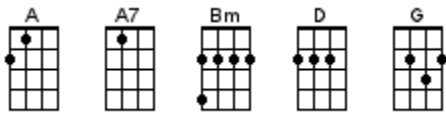# Mama Tried

Merle Haggard 1968

A   A7   Bm   D   G

INTRO: / 1 2 / 1 2 / [D] / [G] / [D] / [G]

The first thing **[D]** I remember **[G]** knowin'
Was a **[D]** lonesome whistle **[G]** blowin'
And a **[D]** young-un's dream of **[G]** growin' up to **[A7]** ride **[A7]**
On a **[D]** freight train leavin' **[G]** town
Not **[D]** knowin' where I'm **[G]** bound
And no **[D]** one could change my **[A7]** mind
But Mama **[D]** tried **[D]**

One and **[D]** only rebel **[G]** child
From a **[D]** family meek and **[G]** mild
My **[D]** Mama seemed to **[G]** know what lay in **[A7]** store **[A7]**
In spite of **[D]** all my Sunday **[G]** learnin'
Toward the **[D]** bad I kept on **[G]** turnin'
'Til **[D]** Mama couldn't **[A7]** hold me any-**[D]**more **[D]**

CHORUS:
And I turned **[D]** twenty-one in prison
Doin' **[G]** life without par-**[D]**ole
No **[Bm]** one could steer me right
But Mama **[A]** tried, Mama **[A7]** tried
Mama **[D]** tried to raise me better
But her **[G]** pleading I de-**[D]**nied
That leaves **[D]** only me to **[A7]** blame, 'cause Mama **[D]** tried **[D]**

[D] / [D] / [G] / [G] /
[D] / [A7] / [D] / [D]

Dear old **[D]** Daddy rest his **[G]** soul
Left my **[D]** mom a heavy **[G]** load
She **[D]** tried so very **[G]** hard to fill his **[A7]** shoes **[A7]**
Workin' **[D]** hours without **[G]** rest
Wanted **[D]** me to have the **[G]** best
She **[D]** tried to raise me **[A7]** right, but I re-**[D]**fused **[D]**

CHORUS:
And I turned **[D]** twenty-one in prison
Doin' **[G]** life without par-**[D]**ole
No **[Bm]** one could steer me right
But Mama **[A]** tried, Mama **[A7]** tried
Mama **[D]** tried to raise me better
But her **[G]** pleading I de-**[D]**nied
That leaves **[D]** only me to **[A7]** blame, 'cause Mama **[D]** tried

[G] / [D] / [G] / [D] / [G] / [D]↓↓