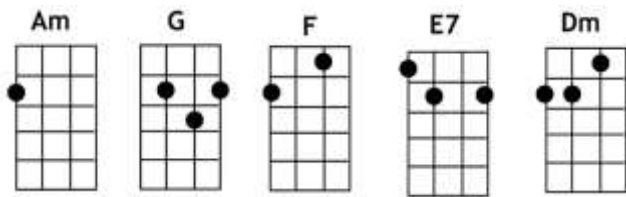


Sixteen Tons

Merle Travis (1946) – lyrics from Tennessee Ernie Ford 1955 version



(chord) = one strum

INTRO: (Paul) Finger Snaps, others strum (2X) [Am] [G] [F] [E7]

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

CHORUS:

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

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

CHORUS

INSTRUMENTAL (Steve)

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

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

CHORUS X 2