Tagless Threads Discusses Discharge Inks

Tagless Threads is a screen printing shop in Vista, California, that specializes in using discharge inks. Here is a brief description of how these inks work and why companies like Tagless Threads are choosing them.

Discharge ink is a water-based ink that dyes fabric by bleaching the original dye on the fabric, and then replacing that dye with a pigment found in the discharge ink. This is done with the use of a catalyst or activator; thiourea dioxide is one commonly used catalyst. Once the catalyst is applied, the fabric must be dried within a limited window of time to ensure that the ink sets correctly in the fabric. This time window is generally between 6 and 8 hours.

Discharge inks saw popularity back in the early 1990s. However, in recent years, discharge inks have been seeing a revival in usage because consumers like the result—a soft, seamless print that looks like it was a part of the original fabric.