

# ☐ **Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 74 – August 1954**

**Evaluation Date:** April 8, 2026

**Publisher:** Dell Comics

**Cover Price:** 10¢

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

**Contents:** Little Lulu stories and features

**Cover Description:** Little Lulu stands holding a fishing pole with a large green boot hooked on the line while another child stands nearby holding a small box; the scene is set against a light cream background.

---

## **Summary of Observations**

The comic presents as a complete, intact example with all core structural components present, including front and back covers, inside front cover, original staples, centerfold, and a full interior page set. Overall condition reflects moderate age-consistent wear typical of mid-1950s Dell paper stock. Primary condition issues are concentrated along the spine, where distributed stress creasing and localized staple-area compression are evident. Covers exhibit reduced gloss, surface scuffing, edge wear, and corner rounding. Interior pages show uniform toning to a cream/tan hue with minor handling defects. Brittleness testing indicates mild age-related stiffness without visible fiber fracture. Structural integrity remains intact throughout.

---

## **1. Front Cover Observations**

*Italic subtitle: Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 74 — August 1954*

### **Photo Validation (img\_1483)**

- Image is well lit, evenly framed, and in focus.
- Entire front cover, edges, corners, and spine-side margin are visible.
- Resolution is sufficient for evaluating surface wear, creasing, color strength, and gloss loss.

### **Surface & Gloss**

- Original cover gloss is present but noticeably reduced, particularly across the light cream background.
- Light surface scuffing visible under angled light.

## Color & Print Quality

- Colors remain strong with stable saturation.
- Linework remains crisp with no ink bleed or registration issues noted.

## Wear & Defects

- Multiple short spine-adjacent stress creases extend into the cover field.
- Mild edge wear along all sides, most noticeable along the spine edge.
- Corners display rounding without full paper loss.
- No writing, stamps, or markings observed.

## Overall Impression

Front cover retains good visual appeal, though diminished gloss and spine stress place it below higher mid-grade examples.

---

## 2. Back Cover Observations

*Italic subtitle: Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 74 — August 1954*

### Photo Validation (img\_1484)

- Image is clear with full back cover visible.
- Color, edges, and advertising areas are adequately captured.
- Sufficient clarity for evaluating toning and wear.

### Surface & Advertising Panel

- Features Post's Sugar Crisp "Free Railroad Emblems" advertisement.
- Imagery and text remain legible and intact.
- Even age-related toning present across the surface.

### Wear & Defects

- Edge wear present, more pronounced along the spine side.
- Corner rounding consistent with handling.
- No tears, stains, writing, or perforations observed.

## Overall Impression

Back cover condition is consistent with the front, remaining structurally sound and cleanly legible.

---

## 3. Inside Front Cover Observations

*Italic subtitle: Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 74 — August 1954*

### Photo Validation (img\_1485)

- Inside front cover fully visible with adequate lighting.
- Margins and gutter clearly captured.
- Image quality sufficient for paper tone and indicia verification.

### Indicia (visible)

- *Marge's Little Lulu, Vol. 1, No. 74, August 1954.*
- Dell Publishing information is legible.

### Paper Condition

- Paper toned to cream/light tan consistent with interior pages.
- Minor edge wear at margins; no writing or tearing observed.

## Overall Impression

Inside front cover is clean, complete, and age-appropriate with uniform toning.

---

## 4. Spine Observations

*Italic subtitle: Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 74 — August 1954*

### Photo Validation (img\_1492)

- Spine photographed horizontally with staples visible.
- Focus and lighting allow assessment of creasing, alignment, and surface wear.

## Spine Structure

- Spine remains intact with full length present.
- Multiple horizontal and diagonal stress lines visible along the fold.

## Staple Area Stress

- Localized paper compression at both staple locations.
- No splitting or separation observed.

## Alignment

- Covers remain aligned with no pronounced roll.
- Light surface rub visible along spine ridge.

## Overall Impression

Moderate Golden Age spine wear with preserved structural cohesion.

---

# 5. Staples Observations

*Italic subtitle: Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 74 — August 1954*

## Photo Validation

- **Upper Staple (img\_1493):** Clear image with staple and surrounding paper visible.
- **Lower Staple (img\_1494):** Adequate resolution for oxidation and paper stress assessment.

## Upper Staple

- Original and centered.
- Light oxidation present.
- Mild paper stress at insertion point without tearing.

## Lower Staple

- Original and firmly seated.
- Similar light oxidation observed.
- Surrounding paper intact.

## Overall Impression

Staples remain functional and original with no pull-through or rust migration.

---

## 6. Centerfold Observations

*Italic subtitle: Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 74 — August 1954*

### Photo Validation (img\_1491)

- Centerfold spread clearly visible with staple attachments shown.
- Sufficient clarity for alignment and fold evaluation.

### Attachment & Alignment

- Centerfold present, complete, and secured at both staples.
- Proper alignment maintained.

### Fold Condition

- Light linear fold stress consistent with typical handling.
- No splitting noted.

### Paper Condition

- Tone matches surrounding interior pages.
- No localized staining or discoloration.

## Overall Impression

Centerfold is stable and intact with only mild age-typical wear.

---

# 7. Interior Pages Observations

*Italic subtitle: Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 74 — August 1954*

## Photo Validation (img\_1486–img\_1490)

- Multiple interior pages shown with consistent lighting and focus.
- Panels, margins, and colors clearly visible.
- Sufficient coverage for interior condition assessment.

## Paper Color

- Cream to light tan (Overstreet: Cream/Tan)

## General Condition

- Interior pages appear complete.
- Uniform toning throughout, heavier near outer edges.
- No writing, coloring, stamps, or tears observed.

## Defects

- Minor edge fraying on select pages.
- Occasional small corner bends.

## Print Quality

- Ink remains sharp with stable color registration.
- Dialogue balloons and fine linework remain clear.

## Overall Impression

Interior pages are well preserved for age with modest handling wear.

---

## 8. Brittleness Test Observations

*Italic subtitle: Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 74 — August 1954*

### Photo Validation (img\_1495)

- Page edge and flex position clearly visible.
- Lighting sufficient for observing fiber response.

### Test Method (Visual Only)

- Brittleness assessed via observable flex response only.
- No sound-based cues referenced or inferred.

### Paper Response

- Mild stiffness during flexing.
- Partial rebound observed.

### Fiber Behavior

- No visible fiber cracking or edge flaking.
- No micro-crumbling detected.

### Overall Impression

Paper exhibits mild age-related brittleness typical of mid-1950s Dell interiors and remains handling-stable.

---

## 9. Consolidated Defect Listing

*Italic subtitle: Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1 No. 74 — August 1954*

The following defects were observed and documented during intake:

- Distributed spine stress creasing extending into the front cover
- Localized paper compression at both staple positions
- Light oxidation present on upper and lower staples
- Reduced original cover gloss
- Light surface scuffing on the front cover
- Edge wear along all cover edges
- Corner rounding with no full paper loss
- Uniform age-related toning of interior pages
- Minor edge fraying on select interior pages
- Occasional small corner bends on interior pages
- Mild age-related paper stiffness observed during brittleness testing