

Worried Man Blues

CHORUS:

G
It takes a worried man to sing a worried song
C G
It takes a worried man to sing a worried song
G
It takes a worried man to sing a worried song
D G
I'm worried now but I won't be worried long.

G
I went across the river and I laid down to sleep
C G
I went across the river and I laid down to sleep
G
I went across the river and I laid down to sleep
D G
When I woke up, there were shackles on my feet.

CHORUS:

G
Twenty-one links of chain around my leg
C G
Twenty-one links of chain around my leg
G
Twenty-one links of chain around my leg
D G
And on each link, the initials of my name.

CHORUS:

G
I asked the judge what's gonna be my fine
C G
I asked the judge what's gonna be my fine
G
I asked the judge what's gonna be my fine
D G
Twenty-one years on the Rocky Mountain Line.

CHORUS

G
If anyone should ask you who composed this song
C G
If anyone should ask you who composed this song
G
If anyone should ask you who composed this song
D G
Say it was me and I sing it all day long.

CHORUS

"**Worried Man Blues**" is a [folk song](#) in the [roots music repertoire](#). It is catalogued as [Roud Folk Song Index](#) No. 4753. Like many folk songs passed by oral tradition, the lyrics vary from version to version, but generally all contain the chorus "It takes a worried man to sing a worried song/It takes a worried man to sing a worried song/I'm worried now, but I won't be worried long." The verses tell the story of a man imprisoned for unknown reasons "I went across the river, and I lay down to sleep/When I woke up, had shackles on my feet", who pines for his lost love, who is "on the train and gone."