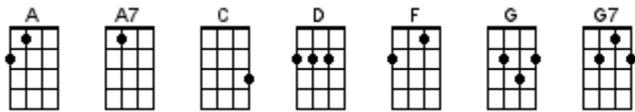


# The Gambler

Don Schlitz 1976 (as recorded by Kenny Rogers 1978)



<We love KEY CHANGES!>

**INTRO:** / 1 2 / 1 2 / [C] / [F] / [C] / [F]

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

He said [C] "Son I've made a life, out of [F] readin' peoples' [C] faces  
And [C] knowin' what their cards were, by the way they held their [G7] eyes  
So if [C] you don't mind my 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 ad-[C]vice" [C]

So I [C] handed him my bottle, and he [F] drank down my last [C] swallow  
[C] Then he bummed a cigarette, and asked me for a [G7] light  
And the [C] night got deathly 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

## CHORUS:

You got to [C] know when to 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] count your money, when you're [F] sittin' at the [C] table  
There'll be [C] time e-[F]nough for [C] countin' [G] when the dealin's [C] done [C]

<KEY CHANGE> [D] / [D] /

[D] Every gambler knows, that the [G] secret to sur-[D]vivin'  
Is [D] knowin' what to throw away, and knowin' what to [A7] keep  
'Cause [D] every hand's a winner, and [G] every 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 toward the [D] window  
[D] Crushed out his cigarette, and faded off to [A7] sleep  
And [D]↓ somewhere in the 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

## CHORUS:

You got to [D] know when to 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] count your money, when you're [G] sittin' at the [D] table  
There'll be [D] time e-[G]nough for [D] countin' [A] when the dealin's [D]↓ done

## <A CAPPELLA>

You got to know when to hold 'em (*when to hold 'em*)

Know when to fold 'em (*when to fold 'em*)

Know when to walk away, and know when to run

You never count your money, when you're sittin' at the table

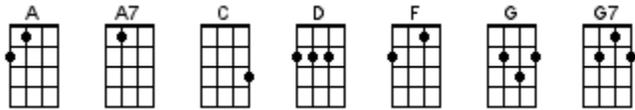
There'll be time enough for countin', when the dealin's done

You got to [D] know when to 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] count your money when you're [G] sittin' at the [D] table

There'll be [D] time e-[G]nough for [D] countin' [A] when the dealin's [D]↓ done



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