



Music & lyrics by Merle Travis
Published 1946
Modified with thanks to
Bytown Ukulele

Sixteen Tons



Baritone

Intro:

Am **E7** **Am** **Am**
Do do do do do do do do do

Am **Am7** **F** **E7** **Am** **Am7** **F** **E7**
Some people say a man is made outta mud. A poor man's made outta muscle and blood

Am **Dm** **Am** **E7**
Muscle and blood and skin and bones, a mind that's a-weak and a back that's strong

Chorus:

Am **Am7** **F** **E7** **Am** **Am7** **F** **E7**
You load sixteen tons and what do you get? A - nother day older and deeper in debt

Am **Dm** **Am** **E7** **Am**
Saint Peter don't you call me 'cause I can't go. I owe my soul to the company store

Am **E7** **Am** **Am**
Do do do do do do do do do

Am **Am7** **F** **E7** **Am** **Am7** **F** **E7**
I was born one mornin' when the sun didn't shine. I picked up my shovel and I walked to the mine

Am **Dm** **Am** **E7**
I loaded sixteen tons of number nine coal and the straw boss said "Well, a-bless my soul"

<Chorus>

Am **Am7** **F** **E7** **Am** **Am7** **F** **E7**
I was born one mornin', it was drizzlin' rain. Fightin' and trouble are my middle name

Am **Dm** **Am** **E7**
I was raised in a canebrake by an ol' mama lion. Cain't no high-toned woman make me walk the line

<Chorus>

Am **Am7** **F** **E7** **Am** **Am7** **F** **E7**
If you see me comin', better step a-side. A lotta men didn't, a lotta men died

Am **Dm** **Am** **E7**
I got one fist of iron, the other of steel. If the right one don't a-get you, then the left one will

<Chorus>

