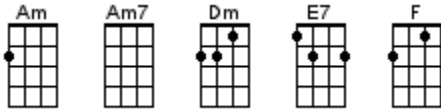


# Sixteen Tons

UBass

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



< SINGING NOTE: A >

INTRO: / 1 2 / 1 2 /

A' E' C A E, F# G# A  
[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

A' E' C A E, F# G# A  
[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

A' E' C A E, F# G# A  
[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

**A' E' C A      E, F# G#      A**

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

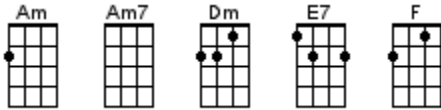
If you **[Am]** see me **[Am7]** comin' better **[F]** step a-**[E7]**side  
A **[Am]** lot of men **[Am7]** didn't, a **[F]** lot of men **[E7]** died  
**[Am]** One fist of iron, the **[Dm]** other of steel  
If the **[Am]** right one don't get you then the **[E7]** left one will

**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

**A' E' C A      E, F# G#      A↓**

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



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