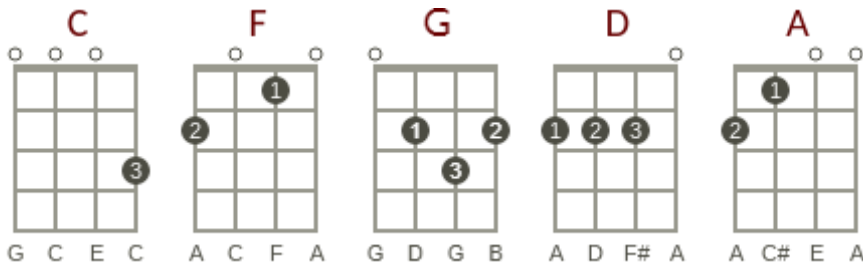


The Gambler

key:C/D, artist:Kenny Rogers writer:Don Schlitz



4/4 Strum. D Du Du Du (Dum chinga Dum a-chinga!)

Intro: [C] [C] [C] [C]

On a [C] warm summer's evenin' on a [F] train bound for [C] nowhere,
I met up with the gambler; we were both too tired to [G] sleep.
So [C] we took [F] turns a-[C] starin' out the [F] window at the [C] darkness
'til [F] boredom over [C] took us, and [G] he began to [C] speak.

He said, [C] "Son, I've made a life out of [F] readin' people's [C] faces,
and knowin' what their cards were by the way they held their [G] eyes.
And if [C] you don't [F] mind my [C] sayin', I can [F] see you're out of [C] aces.
For a [F] taste of your [C] whiskey I'll [G] give you some [C] advice."

So I [C] handed him my bottle
and he [F] drank down my last [C] swallow.
Then he bummed a cigarette and asked me for a [G] light.
And the [C] night got [F] deathly [C] quiet,
and his [F] face lost all ex[C]pression.
Said, "If you're [F] gonna play the [C] game, boy,
ya gotta [G] learn to play it [C] right.

You got to [C] know [G] when to [C] hold 'em, [F] know when to [C] fold 'em,
[F] know when to [C] walk away and know when to [G] run.
You never [C!] [C!] count [F!] [F!] your [C] money
when you're [F] sittin' at the [C] table.
There'll be [F] time enough for [C] countin' [G] when the dealin's [C] done.
[C] [C] [C] [C]

[D] Ev'ry gambler knows that the [G] secret to surv[D]ivin'
is knowin' what to throw away and knowing what to [A] keep.
'Cause [D] ev'ry [G] hand's a [D] winner and [G] ev'ry hand's a [D] loser,
and the [G] best that you can [D] hope for is to [A] die in your [D] sleep."

And [D] when he'd finished speakin',
he [G] turned back towards the [D] window,
[D]crushed out his cigarette and faded off to [A] sleep.
And [D] somewhere [G] in the [D] darkness
the [G] gambler, he broke [D] even.
But [G] in his final [D] words I found an [A] ace that I could [D] keep.

You got to [D] know [A] when to [D] hold 'em, [G] know when to [D] fold 'em,
[G] know when to [D] walk away and know when to [A] run.
You never [D!] [D!] count [A!] [A!] your [D] money
when you're [G] sittin' at the [D] table.
There'll be [G] time enough for [D] countin' [A] when the dealin's [D] done.

Singing, Clapping and Tapping ONLY this verse

You got to [D] know [A] when to [D] hold 'em, *When to hold 'em*
[G] know when to [D] fold 'em, *When to fold 'em*
[G] know when to [D] walk away and know when to [A] run.
You never [D] count [A] your [D] money
when you're [G] sittin' at the [D] table.
There'll be [G] time enough for [D] countin' [A] when the dealin's [D] done.

You got to [D] know [A] when to [D] hold 'em,
[G] know when to [D] fold 'em,
[G] know when to [D] walk away and know when to [A] run.
You never [D!] [D!] count [A!] [A!] your [D] money
when you're [G] sittin' at the [D] table.
There'll be [G] time enough for [D] countin' [A] when the dealin's [D!] done.