

# Sixteen Tons - Tennessee Ernie Ford (1955)

Capo 2

[Riff 1]

```
e|---0-----|
B|-----1-----|
G|-----2-----|
D|-----2-----|
A|-----|
E|-----0--2--4---5-----|
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[Verse 1]

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

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      Am                F                E
You load sixteen tons and whaddy get?
      Am                F                E
Another day older and deeper in debt
      Am                Dm
Saint Peter don't'ya call me 'cause I can't go
      Am                E                Am
I owe my soul to the company store
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[Riff 1]

[Verse 2]

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      Am                F                E
I was born one mornin' when the sun didn't shine
      Am                F                E
I picked up my shovel and I walked to the mine
      Am                Dm
I loaded sixteen tons of number nine coal
      Am                E                Am
And the strawboss said, 'well, bless my soul'
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[Chorus]

Am F E  
You load sixteen tons and whaddya get?  
Am F E  
Another day older and deeper in debt  
Am Dm  
Saint Peter don't 'ya call me 'cause I can't go  
Am E Am  
I owe my soul to the company store

[Riff 1]

[Verse 3]

Am F E  
I was born one morning it was drizzlin' rain  
Am F E  
Fightin' and trouble are my middle name  
Am Dm  
I was raised in the canebreak by an old mama lion  
Am E Am  
Can't no high-tone woman make me walk the line

[Chorus]

Am F E  
You load sixteen tons and whaddya get?  
Am F E  
Another day older and deeper in debt  
Am Dm  
Saint Peter don't 'ya call me 'cause I can't go  
Am E Am  
I owe my soul to the company store

[Riff 1]

[Verse 4]

Am F E  
If ya see me comin', better step aside  
Am F E  
A lotta men didn't a lotta men died  
Am Dm  
One fist of iron, the other of steel  
Am E Am  
If the right one don't getcha, then the left one will

[Chorus]

Am F E  
You load sixteen tons and whaddya get?  
Am F E  
Another day older and deeper in debt  
Am (slow) Dm  
Saint Peter don't 'ya call me 'cause I can't go  
Am (hold) E Am  
I owe - my soul to the company store