

ROAD TEST

# SHORT CUTS

We test-drove new treatments that promise quick highlights, slimmer waists, “airbrushed” skin, and fresher-looking eyes, stat



The Neotensil system aims to send eye bags packing fast.

## 40-SECOND

### AIRBRUSHING

I'm a sucker for impulse buys at the drugstore counter (magazines! gum! designer hand sanitizer!), which is why I couldn't help but notice a bright display that screamed, “Look up to 10 years younger in 40 seconds!” Apparently, the Nanoblur (\$20, indeedlabs.com) I promptly purchased is a cosmetic based on “advanced optics technology” (according to the box, at least) that aims to immediately soften crow's-feet and wrinkles, and minimize large pores, giving you a blurred-out, airbrushed quality. Worth a shot, right?

Sadly, my first foray into erasing an entire decade of questionable lifestyle choices was somewhat of a fail. After applying a dime-size amount to my bare face, my skin seemed more even-toned, but it was more of a tight, chalky egg-white masky look than a miraculous return to university days. After rereading the directions, I conceded that perhaps I had misused the product: They state that if you use Nanoblur on bare skin, it must be applied as the last part of your regimen, which I suppose they assume involves serum or lotion or whatever. (With makeup, you pat it over your foundation, but under powder.) And there is a hint that if you have dry skin, you can mix it with moisturizer. I don't have dry skin per se, but a later experiment—I mixed a dollop of Nanoblur with a drop of silky serum—resulted in a more dewy finish, forming a kind of super primer. Ten years younger? That claim may be a stretch, but hey, even 10 months younger is cool with me, and I'll definitely give it that. —Erin Flaherty

## 5-MINUTE

### EYE-BAG ERASER

After someone younger than I am offered up her seat on the subway, I went into a tizzy. Seriously? Did I look that tired, that old? Once at my desk, I peered into a mirror: Yes, I did. The culprit was the bags under my eyes.

So I was almost giddy to try Living Proof's Neotensil (\$500 for a seven-week supply, livingproof.com), which promises to reshape bags as readily as Spanx does bellies and can be worn every day. Although the kit is for at-home use, it's available only at a dermatologist's office, so that's where I headed. When I arrived, I learned I wasn't an ideal candidate. True, my bags were no match for the bulging crescents shown in the company brochure, but I begged to try it anyway—surely I'd

**NEOTENSIL PROMISES TO RESHAPE EYE BAGS AS READILY AS SPANX DOES BELLIES.**

see some sort of improvement. "It's designed for moderate to severe bags caused by bulging fat deposits under the eye, a condition that's often genetic and can worsen with age," explained dermatologist Dr. Doris Day. But she agreed to let her medical assistant do a demo on one side (required of all new customers before they can purchase the kit).

The assistant cleansed my skin with the included disposable wipe, then applied two creamy gels from just beneath my lashline to the under-eye circle's lower rim: the Reshaping Base followed by an Activating Layer gel on top. Finally, she asked that I sit expressionless (not easy!) for five minutes, so the two layers could merge into a cross-linking polymeric film that would flatten and pull the skin taut as it dried. Once set, the film stays put up to 16 hours and can be easily taken off with the included remover.

Afterward, I compared my eyes. Did the one side look better? Maybe a bit, although there were a few crinkles in the film because I didn't keep still as it was drying. But, it actually felt pretty normal. Day explained that I'll likely see a bigger improvement when I (and my bags) get older. And if not? Well, there are worse things than scoring a seat on a crowded subway. —*Joanne Chen*

## 60-MINUTE

### SLIMMING

In Los Angeles, quick-slimming solutions are a dime a dozen, but word spreads fast about those that really work. That's why appointments are booked solid at the Rejuvenate Medical Spa in Encino, California, where aesthetic director Michael Farah developed the Nano Body Lift (\$500, rejuvenatemedical.com), a new, noninvasive body-contouring procedure that promises immediate inch loss and skin smoothing. "We use a combination of radio-frequency, radio-pulse, far-

**"THE NANO CURRENT IS LIKE DOING 400 SIT-UPS IN 20 MINUTES."**

—MICHAEL FARAH, AESTHETIC DIRECTOR AT THE REJUVENATE MEDICAL SPA IN ENCINO, CALIFORNIA

infrared, and nano technologies to reduce fat and tighten the skin," Farah says, adding that actresses often come in for a treatment or two before red-carpet events. Maybe it can also help me. Months of diligent Core Fusion has given me a solid core, but I still have a muffin top.

My appointment starts with a medical assistant gliding a pulsing, suctioning radio-frequency device over my midsection for 15 minutes; it feels like a small child is pulling on my love handles and then lightly punching my stomach. Next, seven minutes of radio pulses, courtesy of another gadget that emits loud but painless, jackhammer-like sound waves to firm skin and reduce cellulite.

The last 30 minutes with a microcurrent machine is what sets the Nano Body Lift apart from similar procedures: Farah sets the current to nano-frequency levels and pairs it with far-infrared heat, which burns calories and speeds up lymphatic drainage. "You can burn up to 600 calories per hour with infrared heat therapy alone, and the nano-frequency current is like doing 400 sit-ups in 20 minutes," he says. All I know is that after one treatment, I've lost three inches around my waistline, a temporary victory that could be permanent with five more treatments, according to Farah. But the true test? Skinny jeans, straight out of the dryer. And I'm happy to report, no waistband-area spillover. —*Ning Chao*

## 90-MINUTE

### HIGHLIGHTS

As an unnatural blonde, I've spent countless hours at the salon trying to get my light brown a just-right shade of sun-kissed golden honey. But I'll also put up with roots for weeks just to avoid the dreaded four hours it takes to get highlights, a rinse, lowlights to add dimension, another rinse, and finally a gloss. (It's hard work to look like you've been on the Riviera for two weeks!) Wella's new Color.id (from \$200, wella.com), an additive that allows colorists to apply multiple hues at once, aims to condense the process. I headed to Mark Debolt at Marie Robinson in New York City to put it to the test.

Debolt started by hand-painting sandy-blond streaks, then switched brushes and began swiping coppery gold right alongside. I was concerned the colors would run into each other, but he explained that the new formula prevents the dyes from bleeding and works for colors up to three shade levels apart. "Not only does this speed salon visits by almost 35 percent, I can see exactly where I'm putting the color because there's no foil barrier," says Debolt. Ninety minutes later, after just one shampoo and a quick blowdry, I had the same multidimensional color I'm used to—hours ahead of my usual schedule. —*Joy Herson*

Swimsuit ready: The Nano Body Lift promises to trim in just one session.

