Don't blow up your computer!
ASK DIANE

Dear Diane,

I have a spreadsheet and I want to number a column but not in a normal number sequence. I want it to have letters and then numbers. Is there a way to do this automatically without having to number each one individually? I need 100 numbers.

Easier is Better

Dear Easier,

Yes, you can create a numbered pattern in Excel even though you are starting with letters (words) before the number.

Excel will allow you to create a variety of sequences.

If you look at Column A, I started with Big 100 A1, and then I typed Big 101 in A2. I then selected both A1 and A2 and when I got the + sign "Fill Handle" in the lower right corner I just kept going down the column and it automatically numbered them for me.

I did a similar thing in Column B. This time it kept repeating the three words and renumbered for me.

Column C shows an exaggerated " Fill Handle" and its location.

Excel will not let you change the words and the numbers at the same time and auto-fill for you. So there are some limitations with this but it certainly is easier than typing in 100 new numbers. Enjoy...DSG