

## PAY ME MY MONEY DOWN

(F)I thought I heard the captain say  
Pay me my (C)money down  
Tomorrow is our sailing day  
Pay me my (F) money down

Chorus: Pay me, pay me  
Pay me my (C) money down  
Pay me or go to jail  
Pay me my (F) money down

As soon as the boat was clear of the bar  
Pay me my (C) money down  
He knocked me down with the end of a spar  
Pay me my (F) money down

Chorus

Well, If I'd been a rich man's son  
Pay me my (C)money down  
I'd sit by the river and watch it run  
Pay me my (F) money down

Chorus

Well I wish I was Mr. Gates  
Pay me my money down  
Carry my money round in crates.  
Pay me my (F) money down

Chorus

Well, forty days and nights at sea  
Pay me my (C)money down  
That captain worked every last dollar outta me.  
Pay me my (F) money down

Chorus x 2

"Pay Me My Money Down" originated among the African-American stevedores working in the Georgia Sea Islands (US). It was collected by Lydia Parrish and published in her 1942 book *Slave Songs of the Georgia Sea Islands*. The melody is much older and used in other songs, and the sentiment, even older. Released by Bruce Springsteen circa 2007