

# Yngwie Malmsteen quote

Dear Yngwie: I often get stuck inside a scale (e.g., Dorian, Lydian, Phrygian, etc.) and my fingers just go up and down that scale. So I wonder if you've got some hint about how to overcome this? Also, can you please tell me some exercise that will increase my speed?

(David Almstrom, Gothenburg, Sweden)

Yngwie says: "Both of these questions I get asked a lot of the time. The first one is difficult to answer, because it is really a question of creativity rather than skill. Anyone can learn the notes of the scales from a book or a teacher, but deciding what to do with them actually depends on what you hear in your head . . . your musical inspiration. I can't teach anyone how to do that. All I can say is to play with your ears open--if you don't like what you hear, try something else. About speed, I never used any specific exercises to build speed. For me, it took just playing for hours a day, becoming so familiar with the instrument that I didn't have to think about where my fingers were going next . . . and maybe that answers the first question, too!"