

# Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 70 – April 1954

**Evaluation Date:** April 7, 2026

**Publisher:** Dell Comics

**Cover Price:** 10¢

**Format:** Staple-bound, 52-page comic magazine

**Contents:** Little Lulu stories and features

**Cover Description:** Little Lulu sits at a checkerboard table opposite another child while a third child crawls beneath the table, all set against a green background.

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## Summary of Observations

The comic presents as a complete, intact example with all major structural components present, including cover, centerfold, staples, and full interior page set. The book exhibits moderate age-consistent wear throughout. Primary condition issues are concentrated along the spine (distributed creasing, staple-area stress), observable edge wear on covers, and overall paper aging consistent with mid-1950s Dell production. Interior pages are complete and legible, with no apparent missing panels or catastrophic damage. Paper has toned uniformly to a cream/tan hue, with mild brittleness but no visible fragmentation during the documented test. The book retains solid structural integrity despite accumulated handling and storage wear.

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## 1. Front Cover Observations

*Italic subtitle: Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 70*

### Surface & Gloss:

- Original cover gloss is partially retained but visibly dulled overall, particularly across the green background field.
- Light-to-moderate surface scuffing is visible, most noticeable in the upper and central green areas when viewed at an angle.

### Color & Print Quality:

- Colors remain strong and unfaded, with good saturation in reds, yellows, and blacks.
- Green background shows mild tonal unevenness attributable to handling and age, not printing defects.

**Wear & Defects:**

- Multiple spine-adjacent stress creases radiate from the spine into the cover art, especially near the title masthead area.
- Minor edge wear is present along the right edge, with shallow abrasions and softened corners; no full paper loss observed.
- Upper and lower corners show light rounding consistent with repeated handling.
- No writing, stamps, or markings observed on the front cover.

**Overall Impression:**

The front cover remains visually appealing with strong character presentation, though moderately affected by spine stress and surface wear that places it below higher mid-grade examples.

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## 2. Back Cover Observations

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**Surface & Advertising Panel:**

- Features a full-page Wheaties advertisement; imagery and text are sharp and fully legible.
- Surface shows scattered handling marks and light overall toning.

**Wear & Defects:**

- Edge wear along the left (spine) side corresponds with front cover stress points.
- Minor abrasions along edges; no large creases or tears identified.
- Corners exhibit mild rounding, with no material loss.
- No stains, writing, or perforations observed.

**Overall Impression:**

Back cover wear mirrors the front cover in severity but remains structurally sound and clean in presentation.

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### 3. Spine Observations

*Italic subtitle: Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 70*

#### **Spine Structure:**

- Spine remains intact with full length present.
- Multiple short horizontal and diagonal stress lines are visible along the spine fold, consistent with opening and reading.

#### **Staple Area Stress:**

- Concentrated wear visible at both staple locations, with compression and paper stress at the fold but no splitting through the spine.

#### **Alignment:**

- Cover alignment remains accurate; no major roll or twisting observed.
- Spine edges show light fuzzing and paint rub.

#### **Overall Impression:**

The spine shows moderate but typical Golden Age wear, retaining structural cohesion without splits or detachment.

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### 4. Staples Observations

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#### **Upper Staple**

- Staple is present, intact, and correctly centered.
- Light oxidation visible, consistent with age; no rust migration into surrounding paper.
- Minor paper stress at insertion points; no tearing or pull-through.

#### **Lower Staple**

- Staple is present and firmly seated.
- Similar light oxidation observed.
- Surrounding paper remains intact with mild stress impressions only.

**Overall Impression:**

Both staples are original and structurally sound, contributing positively to the book's integrity.

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## 5. Centerfold Observations

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### Attachment & Alignment

- Centerfold is present, complete, and properly aligned.
- Secured at both the upper and lower staples.
- No evidence of staple pull-through, detachment, or torn staple holes.

### Fold Condition

- Central fold shows light, linear stress consistent with repeated opening.
- No splitting along the fold line observed.

### Paper Condition

- Paper tone matches the surrounding interior pages (cream to light tan).
- No localized discoloration, stains, or brittleness-related flaking observed.

### Overall Impression

A fully intact and well-supported centerfold exhibiting only mild, age-typical wear with no structural compromise.

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## 6. Interior Pages Observations

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### Indicia (visible):

- *Walt Disney's Comics...* — Not applicable.
- *Marge's Little Lulu, Vol. 1, No. 70, April 1954* (as printed).

**Paper Color:** Cream to light tan (Overstreet: Cream/Tan)

**General Condition:**

- All interior pages appear complete with no missing pages.
- Uniform toning throughout, heavier near edges.
- No writing, coloring, or stamps observed.

**Defects:**

- Minor edge fraying on some interior sheets, especially lower edges.
- Occasional small corner bends visible on select pages.
- No tears, holes, or clipped coupons observed in the provided images.

**Print Quality:**

- Ink remains sharp; colors hold well with no bleeding.
- Dialogue balloons and fine linework remain clear.

**Overall Impression:**

Interior pages are well preserved for age, with consistent toning and only light handling wear.

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## 7. Brittleness Test Observations

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**Test Method (Visual Only)**

- Brittleness assessed through photographed flex response and observable paper behavior.
- No sound-based cues referenced or inferred.

**Paper Response**

- Pages demonstrate controlled flex with mild stiffness.
- Partial rebound observed after flexing, indicating retained fiber cohesion.

**Fiber Behavior**

- No visible fiber fracture, splitting, or edge flaking.
- No micro-crumbling detected at bends or margins.

## Overall Impression

Paper exhibits **mild age-related brittleness** consistent with mid-1950s Dell interiors but remains stable and intact under careful handling conditions.

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## Golden Age Evaluation – Final Grade Assessment

### Primary Defects Influencing Grade:

- Moderate spine stress and cover creasing
- Dullness of original cover gloss
- Uniform interior paper toning
- Edge and corner wear

### Positive Attributes:

- Complete and intact
  - Firm, original staples with no rust migration
  - Attached centerfold
  - Clean interior with no writing or stains
  - Strong cover color retention
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## Final Golden Age Grade

### VG 4.0 (Very Good)

This example aligns solidly within the **VG range** for Golden Age standards: clearly used, structurally complete, visually appealing, and free of major structural failures, but displaying enough cumulative wear to preclude Fine or higher classification.

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