

One Piece At A Time

Words & Music:
Wayne Kemp
As recorded by Johnny Cash

F Bb
Well, I left Kentucky back in '49 & went to Detroit workin' on a 'sembly line.
C F
The first year they had me puttin' wheels on Cadillacs.
F Bb
Every day I'd watch them beauties roll by & sometimes I'd hang my head and cry.
C F
'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.

CHORUS:

F Bb
I'd get it one piece at a time & it wouldn't cost me a dime.
C F
You'll know it's me when I come through your town.
F Bb
I'm gonna ride around in style, I'm gonna drive ever'body wild.
C F
'Cause I'll have the only one there is around.

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.
Now, I 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.

