

St. James Infirmary Blues

Traditional

Dm A7 Dm Dm

It was down at old Joe's bar room

Dm Gm A7 A7

At the corner by the square

Dm A7 Dm Dm/C

They were serving drinks as usual

Gm A7 Dm Dm

And the usual crowd was there

On my left stood big Joe MacKennedy
His eyes were bloodshot red
And as he looked at the gang around him
These were the very words he said.

Dm A7 Dm Dm

I went down to St. James Infirmary

Dm Gm A7 A7

I saw my baby there

Dm A7 Dm Dm/C

Stretched out on a long, white table

Gm A7 Dm Dm

So young, so cold, so fair

Seventeen coal-black horses
Hitched to a rubber-tied hack
Seven girls goin' to the graveyard
Only six of them are coming back

Let her go. Let her go, God bless her
Wherever she may be
She may search this wide world over
And never find another man like me

When I die just bury me
In my high-top Stetson hat
Place a twenty-dollar gold piece
on my watch chain
To let the Lord know I died standing pat

I want six crap-shooters for my pallbearers
A chorus girl to sing me a song
Place a jazz band on my hearse wagon
To raise hell as we roll along

Now that you've heard my story
I'll take another shot of booze
And if anyone here should ask you
I've got the gambler's blues

Each indicated chord gets two beats.

The only substitution is for the Gm chord.

Gm	G, Bb, D
Gm7	G, Bb, D, F
Bbmaj7	Bb, D, F, A (Dm with a Bb in it or Dmb6)
Em7b5	E, G, Bb, D (Gm with an E or Gm6)

Note that the chord is named by the root note played in the bass. The blue color is for the 7th, the green color for the major 7th, and dark red for the b5. The edginess of the blues increases moving from Gm to Em7b5.

Some occasionally substitute an F for Dm7. I don't like this but it is common.

Dm7	D, F, A, C
F	F, A, C

Dm/C is Dm with a C passing note in the bass string. The C can be ignored without changing the song. Dm/C is also Dm7!