DXIST

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- Easy to construct and take down as and when you need it
- 12-month guarantee

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G2160 Mini Greenhouse ~~£41.99~~	**£29.99**
G2161 Mini Greenhouse - spare cover	**£14.99**
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Beauty that will give you change from a fiver



Affordable cosmetics and skincare have never been better, says **Hannah Britt**. She asks the experts how to stock up without splashing out

The beauty industry has changed. Cheap is no longer a dirty word.

Affordable cosmetics have never been better, and often have as much science behind them as their pricer counterparts.

"There are now some fabulous brands which are really affordable and uncompromising on quality," says make-up artist Christiane Dowling (christianedowling.com).

"I've found hidden gems among brands like Kiko, NYX, Max Factor and Maybelline, which are a staple in my professional make-up kit."

"There are plenty of designer brands with brilliant products, but some can be quite overpriced," says make-up artist Roseanna Velin (roseannavelin.com).

"Premium brands also have premium packaging, which reflects in the price," adds make-up artist Tamara Tott (tamaratott.com).

"It's all about being savvy. We live in an age where you don't need to pay top dollar."

So what should you look for?

"Think about the quality of pigment, the product finish and longevity," says Roseanna.

Before purchasing, know what you want to achieve, whether it's smoky eyes, dewy skin or long-wearing lipstick.

"Don't get distracted by branding and packaging," says Roseanna. "Get to know the product inside the pot by testing it on the back of your hand.

"Notice the texture – is it silky, shiny, shimmery or matte? Does it glide on or take a bit of effort to blend? What is the pigment like – does it show up straight away or does it need to be built up with multiple applications?"

"Beauty should be fun, so don't take it too seriously," says Christiane. "One of the best things about a budget product is that you can take a punt on it."

Here we share some of the best budget brands and our top buys.

Make-up marvels

ELF: Founded with the mission of making the best of beauty accessible to every eye, lip and face, Elf is a favourite of beauty editors for its high-performing products. Prices start from £3.

■ **TRY: Elf Flawless Brightening Concealer, £5, elfcosmetics.co.uk**

NYX: For great pigments at low prices, NYX is unbeatable. Its high-quality palettes and primers are a favourite with make-up artists and influencers alike. Prices start from £4.

■ **TRY: NYX Born To Glow Illuminator, £4.50, Boots**

Skincare saviours

THE ORDINARY: Want powerhouse ingredients for pennies? You can't do better than The Ordinary, which aims to show consumers that a lower point is not reflective of efficacy. Its skincare starts from £2.75.

■ **TRY: The Ordinary Niacinamide 10% + Zinc 1%, £5, Boots**

LACURA: Known for its cut-price takes on popular and more expensive products, Aldi's beauty brand sells out as soon as it hits stores. From 55p.

■ **TRY: Lacura Miracle Cream, £3.99, Aldi**

Brilliant bodycare

PS...: Prices start from a purse-friendly 50p for PS at Primark beauty products, which sees high-end ingredients contained in budget packaging.

■ **TRY: PS... Vitamin E Hand Cream, £2, Primark**

PALMER'S: Palmer's wrote the book on no-frills skincare. From lip balm to body cream, products are reliable, get the job done and smell delicious too. Prices start from £2.50.

■ **TRY: Palmer's Cocoa Butter Formula Body Lotion, £3.99, Boots**

Hot haircare

TRESEMME: Salon-worthy hair can be yours for as little as £2 thanks to Tresemme, with nutrient-packed products you can trust to deliver stunning results.

■ **TRY: Tresemme Pro Collection Keratin Smooth Heat Protect Spray, £2, Boots**

BATISTE: Many dry shampoos come and go, but few will beat this bargain brand. A staple of festivals, school-runs and desk-to-dancefloor makeovers. Try the travel size for just £1.50.

■ **TRY: Batiste Dry Shampoo, £3.25, Boots**

Nifty nail art

RIMMEL: No make-up bag should be without Rimmel. This budget brand has products for as little as £2.99, which perform as well as their more expensive counterparts.

■ **TRY: Rimmel 60 Seconds Super Shine Nail Polish in Caramel Cupcake, £3.49, Superdrug**

BARRY M: This fashion-forward brand has prices from £2.49. The nail polishes are the heroes, with every colour imaginable.

■ **TRY: Barry M Gelly Nail Paint in Lavender, £3.99, Superdrug**

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Here comes autumn

BY **EMMA JOHNSON**

We might not like to admit it, but we are whizzing through the last days of summer.

While some regard September 1 as the beginning of autumn, summer actually officially finishes on September 21.

However you choose to set your seasons, one thing is certain, it will not be long before temperatures dip and we reach for our warmer clothes.

We are far off the days of winter coats and boots, but strappy sundresses and shorts feel a little out of place when it gets dark at 8pm.

Already high street stores are full of new-season pieces, plenty of which you can wear now.

Try a patterned midi dress with sandals or trainers, then add a chunky knit sweater and ankle boots when it gets colder.

Not ready to wear a coat yet? Reach for an oversized cardigan instead.

Colourwise, go for a muted take on traditional autumnal shades. Think olive green, washed-out berry red and purple hues.

We love SMART SHOES



TOP of the SHOPS

Mernie Gilmore reveals what's hot to shop this week

BEAUTY



Soap & Glory is a brilliant-value beauty range that we've always got on our shelves at home – and now it's celebrating its 15th birthday. We'll be stocking up on favourites such as Clean On Me body wash, £6.50, and The Righteous Butter body lotion, £10, to mark the occasion. Find the range in Boots.

BAKE



You don't need to spend a fortune on pricey kitchen equipment in order to be a brilliant baker. This new bakeware range from high street favourite Wilko comes with a 10-year guarantee, and has everything you need to whip up delicious treats, including this 12-cup muffin tray, £7.

DRINK



Who doesn't love a Diet Coke break? And now you can do it in style, as luxury appliances company Smeg has teamed up with Diet Coke to launch an exciting competition. Simply scan the QR code on promotional packs of Diet Coke to be in with a chance to win a super-cool and stylish fridge, along with lots of other prizes. Competition runs until October 10.

EAT



Walkers is championing local restaurants with its new launch, which celebrates our favourite meals out in crisp form. Choose from Thai Green Curry, Fish & Chips, Madras Curry and Chicken Burrito flavour, and get a £5 voucher off a meal in a local restaurant. Find participating restaurants at walkers.co.uk/local.

ECO



Designed to reflect its earth-kind origins, this eco-friendly Pilot B2P Recycled Plastic Gel Ink Ballpoint Pen, £3.29 (penheaven.co.uk) is made from 90 per cent recycled plastic water bottles, helping to cut plastic waste and reduce landfill. It can be refilled too once the ink runs out.