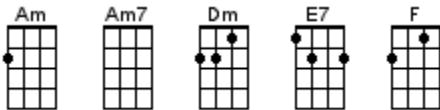


Sixteen Tons

Merle Travis 1946 (lyrics in this arrangement from Tennessee Ernie Ford 1955 version)



< SINGING NOTE: A >

INTRO: / 1 2 / 1 2 /

[Am] Do do do do [E7] do do do [Am] do / [Am] / [Am]

Some [Am] people say a [Am7] man is [F] made out of [E7] mud
A [Am] poor man's [Am7] made out of [F] muscle and [E7] blood
[Am] Muscle and blood and [Dm] skin and bones
A [Am] mind that's weak and a back that's [E7] strong

CHORUS:

You load [Am] sixteen [Am7] tons [F] what do you [E7] get?
A-[Am]nother day [Am7] older and [F] deeper in [E7] debt
Saint [Am] Peter, don't you call me 'cause [Dm] I can't go
I [Am]↓ owe my soul to the [E7]↓ company [Am]↓ store

[Am] Do do do do [E7] do do do [Am] do / [Am] / [Am]

I was [Am] born one [Am7] morning when the [F] sun didn't [E7] shine
I [Am] picked up my [Am7] shovel and I [F] walked to the [E7] mine
I loaded [Am] sixteen tons of [Dm] number nine coal
And the [Am] straw boss said, "Well, a-bless my [E7] soul!"

CHORUS:

You load [Am] sixteen [Am7] tons [F] what do you [E7] get?
A-[Am]nother day [Am7] older and [F] deeper in [E7] debt
Saint [Am] Peter, don't you call me 'cause [Dm] I can't go
I [Am]↓ owe my soul to the [E7]↓ company [Am]↓ store

[Am] Do do do do [E7] do do do [Am] do / [Am] / [Am]

I was [Am] born one [Am7] mornin' it was [F] drizzlin' [E7] rain
[Am] Fightin' and [Am7] trouble are [F] my middle [E7] name
I was [Am] raised in the canebreak by an [Dm] old mamma lion
Cain't no [Am] high-toned woman make me [E7] walk the line

CHORUS:

You load [Am] sixteen [Am7] tons [F] what do you [E7] get?
A-[Am]nother day [Am7] older and [F] deeper in [E7] debt
Saint [Am] Peter, don't you call me 'cause [Dm] I can't go
I [Am]↓ owe my soul to the [E7]↓ company [Am]↓ store

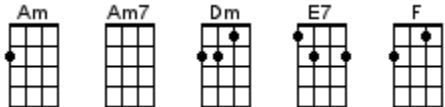
[Am] Do do do do [E7] do do do [Am] do / [Am] / [Am]

If you [Am] see me [Am7] comin' better [F] step a-[E7]side
A [Am] lot of men [Am7] didn't, a [F] lot of men [E7] died
[Am] One fist of iron, the [Dm] other of steel
If the [Am] right one don't get you then the [E7] left one will

CHORUS:

You load [Am] sixteen [Am7] tons [F] what do you [E7] get?
A-[Am]nother day [Am7] older and [F] deeper in [E7] debt
Saint [Am] Peter, don't you call me 'cause [Dm] I can't go
I [Am]↓ owe my soul to the [E7]↓ company [Am]↓ store

[Am] Do do do do [E7] do do do [Am]↓ do



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