

The Gambler written by Don Schlitz (1976)

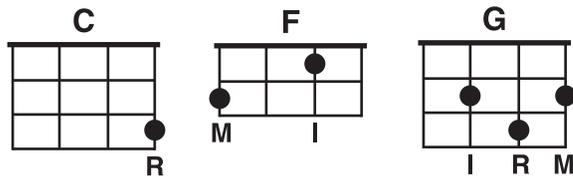
C F C
 On a warm summer's evening on a train bound for nowhere
 F C G
 I met up with the gambler we were both too tired to sleep
 C F C
 So we took turns a-staring out the window at the darkness
 F C G C
 Till boredom overtook us and he began to speak

C F C
 He said, son I've made a life out of reading people's faces
 F C G
 And knowing what their cards were by the way they held their eyes
 C F C
 And if you don't mind my saying I can see you're out of aces
 F C G 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 G
 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
 F C G C
 Said if you're gonna play the game, boy ya gotta learn to play it right

CHORUS:=====

C F C
 You got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em,
 F C G
 Know when to walk away, and know when to run
 C F C
 You never count your money when you're sitting at the table
 F C G C
 There'll be time enough for counting when the dealing's done
 =====



C F C
 Every gambler knows that the secret to surviving
 F C G
 Is knowing what to throw away and knowing what to keep
 C F C
 Cause every hand's a winner and every hand's a loser
 F C G C
 And the best that you can hope for is to die in your sleep

CHORUS:=====

C F C
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 =====

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

===Chorus

