

# Worried Man Blues

## CHORUS:

It takes a worried man to sing a worried song  
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.

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

## CHORUS

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

## CHORUS

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

## CHORUS

If anyone should ask you who composed this song  
If anyone should ask you who composed this song  
If anyone should ask you who composed this song  
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."