# 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!”

**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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