

# One Piece at a Time

## Johnny Cash

Well, I left Kentucky back in '49  
An' went to Detroit workin' on a 'sembly line  
The first year they had me puttin' wheels on Cadillacs  
Every day I'd watch them beauties roll by  
And sometimes I'd hang my head and cry  
'Cause I always wanted me one that was long and black  
One day I devised myself a plan  
That should be the envy of most any man  
I'd sneak it out of there in a lunchbox in my hand  
Now gettin' caught meant gettin' fired  
But I figured I'd have it all by the time I retired  
I'd have me a car worth at least a hundred grand  
I'd get it one piece at a time and it wouldn't cost  
me a dime

You'll know it's me when I come through your town  
I'm gonna ride around in style, I'm gonna drive everybody wild  
'Cause I'll have the only one there is a round  
So the very next day when I punched in  
With my big lunchbox and with help from my friends  
I left that day with a lunch box full of gears  
I've never considered myself a thief  
But GM wouldn't miss just one little piece  
Especially if I strung it out over several years  
The first day I got me a fuel pump  
And the next day I got me an engine and a trunk  
Then I got me a transmission and all of the chrome  
The little things I could get in my big lunchbox  
Like nuts, an' bolts, and all four shocks  
But the big stuff we snuck out in my buddy's mobile home  
Now, up to now my plan went all  
right

'Til we tried to put it all together one night  
And that's when we noticed that something was definitely wrong  
The transmission was a '53 and the motor turned out to be a '73  
And when we tried to put in the bolts all the holes were gone  
So we drilled it out so that it would fit  
And with a little bit of help with an adapter kit  
We had that engine runnin' just like a song  
Now the headlight' was another sight  
We had two on the left and one on the right  
But when we pulled out the switch all three of 'em come on  
The back end looked kinda funny  
too

But we put it together and when we got through  
Well, that's when we noticed that we only had one tail-fin  
About that time my wife walked out  
And I could see in her eyes that she had her doubts

But she opened the door and said, "Honey, take me for a spin" So we drove up town just to get  
the tags

And I headed her right on down main drag  
I could hear everybody laughin' for blocks around  
But up there at the court house they didn't laugh  
'Cause to type it up it took the whole staff

And when they got through the title weighed sixty pounds I got it one piece at a time and it  
didn't cost me a dime

You'll know it's me when I come through your town  
I'm gonna ride around in style, I'm gonna drive everybody wild  
'Cause I'll have the only one there is around Uh yow, Red Ryder, this is the cotton mouth  
In the Psycho-Billy Cadillac come on, huh, this is the cotton mouth

And negatory on the cost of this mow-chine there Red Ryder  
You might say I went right up to the factory  
And picked it up, it's cheaper that way  
Uh, what model is it? Well, it's a '49, '50, '51, '52, '53, '54, '55, '56  
'57, '58, '59' automobile  
It's a '60, '61, '62, '63, '64, '65, '66, '67  
'68, '69, '70 automobile

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