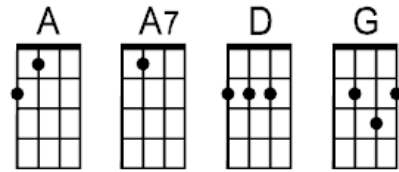


The Gambler

Don Schlitz



D G D G D G A7
On a warm summer's evening, on a train bound for nowhere, I met up with a gambler, we were both too tired to sleep,
D G D G D A D
So we took turns a-staring, out the window at the darkness, till boredom overtook us, and he began to speak.

D G D G D G A7
He said, "Son, I've made a life out of reading people's faces, knowing what the cards were by the way they held their eyes.
D G D G D A D
So if you don't mind my saying, I can see you're out of aces, for a taste of your whiskey, I'll give you some advice."

D G D G D G A7
So I handed him my bottle, and he drank down my last swallow, then he bummed a cigarette, and asked me for a light.
D G D
And the night got deathly quiet, and his face lost all expression,
G D A D
Said, "If you're gonna play the game, boy, you gotta learn to play it right."

D G D G D G A7
"You got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em, know when to walk away, know when to run
D G D G D A D
You never count your money when you're sitting at the table, there'll be time enough for counting when the dealing's done

D G D G D G A7
"Every gambler knows that the secret to surviving is knowing what to throw away, knowing what to keep.
D G D G D A D
'Cause every hand's a winner, and every hand's a loser, and the best that you can hope for is to die in your sleep."

D G D G D G A7
And when he finished speaking, he turned back toward the window, crushed out his cigarette, faded off to sleep.
D G D G D A D
And somewhere in the darkness, the gambler he broke even, but in his final words I found an ace that I could keep.

D G D G D G A7
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