

Sixteen Tons

Johnnie Taylor Key

Merle Travis

Medium [Tennessee Ernie Ford 1955] ($\text{♩} = 140$)

Intro

N.C.

Some

Verse

5 **N.C.**

people say a man is made out of mud.
A poor man's made out of

8 **C_{MI}⁶/A**

G

C_{MI}

C_{MI}⁷/B_b

C_{MI}

C_{MI}⁷/B_b

muscle and blood.
Muscle and blood and skin and bones,
a

11 **C_{MI}**

N.C.

mind that's weak and a back that's strong. You load

Chorus

13 **C_{MI}**

C_{MI}⁷/B_b

C_{MI}⁶/A

G

C_{MI}

C_{MI}⁷/B_b

sixteen tons, what do you get?
An - oth - er day old - er and
and

To Coda Last Time ♩

16 **C_{MI}⁶/A**

G

C_{MI}

C_{MI}⁷/B_b

F_{MI}/A_b

F_{MI}

C_{MI}⁷/B_b

N.C.

N.C.

20

N.C.

deeper in debt. Saint Peter, don't you call me 'cause I can't go... I owe my soul to the
company store.
I was

Sixteen Tons

∅ Coda

25

Peter, don't you call me 'cause I can't go... I owe my soul

30

a tempo N.C. G⁷ CMI

to the company store.

Verse 1 Some people say a man is made out of mud
A poor man's made out of muscle and blood
Muscle and blood and skin and bones
A mind that's weak and a back that's strong

Chorus You load sixteen tons, what do you get?
Another day older and deeper in debt
Saint Peter, don't you call me, 'cause I can't go
I owe my soul to the company store

Verse 2 I was born one mornin' when the sun didn't shine
I picked up my shovel and I walked to the mine
I loaded sixteen tons of number 9 coal
And the straw boss said, Well a-bless my soul!

Chorus

Verse 3 I was born one mornin', it was drizzlin' rain
Fightin' and trouble are my middle name
I was raised in the canebrake by an old mama lion
Can't no high-toned woman make me walk the line

Chorus

Verse 4 If you see me comin' better step aside
A lot of men didn't, a lot of men died
One fist of iron, the other of steel
If the right one don't getcha, then the left one will

Chorus You load sixteen tons, what do you get?
Another day older and deeper in debt
Saint Peter, don't you call me, 'cause I can't go
I owe my soul to the company store