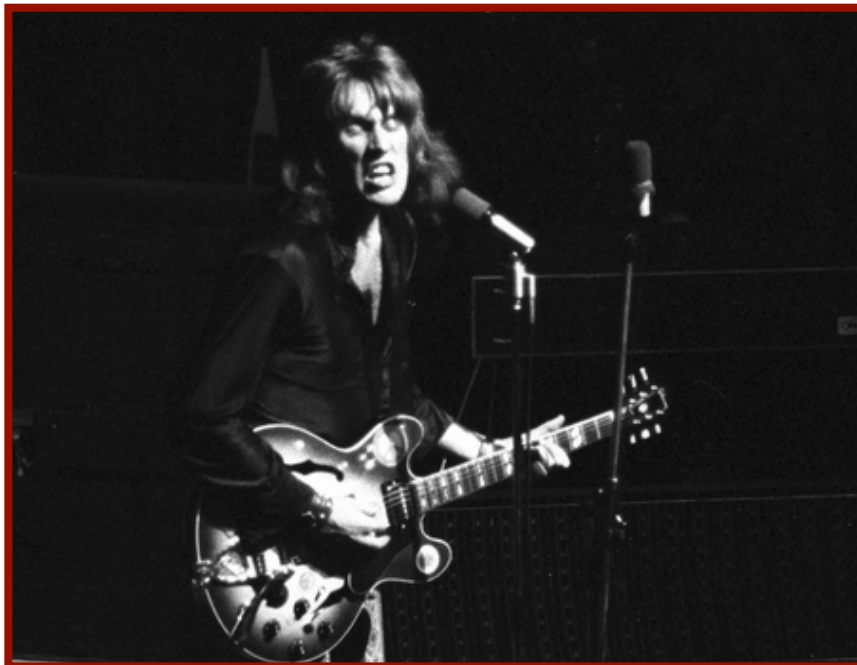


# Robservations

Newsletter from indyguitar

*Monthly guitar talk from a Voice of Teaching Experience in Indianapolis.*



**(CNN)** -- Alvin Lee, the speed-fingered British guitarist who lit up Woodstock with a monumental 11-minute version of his song "I'm Going Home," has died, according to his website. He was 68.

I spent countless hours studying his records, slowing them down to half speed so I could comprehend what he was playing. His records "Undead" introduced me to tunes like "Summertime" and "Woodchopper's Ball" A great blues player, he will be missed.

Rob

February 24, 2011

**Years of experience,  
unique approach,  
excellent instruction.**

Rob has been teaching our 14 year old son for about 8 months now. He's made amazing progress in that time and continues to love the instrument, play every day (no prompting from mom and dad), and really wants to learn and improve. I give Rob a lot of credit for that. I think what makes Rob such a great teacher is the way he constantly assesses the student and makes corrections and changes to the material he presents so that the student is always challenged appropriately (not too much, not too little). He understands the need for balance between the "work" of learning music theory and how it applies to the guitar, and the "fun" part that keeps the student interested and engaged. He's an amazing guitarist, a great teacher, and I've enjoyed getting to know him. As others have said, Rob tells it like it is. If you aren't really serious about learning, he's probably not the guy for you. But then if you aren't really serious about learning, why take lessons in the first place?

Michael Ulmer  
Brownsburg, IN

**C7    F7**

One of the most valuable exercises a guitarist can do is playing arpeggios through the circle of fifths. In this case we're playing a straight up dominant seven arpeggio and moving up a fourth playing it's dominant seven then going down to it's fourth, and so on.

**B $\flat$ 7    E $\flat$ 7**

**A<sup>b</sup>7 D<sup>b</sup>7**

Say the name of the arpeggio you're playing out loud at the time you're playing it, then try doing different intervals such as up a fifth, up a major third, down the whole step, up a minor third down the whole step, etc.

**G<sup>b</sup>7 B7**

E7    A7

12   11   14   12   12   11   14   12

12   11   14   12   12   11   14   12

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I recommend you know how to play it in sequence around the whole circle to get back to where you started.

C-F-Bb-Eb-Ab-Db-Gb-B-E-A-D-G-C. Also C-G-D-A-E-B-Gb-Db-Ab-Eb-Bb-F C. And reverse the arpeggio to a de-arpeggio (backwards).

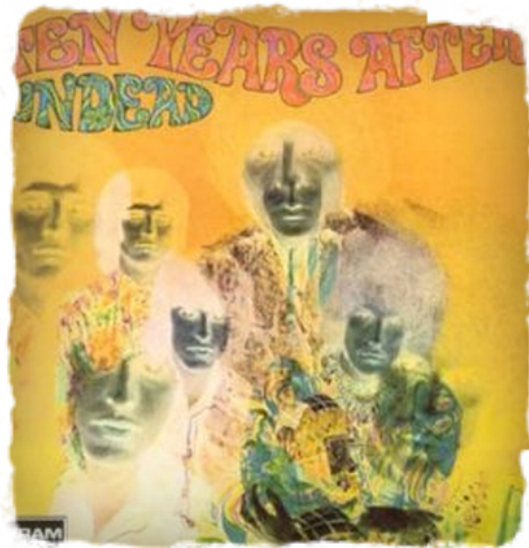
D7    G7

10   9   12   10   10   9   12   10

10   9   12   10   10   9   12   10

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## Essential Listening



## Don't forget.

As well as live lessons I also teach Skype and e-mail lessons. These include audio files, video files, PDFs with both types of tablature and manuscript. Topics include blues licks, CAGED, modes, chord scales, progressions, melodic (jazz) minor, harmonic minor, symmetrical forms and two to four chord progressions to go with each. I also teach theory for guitarists and how to read rhythm. Lessons go from \$9.95 and I accept Paypal and Visa and Master Card and debits. Satisfaction Guaranteed with phone support.

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