THE GAMBLER

Written by Dan Schlitz in 1976

Performed and made famous by Kenny Rogers in 1978

Key:	C and D Start No.	ote: G	Time:	4/4	Strum:	D_ du du	
Intro:	C/// F/// C/	// F↓					
1.	C On a warm summer C	's evenin', o	F n a train t	oound for	C nowhere G7		
	I met up with the ga	mbler, we w	ere both t F	oo tired to C	sleep		
	So we took turns a-s		ne windov	v at the da C	arkness C		
	Till boredom over-to	ok us, and h	ne began	to speak			
	C		F		С		
2.	He said, "Son I've m	iade a life, c	out of reac	lin' people	es' faces	G7	
	And knowin' what the	eir cards we	ere, by the F	e way they	held the	ir eyes	
	So if you don't mind		can see	_	of aces		
	F (For a taste of your v		G give you s	C ome advid	C ce		
2	C So I handed him my	hottle and	F bo drank	down my	C	0)4/	
Э.	С			·	3 7	Ovv	
	Then he bummed a C	cigarette, a	nd asked F	me for a l	ight C		
	And the night got de	• •					
	F Said "if you're gonna	C a play the ga) ya gotta le		C ay it right	
	CHORUS:						
	0			F		C	
	You got to k F	now when t C	to hold 'e	em, know	when to G	fold 'em	
	Know when		ay, and k	now whe			
	You never c		nonev w	hen vou'	F re sittin' :	C at the tab	lo.
	i ou nevel c	F	C	rieri you i G	C SILLIII (C	C
	There'll be ti	me e-noug	h for cou	ntin', who	en the de	alin's doi	ne -

4.	D G D
	Every gambler knows, that the secret to sur-vivin'
	D A7
	Is knowin' what to throw away, and knowin' what to keep
	D G D
	'Cause every hand's a winner, and every hand's a loser
	G D A D D
	And the best that you can hope for is to die in your sleep
	D G D
5.	And when he'd finished speakin', he turned back toward the window
	D A7
	Crushed out his cigarette, and faded off to sleep
	$D\!\!\downarrow$ $G\!\!\downarrow$ $D\!\!\downarrow$
	And somewhere in the darkness, the gambler he broke even
	$G\!\!\downarrow D\!\!\downarrow A\!\!\downarrow D\!\!\downarrow$
	But in his final words I found an ace that I could keep
	·
	CHORUS:
	D G D
	D G D
	D G D You got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em G D A
	D G D You got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em
	D G D You got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em G D A Know when to walk away, and know when to run D G D
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	D G D You got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em G D A Know when to walk away, and know when to run D G D You never count your money, when you're sittin' at the table D G D A D
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CHORUS – (REPEAT WITH UKULELES AND SINGING ending on $D\downarrow$)