

THREE CHORDS AND THE TRUTH, RY COODER

INTRO: Am x4 (repeats after every Chorus)

Am

I dreamed I saw Joe Hill last night,
Standing in the prison yard;
They were taking poor Joe chained and bound
To a Utah firing squad.

Well he turned and looked at me right then
And said don't you be misled.

They're trying to tear our free speech down
And buddy they aint near quit yet.

See they bring me on a killing charge

And know I wouldn't lie to you.

But the only crime here that I done

G Am

Was three chords and the truth.

CHORUS

C F G C
Three chords and the truth, Three chords and the truth

C F
Yea the only crime that Joe Hill done

G C
Was three chords and the truth.

C F
Well he sang his union songs real good

G C
He got his message through

C F
But they couldn't Stand to hear a working man

G C ----- Am
Sing three chords and the truth.

Old J Edgar Hoover liked to hear the darkies sing,
And one man changed that all around;
Paul Robeson was a man that you couldn't ignore,
That's what drove old J Edgar down.

Well he called up his NY Klan boyfriends,
And said I gotta somethin' good for you,

**Get right down there to Peekskill NY town
And Kill three chords and the truth.**

CHORUS:

**Three chords and the truth, Three chords and the truth.
Well the only crime you ever got from Paul
Was three chords and the truth.
Now If this the land of democracy
I've got one question for you.
Why wasn't Paul Robeson set free
On three chords and the truth?**

**GUITAR SOLO TO CHORUS
SAX SOLO TO THE Am SECTION**

**Now they took Pete Seeger before the law
And put him on the witness stand.
But he stood right up to tyranny
With just a banjo in his hand.
Such a righteous banjo picker,
Watching out for me and you.
Pete was just a man that wouldn't back down
On three chords and the truth.**

**Three chords and the truth, three chords and the truth.
Well the only crime Pete Seeger done was three chords and the
truth. Yea he sang his freedom songs real good
He's got his message through.
Pete Seeger was a man just wouldn't back down on
Three chords and the truth.**

**Three chords and the truth, Three chords and the truth.
Pete Seeger was a man that just wouldn't back down
On three chords and the truth.**