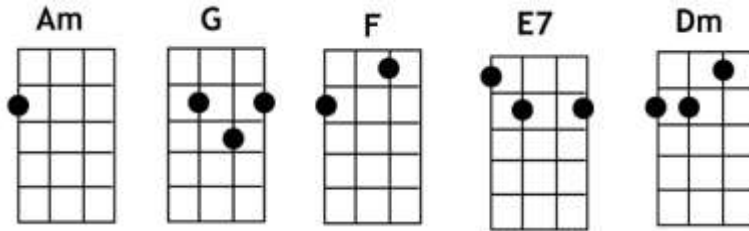


# Sixteen Tons

www.VillageUkulelePeople.com

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



**(chord)** = one strum

**INTRO: 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**

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

## **CHORUS X 2**