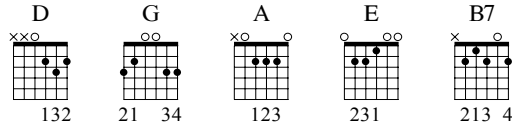


The Gambler

Words and Music by Don Schlitz



*Capo II

Strum Pattern: 4
Pick Pattern: 5

Verse

Moderately fast

D G D

mf

1. On a warm sum-mer's eve - nin' on a train bound for no - where, I
2. See additional lyrics

T					
A					
B	0 2	0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 2 0 2	4 4

*Optional: To match recording, place capo at 2nd fret.

A

met up with a gam - bler, we were both too tired to sleep, — so

T					
A					
B	4 2 0 2 2	4 0 0	0 4 2 0 2		0

D G D

we took turns a star - in' out the win-dow at the dark - ness till

T					
A					
B	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 2 0 2	4 0	

1.

G D A D

bore-dom o - ver - took — us and he be - gan to speak. 2. He said,

T					
A					
B	0 0 2 0 2	4	0 2 2 4 2	0 0 0	

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2.

G D A D

taste of your wis - key, I'll give you some ad - vice." 3. So, I

Verse

D G D

hand - ed him my bot - tle and he drank down my last swal - low.

A

Then he bummed a cig - a - rette ___ and asked me for a light. ___ And the

D G D

night got death - ly qui - et, and his face lost all ex - pres - sion ___ said, "If you're

G D A D

gon - na play ___ the game, ___ boy, ___ ya got - ta learn to play ___ it right. ___ You got to

Chorus

D G D

know when to hold ___ 'em, know when to fold ___ 'em,

G D A

know when to walk ___ a - way, _ know when to run. ___ You nev - er

D G D G D

count your mon - ey ___ when you're sit - tin' at the ta - ble. There'll be

G D A D

time e - nough ___ for count - in' when the deal - in's done.

Verse

E A

4. Now, ev - ry gam - bler knows ___ the sec - ret to sur - vi -

*Original modulation was up 1/2 step.
This arrangement modulated one step for ease of playability.

E B7

- vin' is know-in' what to throw a - way, — know-in' what to keep. — 'Cause

0 1 2 | 1 0 0 0 | 0 0 1 | 2 2 1 2 4 | 2

E A E A

ev - 'ry hand's a win - ner and ev - 'ry hand's a los - er, and the best you can

2 2 2 2 2 | 2 2 | 2 2 0 0 0 | 2 0 2

Verse

E B7 E E

hope for is to die in your sleep." 5. So when he'd fin-ished speak-in', he

0 1 2 2 | 4 1 1 | 2 2 | 2 2 2 2 | 2 2 2

A E

turned back t'ward the win - dow, crushed out his cig - a - rette — and fad-ed off to

2 2 0 2 0 | 1 | 1 0 0 | 0 0 1 | 2 2 1 2

B7 E A E

sleep. Then some-where in the dark - ness, the gam - bler, he broke e - ven, but

4 2 | 2 2 2 2 2 | 2 2 | 2 2 0 2 | 0 1 2

A E B7 E

in his fin - al words I found an ace that I ___ could keep. You got to

Chorus
E A E

know when to hold ___ 'em, know when to fold ___ 'em,

A E B7

know when to walk ___ a - way, ___ know when to run. ___ You nev - er

E A E A E

count your mon - ey ___ when you're sit - tin' at the ta - ble. There'll be

A E B7 E E

time e - nough _ for count - in' when the deal - in's done. You got to done.

Additional Lyrics

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