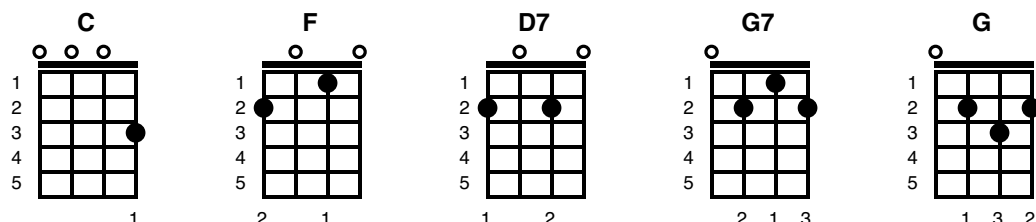


The Gambler

Recorded by Kenny Rogers

Key of C



C **F** **C**
On a warm summer's evenin' on a train bound for nowhere,
F **C** **D7** **G7**
I met up with the gambler, we were both too tired to sleep
C **F** **C**
So we took turns a starin' out the window at the darkness
F **C** **G** **C** **C**
'Til boredom overtook us, and he began to speak

C **F** **C**
He said, "Son, I've made a life out of readin' people's faces,
F **C** **D7** **G7**
And knowin' what their cards were by the way they held their eyes
C **F** **C**
And if you don't mind my sayin', I can see you're out of aces
F **C** **G** **C** **C**
For a taste of your whiskey I'll give you some advice"

C **F** **C**
So I handed him my bottle and he drank down my last swallow
F **C** **D7** **G7**
Then he bummed a cigarette and asked me for a light
C **F** **C**
And the night got deathly quiet, and his face lost all expression, said
F **C** **G** **C** **C**
"If you're gonna play the game, boy, ya gotta learn to play it right

CHORUS:

Tacet C F C
You got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em
F C D7 G7
Know when to walk away and know when to run
C F C F C
You never count your money when you're sittin' at the table
F C G7 C C
There'll be time enough for countin' when the dealin's done

C F C
Ev'ry gambler knows that the secret to survivin'
F C D7 G7
is knowin' what to throw away and knowing what to keep
C F C
'Cause ev'ry hand's a winner and ev'ry hand's a loser
F C G7 C C
And the best that you can hope for is to die in your sleep"

C F C
And when he'd finished speakin', he turned back towards the window
F C D7 G7
crushed out his cigarette and faded off to sleep
C F C
And somewhere in the darkness the gambler, he broke even
F C G7 C C
But in his final words I found an ace that I could keep

Chorus:

Tacet C F C
You gotta know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em
F C D7 G7
Know when to walk away and know when to run
C F C F C
You never count your money when you're sittin at the table
F C G7 C
There'll be time enough for countin when the dealin's done

There'll be time enough for countin^{F C G7} when the dealin's done^{C / F / C /}