



**Origins Original Skin
Essence Lotion, £22**
Impressive, despite the ingredients list reading like a Gwyneth Paltrow recipe (think fermented molasses). The texture is thicker than your average essence, but there was no tackiness and my make-up glided on like a dream. A close runner-up.



Editor's pick...

**Givenchy Le Soin Noir
Lotion Essence, £88.50**

OK, this has a hefty price tag – but it was also the most multitasking essence. I happily skipped the next two steps of my regime (serum and moisturiser) thanks to how dewy it made my skin right away.



**B Refreshed Essence
Lotion, £6.99**

Proof that you don't need to blow big bucks on good skincare. This budget-friendly option contains hyaluronic acid (sounds chemical but works like a dream). It's normally found in serums to really increase moisture. Impressive.



Essential essences



This hybrid toner/serum promises to boost the effectiveness of your other skincare. But do you need one asks Acting Beauty Editor **FIONA EMBLETON**

**Aveda Botanical Kinetics
Hydrating Treatment
Lotion, £22.50**

This is more like a toner for sensitive skin. It clears away all traces of cleanser – without the stinging side effects – so other products can sink in better. The spa-like scent of chamomile and eucalyptus also deserves a mention.



**Aurelia Calming
Botanical Essence, £42**

No faffing around with cotton pads with this mist. The skin-soothing probiotics are another bonus. Stick to using underneath your night cream, though – the soporific scent had me drifting off at my desk!

