

# MAMA TRIED – MERLE HAGGARD

[4 beat count in] [Intro]

D

Acoustic guitar Bar strings G, B, and e on the seventh fret

```
e|-----|
B|-----7-----10---8---7-----|
G|-----7-----|
D|---0-----|
```

repeat pattern 5 times - electric comes in on 4th rep

electric

```
e|--14 \ 12 -----/2--/2---|
B|----- -13 -----/3--/3---|
G|-----11 \ 9-----/2--/2---|
D|-----10-----|
A|-----|
E|-----|
```

[Verse 1]

D G D G  
First thing I remember knowin' was a lonesome whistle blowin'  
D (G) A7  
And a young-on's dream of growing up to ride  
D G D G  
On a freight train leaving town, not knowing where I'm bound  
D A7 D  
no one could change my mind, but Mama tried

[Verse 2]

D G D G  
One and only rebel child, from a family meek and mild  
D (G) A7  
My Mama seemed to know what lay in store  
D G D G  
'Spite of all my Sunday learnin', toward the bad I kept on turnin'  
D A7 D  
'Til Mama couldn't hold me anymore

[Chorus]

D G D  
I turned twenty-one in prison , doing life without parole  
Bm D A7  
No one could steer me right, but Mama tried, Mama tried  
D G D  
Mama tried to raise me better, but her pleading I denied,  
A7 D  
that leaves only me to blame, 'cause Mama tried

## SOLO

~ Bend / Slide H Hammer On V Vibrato r = rest

```
e|--14 \ 12 ----|-----|
B|----- -13 |-----|
G|-----|11 \ 9----|
D|-----|-----10--|
A|-----|-----|
E|-----|-----|
```

### vFULL MEASURE REST HERE

```
E-----|-----|-----|-----|---
B-----|-----|-----|-----|---
G-----7--7-H9-7|-----|-----|---11\9--|--
D-/9-----|-----5---|-6 5 -----5=r---|-----|--10-
A-----|-4-5=(5)-8-5-----5|-----8-5-8-----5-=|-----|
E-----|-----|-----|-----|
```

### [Verse 3]

```
      D              G              D      G
Dear old Daddy rest his soul, left my mom a heavy load
      D              (G)              A7
She tried so very hard to fill his shoes
      D              G              D      G
Working hours without rest, wanted me to have the best
      D              A7              D
She tried to raise me right, but I refused
```

### [Chorus]

```
D              G      D
And I turned twenty-one in prison doing life without parole
      Bm              D              A7
No one could steer me right, but Mama tried, Mama tried
      D              G      D
Mama tried to raise me better, but her pleading I denied,
      A7              D
that leaves only me to blame, 'cause Mama tried
```

### THIS MEASURE X 2

```
e|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
B|----10----10----8----7----|----- -13 -----|-----|-----|
G|--7-----7-----7-----7-----7--|-----11 \ 9-----|-----|
D|0-----0-----0-----0-----|-----10-----|-----|
A|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
E|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
```

instead of slides use Pre-bends