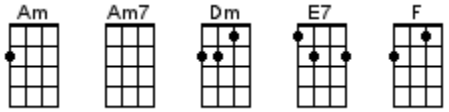
Sixteen Tons

Merle Travis 1946 (lyrics in this arrangement from Tennesse 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!"

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Saint **[Am]** Peter, don't you call me 'cause **[Dm]** I can't go
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[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

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Saint **[Am]** Peter, don't you call me 'cause **[Dm]** I can't go
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[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

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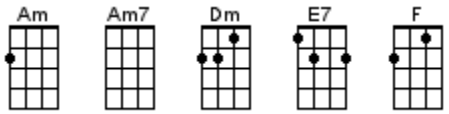
[Am] Do do do do **[E7]** do do do **[Am]**↓ do



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