Dabka embroidery is a technique that is used to create intricate patterns with a coiled wire which resembles a spring. This delicate tightly coiled spring of fine metal wire is what is known as dabka. Since the wire is used in the embellishment, it lends its name to the technique as well. The dabka is tightly coiled, in a way that it is hollow inside. Dabka embroidery is very detail oriented and requires a tremendous amount of skill to execute the precise designs. A cotton thread is first stitched on the printed or stencilled design. Once this is complete, the metal coil is stitched onto the fabric by passing a needle from the middle.The embroidery is usually done on chiffon or silk with zari threads and once complete, the embellishment has a 3D appearance.

Dabka motifs are mostly nature inspired - paisley, flowers, leaves and birds are common patterns that are made on the fabric with dabka.. Despite being lavish, when it comes to variety, the kind of motifs that are made with dabka are limited. While traditional dabka makes use of gold wires, nowadays, metal wires in hues of gold and silver are being used. Their jewelled tones add a spectacular shine, lending the fabric an opulence that is unparalleled.

As with many other crafts in India, dabka is also on the verge of decline due to the dwindling number of artisans who are well-versed with the craft. Dabka work on a single outfit is a process that involves more than a couple of craftsmen, who painstakingly make intricate designs with nothing more than a simple needle over many days.