

Blues

TEN YEARS AFTER I'M GOING HOME

ON THE CD

TRACKS 9-11



- 9. Introduction
- 10. Full track
- 11. Backing track

The signature track by a band whose guitarist was once celebrated as "the fastest gun in the West"

TEN YEARS AFTER

I'M GOING HOME

GT RATING

MODERATE



Helps improve your:

- Blues lick vocabulary
- Timing
- Sweep picking (no, really!)

Ten Years After were a British blues/rock outfit comprising Chick Churchill (on keyboards) Leo Lyons (bass) Ric Lee (drums) and the highly regarded Alvin Lee (guitar).

Sounding not unlike Jimmy Page on amphetamines, Alvin quickly earned a reputation as the fastest guitarist of his day – bearing in mind that this was back in the days before Yngwie-bashing came into vogue, such a distinction was still meant as a compliment.

If you are a fan of players like Les Paul, Django Reinhardt or Tal Farlow, you might justifiably point out that people had already been clocking up similar note-per-second statistics for decades. Alvin's main selling point, however, was that he brought these levels of technical proficiency to the arena of blues/rock, and that his playing always had an exciting, high-energy feel which many argued set him aside from many of his more cerebral predecessors in other musical spheres.

As the band's name suggests, Ten Years After drew much of their inspiration from the first-generation rock 'n' rollers of the 1950s (much as The Stray Cats did, ten more years after.) so it should come as no surprise to learn that this track is a good old-fashioned I-IV-V, 12-bar blues in A.

Fine track though it may be, we couldn't justify devoting a third of the GTCD and about half of the magazine to a full rendition of the classic live version (the rendition I have goes on for a whopping ten minutes!) so I have tried to strip things down to the sections that seem most typical of Alvin's style.

Therefore, I omitted the following:

- ◆ Sections which quote other rock

TRACK RECORD SONGS THAT WOWED WOODSTOCK



The GTCD version of I'm Going Home was based on the classic live version found on the compilation CD *The Best Of... Ten Years After*, which comes to you courtesy of the good people at Chrysalis. Originally, this version was released in 1973, on the aptly named *Recorded Live* (which came to be known as *The Official Ten Years After Bootleg*). It should be added that the band's reputation was largely earned on the basis of their incendiary performance at Woodstock, so recordings of this historic festival will provide you with another way to source the track.

'n' roll classics – the chorus where Alvin is beseeching us not to step on his blue suede shoes springs to mind, for instance.

◆ Soloing sections which pay tribute to other players (much of the end section seems to be a sort of Chuck Berry pastiche).

◆ Choruses where there is no guitar playing at all.

What you will find in the transcription, however, is a fine collection of Alvinisms suitable for use as rapid-fire repeating licks, along with a number of different rhythm approaches which will prove handy for any up-tempo 12 bar in A.

In a live context, the most faithful way to arrange the track would of course be to keep things loose, using eye contact (and any similar means of intra-band communication that work for you) to bring the dynamics of the track up and down as dictated by the response of your audience. Listen to the original version, and you will doubtless agree that this was the approach taken by Ten Years After!

Scale-wise, we're largely using the trusty Am blues scale:

A	C	D	E ^b	E	G
1	b3	4	b5	5	b7

with some A major pentatonic ideas thrown in for good measure:

A	B	C#	E	F#
1	2	3	5	6

Other than that, most of the transcription is pretty self-explanatory; it's mostly the metronome settings that will present problems.

As always, the solution is to take things slowly at first, and to take solace in the fact that the licks in the following pages will work well over any slower blues/rocker in A, so you can start using them effectively before you get to Alvin's pace – and you will have something really impressive to play when you do get up to speed. **GT**

PRO TIP

At the risk of stating the obvious, Alvin Lee is not Albert Lee! Albert is the fast country guy, Alvin is the fast bluesy guy. Apologies to the legions of readers who already knew that, but it's a common mix-up and one that should be avoided, as it does a disservice to both players...

YOUR GT TUTOR

■ GUTHRIE GOVAN
See p9 for more info on all the GT tutors

