

BEAUTY

As skin's main purpose is to be a protective barrier against the outside world, getting formulas through the surface and deep into the skin's regeneration layers is where your beauty buck goes.

Oils are the most compatible with complexions, as they're able to migrate among cells, so the newest thing is to use them as a transportation method. Think of serum-in-oils as the skincare equivalent of a Trojan horse, infiltrating enemy walls and fooling the skin into innocently accepting the active ingredients hidden inside.

'These formulations deliver the maximum anti-ageing benefits of the serum – alongside the hydration benefits of the nourishing oil – to deep within the skin, to repair and replenish,' explains celebrity facialist Nichola Joss.

Some you have to shake to combine the two elements, while others are already blended as one. Either way, only a few drops are required. Skincare at every level with only one application? Smart stuff.



SKIN SCIENCE

SERUM-in-oils

Get a hit of hydration with beauty's bright new stars – your complexion will thank you for it (once it's got over the deceit). *Jess Lacey* soaks up six of the best



1 ESPA Optimal Skin ProSerum, £48

Featuring essential fatty acids and vitamins, this has given my skin a huge boost. Definitely a long-term favourite.

2 Sanctuary Spa Wonder Oil Serum, £19.50

This protects against ageing and external damage. With a few drops thoroughly massaged in, my skin was perky enough to not need cover-up.

3 Su-Man Velvet Skin Brightening Serum, £98

I only needed a drop a day, so one bottle should last a good six months. And in each drop, you can see the serum inside.

4 Sarah Chapman Skinesis Overnight Facial, £45

This smells so good, I wanted to cover my body with it. It drip-fed my skin through the night and I woke up to a firmer complexion.

5 Ren Vita Mineral Omega 3 Optimum Skin Serum Oil, £23

More oil than serum, this isn't for first thing in the morning, but it's great for night time. Parched skin will drink it up.

6 The Body Shop Vitamin E Overnight Serum-in-Oil, £12

This is a tad flowery smelling, but I was won over by the light consistency that sinks in instantly, so there's zero grease.

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