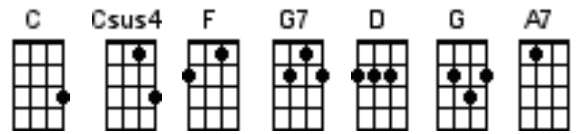


THE GAMBLER. 1978. Kenny Rogers.

4/4 time.

Count in 1, 2, 1 2 3 4 Intro: [C] [Csus4] [C] [Csus4]



On a [C] warm summer's [C] evening, on a [F] train bound for [C] nowhere,
I [F] met up with the [C] gambler, we were [C] both too tired to [G7] sleep.
So we [C] took turns a-[C]-staring, out the [F] window at the [C] darkness,
Till [F] boredom over-[C]-took us, and [G7] he began to [C] speak.

He said, [C] "Son, I've made a [C] life, out of [F] reading people's [C] faces,
[F] Knowing what the [C] cards were, by the [C] way they held their [G7] eyes.
So if [C] you don't mind me [C] saying, I can [F] see you're out of [C] aces,
For a [F] taste of your [C] whiskey, I'll [G7] give you some ad-[C]-vice". [C]

So I [C] handed him my [C] bottle, and he [F] drank down my last [C] swallow,
[F] _ Then he bummed a [C] cigarette, and [C] asked me for a [G7] light.
And the [C] night got deathly [C] quiet, and his [F] face lost all ex-[C]-pression,
He said, [F] "Gonna play the [C] game, boy, gotta [G7] learn to play it [C] right".

You've got to [C] know when to [C] hold 'em, _ _ [F] _ know when to [C] fold 'em,
_ _ [F] _ Know when to [C] walk away, [C] _ know when to [G7] run.
You never [C] count your [C] money _ _ when you're [F] sitting at the [C] table,
There'll be [C] time e-[F]-nough for [C] counting, _ _ [G7] _ when the dealings [C] done. [C]

[D] [D] Now [D] every gambler [D] knows that the [G] secret to sur-[D]-viving,
Is [G] knowing what to [D] throw away, and [D] knowing what to [A7] keep.
That [D] every hand's a [D] winner, and [G] every hand's a [D] loser,
And the [G] best that you can [D] hope for, is to [A7] die in your [D] sleep.

And [D] when he finished [D] speaking, he [G] turned back t'ward the [D] window,
[G] _ Crushed out his [D] cigarette, and [D] faded off to [A7] sleep. (*Quieter*)
And [D] somewhere in the [D] darkness, the [G] gambler he broke [D] even,
But [G] in his final [D] words, I found an [A7] ace that I could [D] keep.

You've got to [D] know when to [D] hold 'em, _ _ [G] _ know when to [D] fold 'em,
_ _ [G] _ Know when to [D] walk away, [D] _ know when to [A7] run.
You never [D] count your [D] money _ _ when you're [G] sitting at the [D] table,
There'll be [D] time e-[G]-nough for [D] counting, _ _ [A7] _ when the dealings [D] done

Repeat Chorus (above). *A cappella*

You've got to [D] know when to [D] hold 'em, _ _ [G] _ know when to [D] fold 'em,
_ _ [G] _ Know when to [D] walk away, [D] _ know when to [A7] run.
You never [D] count your [D] money _ _ when you're [G] sitting at the [D] table,
There'll be [D] time e-[G]-nough for [D] counting, _ _ [A7] _ when the dealings [D] done