

Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 22

FRONT COVER — Detailed Observations



Here is your **Front Cover assessment** for

Overall Setting & Layout

The image shows the complete front cover of *Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 22*. The comic is positioned against a light-colored background with even lighting and no distortion.

The cover art depicts a figure standing in heavy rainfall, holding an umbrella that has partially collapsed or turned inside-out. Rain streaks cover the entire scene.

The cover text "**LULU'S UMBRELLA SERVICE 25¢ 2¢**" is handwritten in a chalk-like script on the right-hand side.

A red vertical Dell Comics strip runs down the left side.

Foreground Visual Elements

- The character in the center stands in a red outfit with an umbrella handle in hand.
 - The umbrella canopy is dark and bent backward, suggesting strong wind.
 - The character's attention is directed upward toward the damaged umbrella.
 - The figure stands on a pale ground surface with stylized puddle patterns.
-

Background Visual Elements

- The background consists of a teal-gray wall with diagonal white rain streaks covering nearly the entire surface.
 - Rain streaks are heavily stylized, consistent with Dell's mid-century cover design.
 - Bottom edge shows light tan flooring or ground with curved rainwater ripples.
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Visible Text

Cover Title & Branding:

- **Top Left:**
 - "APRIL"
 - Dell Comics price box showing **10¢**, vertical orientation
- **Main Title:**
 - *Marge's Little Lulu* in large yellow and blue script lettering.
- **Right Side Text:**
 - "LULU'S UMBRELLA SERVICE"
 - "25¢" (crossed out)
 - "2¢"

All text is clean and fully legible.

Physical Condition Observations

Corners

- **Top right corner:** noticeable rounding and a small diagonal crease.
- **Top left corner:** moderate rounding with minor abrasion.
- **Bottom corners:** rounded but intact.

Edges

- **Right edge:** light wear with minimal chipping.
- **Top edge:** mild wear and abrasion.
- **Bottom edge:** shows unevenness but no tearing.

Spine Area

- Spine is visibly worn:
 - Paper loss and chipping in several regions.
 - Multiple color breaks along the entire length.
 - Fading and heavy abrasion of the red Dell strip.
- Staples not visible from this angle.

Surface Condition

- General scuffing present but not severe.
- No stains, writing, or marks present.
- Rain-illustration lines remain intact without smearing.

Color Condition

- Red, blue, and teal tones remain strong and vibrant.
- No major fading or discoloration.
- Black outlines remain sharp.

Tears / Creases

- No full tears observed.
 - One moderate vertical curve or bend near the right side (non-color-breaking).
-

Overall Front Cover Impression

This is a **visually strong but moderately worn** Golden Age cover, with:

- Bright color preservation
- Strong linework
- Fully intact paper with no tears or staining

Main defects include:

- Moderate-to-heavy **spine wear**
- Corner rounding
- Minor surface scuffing
- Small top-right crease

Overall, this Front Cover aligns with **mid-grade Golden Age condition**.

INSIDE FRONT COVER — Detailed Observations



Overall Setting & Layout

The image shows the entire **inside front cover** of the comic.

This page is a **black-and-white 9-panel gag strip** titled **"TUBBY."**

Panels are arranged in a clean **3 × 3 grid**, with simple linework, minimal background, and expressive character motion.

A publication block appears along the bottom, including:

- "MARGE'S LITTLE LULU, Vol. 1, No. 22, April, 1950."
- Dell Publishing information
- Copyright and printing details

(The text confirms the publication month as **April 1950**, which will be used in your title lines later.)

Panel Content Description

Row 1

- Tubby interacts with a smaller character and a yo-yo-like object.
- Movements suggest Tubby demonstrating or showing off the object.

Row 2

- Tubby swings or uses the object with exaggerated motion.
- The smaller character reacts with surprise as the object moves toward them.

Row 3

- A comedic payoff: Tubby appears to strike himself with the object.
- Final panel shows Tubby dazed, while the smaller character watches.

The humor and staging are consistent with early-1950s Tubby gag strips.

Physical Condition Observations

Paper Toning

- Medium-to-dark Golden Age toning, heavier near top and along the outer edge.
- Slight darkening around inner margin from storage and natural aging.
- Toning is uniform, and no brittleness indicators appear in this image.

Edges & Corners

- **Top-left corner:** Rounded with mild creasing and darkening.
- **Bottom-left corner:** Slightly roughened but intact.
- **Right margin:** Clean, slight waviness from natural page curvature.

Surface Condition

- Light scattered speckling typical of aged newsprint.
- No stains, smudges, liquid marks, or foreign writing.
- Ink prints cleanly with strong contrast.

Binding

- Inner margin shows no tearing or staple pull.
- Page sits flat without excessive pressure or cracking.

Overall Impression

A **consistent, well-preserved interior page** for a 1950 Dell comic:

- No tears
- No stains
- No writing
- Clean printing
- Strong structural stability
- Expected toning and corner wear

This page aligns with a **solid mid-grade Golden Age interior**.

☑ CENTERFOLD — Detailed Observations



Overall Setting & Layout

The image shows the comic opened flat to a **full interior double-page spread**.

The left-hand page displays the ending panels of a story sequence; the right-hand page begins a new, brightly colored **"LITTLE LULU"** chapter.

Lighting is even, with minimal glare. The spine fold is fully visible and allows for evaluation of staple condition and page integrity.

Left Page — Content Description

Panel Layout

- Six sequential story panels in three rows.
- A continuation of a scene involving two characters walking, negotiating tasks, and discussing money.
- Speech balloons are clear and legible.

Foreground Elements

- Characters engage in dialogue:
 - "D-did you get the money?"
 - "All right, Tubb... I'll take it to Mr. Pestle."
- Panels include walking scenes on sidewalks and interior monologue.

Background Elements

- Outdoor street scenes with sidewalks, walls, and simple color fields.
- Blue and yellow backgrounds in various panels.

Notable Art Details

- Classic Dell thick outlines and selective coloring.
 - Clean panel borders without breaks.
-

Right Page — Content Description

Title Panel

- A large top banner reading “**Marge’s LITTLE LULU**” with bold red lettering.
- A rain-themed umbrella storyline begins here, matching the front cover’s theme.

Foreground Elements

- Character interactions involving umbrellas, rain, street navigation, and customer service.
- Text includes:
 - “Too many people have their own umbrellas.”
 - “Little girl, can you tell me where Hemlock Avenue is?”
 - “Thanks... that’s the third one who wanted to know where to go...”

Background Elements

- Heavy rain across most panels.
 - Simple but colorful outdoor street environments.
 - Sign: “**LULU’S UMBRELLA SERVICE 25¢**”
-

Staple & Spine (Centerfold View)

Staple Condition

- Both staples visible and **fully attached**.
- No tearing or page pull.
- Mild darkening around staple entry points from oxidation (light migration only).

Spine Fold

- Spine fold shows moderate darkening from age.
 - No split lines or cracking visible.
 - Pages lie flat without forced stretching.
-

Paper Quality Observations

Toning

- Medium Golden Age toning; darker at the top edges.
- Uniform across both pages.

Edges & Corners

- Outer edges show light roughness but no chips.
- Corners are rounded but intact.

Surface Condition

- Light newsprint speckling from age.
- No stains, moisture ripples, or foreign marks.
- No pencil or pen writing.

Color & Ink

- Strong color preservation:
 - Reds, greens, and blues remain vibrant.
 - No major fading.
 - Ink registration is stable and well aligned.
-

Overall Centerfold Impression

This centerfold is:

- Fully attached
- Vibrant and clean
- Free of tears, stains, or writing
- Structurally sound
- Showing only expected age toning and mild edge wear

A solid **mid-grade Golden Age interior** consistent with your other Little Lulu issues.

☑ BACK COVER — Detailed Observations



I JUST LOVE TO MAIL ALL MY FRIENDS A FREE GIFT
Little Lulu

Marge's Little Lulu comics

Dear Friends:

We just posed for five of the cutest pictures and I want to send a set of them to all the boys and girls who read this magazine.

The pictures are a scream! They are the funniest of the gang that I have ever seen. Your set will not cost you a single penny. It comes to you FREE with a subscription to LITTLE LULU Comics. You will receive 12 big issues for only \$1.00.

Goodbye now until next month. Tubby and I will be looking for you!

Little Lulu

KIDS! SUPPLY OF THESE BEAUTIFUL PICTURES IS LIMITED. BETTER HURRY AND SEND FOR YOUR SET RIGHT AWAY, BEFORE THEY'RE ALL GONE!

1 yr. 12 issues \$1.00
2 yrs. 24 issues 1.85
3 yrs. 36 issues 2.70

5 6½" x 7¾" full color illustrations of Little Lulu and her friends **FREE**

Like millions of boys and girls who read DEL COMICS every month, I hope you got a lot of fun out of this issue of LITTLE LULU.

No matter what Tubby and his gang may be up to, she has always had something up her sleeve to out-smart them. She always has the last laugh! You just can't put anything over on Little Lulu!

Don't miss the adventures of Little Lulu and Tubby and their friends during the coming year. Every issue will be packed with loads of fun and side-splitting laughs. And, of course, we know you will get a great kick out of reading Little Lulu's "DIRTY" and other exciting short features every month.

To make sure that you will not miss a single issue, mail subscription form on other side of this page right now. Saves you money. You get 12 big issues for only \$1.00.

Be the first to get your set of pictures. RUSH BACK FORM ON OTHER SIDE TODAY.

Overall Setting & Layout

The image shows the complete **back cover** of *Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 22*.

The layout is a classic **Dell Comics subscription-style advertisement** centered on Little Lulu mailing gifts to readers.

The design includes:

- A large top banner advertising a **FREE GIFT**
- A mailbox graphic labeled **U.S. MAIL**
- A promotional letter addressed to "Dear Friends"
- Subscription price boxes
- A row of five small illustrative images of Little Lulu across the bottom

Lighting is even and reveals paper texture, coloring, toning, and edge integrity clearly.

Foreground Advert Elements

Top Section

- A large dark-blue banner with bold white text:
"I JUST LOVE TO MAIL ALL MY FRIENDS A FREE GIFT — Little Lulu"
- A character reaching up to insert a letter into a green mailbox marked "U.S. MAIL."
- Another character holding a card or envelope in one hand.

Middle Section

- A letter-format block printed on a slanted paper graphic:
 - Begins with "**Marge's Little Lulu comics — Dear Friends:**"
 - Describes free pictures, gift items, and subscription information.
 - Ends with a stylized printed signature of Lulu.
- To the right:
 - A long paragraph explaining monthly enjoyment of Dell Comics
 - Encourages readers to subscribe
 - Promotes storylines featuring Lulu, Tubby, and friends
 - Invitation to receive free pictures with subscription

Lower Section

- A large circular price block with yellow background listing subscription rates:

- **12 issues — \$1.00**
 - **24 issues — \$1.85**
 - **36 issues — \$2.70**
 - A childlike illustrated character pointing upward toward the offer.
 - A row of **five 6½" × 7¾" full-color illustrations** advertised as a free gift.
-

Physical Condition Observations

Paper Aging & Toning

- The page shows **moderate Golden Age toning**, especially along the outer edges.
- Upper-left region displays noticeable darkening consistent with long-term storage.
- Toning is even and does not indicate water damage.

Corners

- **Top left and top right:** Rounding with mild creasing.
- **Bottom corners:** Rounded but intact; no significant loss of paper.

Edges

- **Left edge:** Mild roughness and small stress marks near the spine.
- **Right edge:** Cleaner, very slight abrasion.
- **Top edge:** Slight discoloration but no tears.
- **Bottom edge:** Minor waviness, no chips or missing sections.

Surface Condition

- Light scuffing visible in the white areas around the text and illustrations.
- Small scattered age specks near the title banner (normal newsprint oxidation).
- No stains, fingerprints, smearing, or water rings.
- No writing, pencil marks, or discoloration patches.

Color Condition

- Red, yellow, blue, and green elements remain vibrant.
- No significant fading, even in solid-color fields.
- Black ink remains sharp with no noticeable lift.

Structural Integrity

- Page is flat with no rippling.
 - No tears along any edge.
 - No sealed repairs or reinforcing marks.
-

Overall Back Cover Impression

This back cover is clean, bright, and structurally stable:

- Strong color presentation
- No tears, chips, or staining
- Fully readable subscription advertisement
- Paper wear limited to normal toning and light scuffing
- Corners show moderate but expected rounding

The cover aligns with a **solid mid-grade Golden Age back cover** consistent with the overall condition of this copy.

☑ INSIDE PAGES — Detailed Observations

📄 Inside Page 1 (IMG_0793.jpeg)



☑ *Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 22*

(And thank you — I will continue using **small text** for each photo prompt.)

Your upload contained **four interior story pages**, and the following structured observations are now stored for your Golden Age and 100-Point Evaluations.

Overall Setting

A full-color story page with a title banner "**LITTLE LULU — ALVINSITTING.**"

The page contains a 7-panel layout with a telephone conversation and indoor scenes involving two figures.

Foreground Content

- A figure speaks on a telephone placed on a small table.
- Another smaller figure stands beside the speaker, reacting to statements.
- Several panels involve pointing gestures, posture changes, and conversational cues.
- Objects in the panels include:
 - A telephone
 - A chair
 - A table
 - A framed wall area
 - A doorway

Background Elements

- Vertical rectangular window shapes
- Light-colored walls
- Simple solid background fields

Physical Condition Observations

- **Toning:** Medium-to-dark, heaviest along the top margin.
- **Edges:** Mild abrasion and outer-edge roughness.
- **Corners:** Rounded but stable.
- **Surface:** Light speckling; no staining or writing.
- **Color:** Strong color retention; no major fading.
- **Binding:** Inner margin shows no tears.

Inside Page 2 (IMG_0797.jpeg)



Overall Setting

Eight full-color sequential panels depicting indoor and outdoor scenes involving a figure who appears to be preparing a disguise.

Foreground Content

- A large figure and smaller figure stand in a room.
- A figure locates accessories (such as sunglasses), tries them on, and checks appearance in a mirror-like reflective shape.
- Scene transitions from interior staircase to outdoor walkway.

Objects Appearing

- Sunglasses
- A mirror-like reflective surface
- A drawer unit and chair
- A staircase
- A railing
- A doorway

Physical Condition Observations

- **Toning:** Medium-toned perimeter with darker outer edges.
 - **Corners:** Rounded; lower-left corner slightly softened.
 - **Edges:** Slight roughness but fully intact.
 - **Surface:** Very clean for age; no discoloration.
 - **Color:** Vibrant greens, blues, and reds.
 - **Binding:** No pulling or tearing in the gutter.
-

Inside Page 3 (IMG_0794.jpeg)

Overall Setting

Six full-color story panels showing outdoor and indoor spaces. A costumed figure appears in the top-left panel.

Foreground Content

- Figures dressed as “ghosts” in a play-acting or joking scenario.

- A smaller figure reacts and moves through various spaces.
- Interaction includes handing an item over and walking through an interior doorway.

Background Elements

- Outdoor grassy areas, fences, buildings, and a barrel.
- Indoor doorway with red and white trim.
- A yellow indoor background in lower panels.

Physical Condition Observations

- **Toning:** Moderate; indoor scenes more evenly toned.
 - **Corners:** Mildly rounded, no breaks.
 - **Edges:** Intact; no chips.
 - **Surface:** Clean; no marks or stains.
 - **Color:** Well-preserved; no ghosting or ink lift.
 - **Binding:** Clean inner margins.
-

Inside Page 4 (IMG_0795.jpeg)

Overall Setting

A full-color page beginning a rain-themed story (matching the front cover theme).

Foreground Content

- Figures holding umbrellas walking in heavy rain.
- A small figure appears to offer directional help to taller figures.
- Repeated signage for an “**UMBRELLA SERVICE**” appears in multiple panels.

Objects Appearing

- Umbrellas
- Sidewalks
- Water streak effects
- Street backgrounds with directional dialogue

Physical Condition Observations

- **Toning:** Medium-to-dark Golden Age toning.

- **Edges:** Slight wear on outer edge; no tears.
 - **Corners:** Rounded.
 - **Surface:** A few age specks but overall very clean.
 - **Color:** Strong saturation in rain scenes and clothing areas.
 - **Binding:** Tight inner margin; no gutter damage.
-

Overall Inside Pages Impression

Across all four pages:

- Strong color retention
- No tears, writing, stains, or moisture damage
- Stable binding with no page pull
- Natural Golden Age toning
- Only moderate corner wear and edge abrasion

This interior block fits squarely into **solid mid-grade Golden Age condition**, consistent with your earlier issues.

☑ SPINE — Detailed Observations



▣ Overall Setting & Orientation

The uploaded image shows the comic placed horizontally on a wire rack, giving a clear **side-profile view** of the entire spine from top to bottom. This angle helps reveal:

- Spine roll
- Cover detachment risks
- Chipping / flaking
- Staple placement
- Color breaks
- Structural integrity

Lighting is strong and highlights abrasions, texture changes, and paper loss along the spine edge.

☑ 1. Spine Shape & Roll

Spine Roll

- A **moderate spine roll** is visible, leaning toward the front cover.
 - The cover edge curves upward slightly while the bottom edges lie flatter, confirming the roll.
 - The roll appears uniform, not sharply folded — typical for Golden Age books with repeated reading.
-

☑ 2. Spine Surface Condition

Color Loss & Abrasion

- Significant **color wear** along the red Dell spine strip:
 - Multiple areas of white paper showing through
 - Surface flaking along mid-spine
 - Numerous small scratches and abrasion tracks
- The faux grain pattern of the spine (from the front/back covers) is **interrupted and chipped** in several places.

Paper Loss

- Multiple **tiny spine chips** visible — more noticeable near the upper and mid portions.
- Areas where the top color layer has completely flaked off.

Stress Lines

- Several **vertical color-breaking creases** run the length of the spine.
 - These lines are moderate to heavy in severity.
-

☑ 3. Spine End Condition (Top & Bottom)

Top Spine End

- Slight rounding
- Minor chipping along the very top edge
- Some fiber lift but no full tear

Bottom Spine End

- More abrasion than the top
 - Small roughened and crumpled area
 - Still **no open split** detected
-

☑ 4. Overall Structural Integrity

Attachment & Strength

- Despite heavy edge wear, the spine remains structurally intact.
- No visible separation between front cover, back cover, and interior block.
- The profile suggests the staples are still holding both covers firmly.

No Splits

- No top-to-bottom spine splits visible from this angle.
 - No horizontal tearing across staple zones (to confirm fully, staple close-ups are needed next).
-

Spine Condition Summary

Strengths

- Structurally sound — no full splits
- Solid attachment of cover and interior block
- Spine roll is moderate but not severe

Defects (Expected for a Mid-Grade Golden Age Book)

- Heavy surface abrasion
- Multiple color breaks
- Paper loss and chipping
- Wear around ends
- Moderate spine roll

Overall, this is a **well-handled but intact Golden Age spine** consistent with a **VG-range** structural profile.

STAPLES — Detailed Observations

You provided **two close-up images**, each showing one of the two spine staples.
Below is the full structured evaluation based entirely on the images.





Overall Setting

Both photos show **extreme close-up views** of the comic's staples from the front-cover side. Lighting is bright and directional, clearly revealing:

- Metal surface detail
- Paper integrity around the staple holes
- Chipping, fraying, and color-layer loss
- Positioning and seating of the staple legs

Both staples are assessed independently and then summarized as a combined structural feature.

☑ Upper Staple (Photo 1)

Metal Condition

- The staple appears original to the book.
- Very light darkening visible — **minor surface oxidation**, but not deep rust.
- Metal retains shape with no bending, splaying, or deformation.

Surrounding Paper Condition

- There is a visible **horizontal abrasion line** just above and below the staple.
- Small areas of **color loss** along the red spine strip.
- Paper fibers around the hole show **mild lifting**, but:
 - No tearing
 - No elongation
 - No pulling away from the spine

Structural Integrity

- Staple remains fully embedded and flush.
 - No sign of interior detachment based on visible tension.
-

☑ Lower Staple (Photo 2)

Metal Condition

- This staple shows **slightly more oxidation** than the upper one.
- Still within the “mild rust” category — not flaking or pitted.
- Metal is straight and seated correctly.

Surrounding Paper Condition

- More noticeable **paper abrasion and chipping** around the staple.
- Two small areas of **paper break / flake loss** where the red ink layer has chipped away.
- Fibers show **light fraying**, especially along the lower edge of the staple.

Structural Integrity

- Despite wear, the staple is **secure and not loose**.

- No tearing that would threaten page attachment.
 - The staple hole size appears unchanged, meaning there's **no pull-through**.
-

Combined Staple Condition Summary

Strengths

- Both staples remain **firmly attached**
- No staple pull or hole elongation
- Rust is minimal and stable
- No looseness or detachment indicators

Age-Expected Defects

- Moderate paper abrasion around both staples
- Color-layer flaking at staple edges
- Light to moderate oxidation
- Small but visible frayed fibers

Overall, the staples are consistent with **solid VG-range Golden Age structural integrity**, matching the rest of the book's condition profile.

BRITTLENESS TEST — Detailed Observations



Overall Setting & Image Description

The uploaded image shows a **close-up of an interior page corner being gently lifted**. Two layers of the comic's interior stock are visible:

- The upper sheet being flexed
- The underlying sheet lying flat beneath it

The paper tone is a **deep brown**, consistent with aged early-1950s Dell newsprint.

Lighting is angled and close, revealing edge behavior, fiber response, and whether cracking occurs during flex.

Paper Behavior During the Bend

Flexibility

- The lifted page curves **smoothly** without forming a sharp crease.
- The bend does **not** produce cracking, splitting, or sudden folding.
- The page maintains structural integrity even with pronounced toning.

Edge Response

- **No flaking, no missing fragments, and no chipping** along the flex point.
 - The edge compresses slightly but does not fracture.
 - The outermost layer shows minor compression, not breakage.
-

Paper Fiber Condition

- Fibers remain **cohesive**, with no visible separation.
 - No powdering or "crumbing" effect typically associated with brittle paper.
 - The flex line shows **smooth deformation**, indicating resilience despite age.
-

Toning vs. Brittleness

Although the page shows **heavy Golden Age oxidation** (brown coloration):

- The paper acts **supple**, not brittle.
- Toning is aesthetic, not structural.
- No signs of dryness fracture.

This is consistent with your other Little Lulu interior pages from this era.

No Brittleness Indicators Present

None of the following appear:

- Cracking
 - Fiber splitting
 - Edge shedding
 - Color layer breaking
 - Corner fragmentation
-

Brittleness Test Rating: 8 / 10

Aged but flexible; no brittleness present.