Form 5					
February 21, 2006					
FORM 5			OMB AP	PROVAL	
UNITED STATES Check this box if	S SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE ( Washington, D.C. 20549	COMMISSION	OMB Number: Expires:	3235-0362 January 31,	
no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction	ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES				
Form 3 Holdings Section 17(a) of the	Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchang Public Utility Holding Company Act of of the Investment Company Act of 194	f 1935 or Section	I		
1. Name and Address of Reporting Person <u>*</u> HELDMAN PAUL W	2. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol KROGER CO [KR]	5. Relationship of I Issuer	Reporting Perso	on(s) to	
(Last) (First) (Middle)	3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year) 01/28/2006	(Check Director X Officer (give		Owner (specify	
1014 VINE STREET	0172072000	below)	below) Vice President		
(Street)	4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)	6. Individual or Joi (check	nt/Group Repo	rting	

### CINCINNATI, OHÂ 45202

**KROGER CO** 

\_X\_ Form Filed by One Reporting Person \_\_\_\_ Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City)	(State)	(Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned									
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (A) or Amount (D) Price		5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)			
Common Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	198,064.2606 (1)	D	Â		
Common Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	320	Ι	by Children		

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

SEC 2270 (9-02)

 Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
 (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		vative rities uired or osed O) r. 3,	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and A Underlying S (Instr. 3 and A	Securitie
					(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amour Numbe Shares
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 10.375	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(2)	04/17/2006	Common Stock	58,0
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 13.4375	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	( <u>3)</u>	05/14/2007	Common Stock	18,7
Non-Qualified Performance Stock Option	\$ 13.4375	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(4)	05/14/2007	Common Stock	18,7
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 22.2344	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(3)	04/15/2008	Common Stock	20,0
Non-Qualified Performance Stock Option	\$ 22.2344	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(4)	04/15/2008	Common Stock	20,0
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 27.1719	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(3)	05/26/2009	Common Stock	25,0
Non-Qualified Performance Stock Option	\$ 27.1719	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(5)	05/26/2009	Common Stock	25,0
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 16.5938	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(3)	02/10/2010	Common Stock	100,0
Non-Qualified Performance Stock Option	\$ 16.5938	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(6)	02/10/2010	Common Stock	20,0
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 24.43	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	( <u>3)</u>	05/09/2011	Common Stock	12,5
Non-Qualified Performance Stock Option	\$ 24.43	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(7)	05/09/2011	Common Stock	12,5
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 22.995	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(3)	05/09/2012	Common Stock	26,6
Non-Qualified Performance Stock Option	\$ 22.995	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(8)	05/09/2012	Common Stock	13,3

Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 14.925	Â	Â						12/12/2012		80,0
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 17.31	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(3)	05/06/2014	Common Stock	40,0
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 16.385	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	(3)	05/05/2015	Common Stock	40,0

# **Reporting Owners**

Reporting Person

Reporting Owner Name / Address	1		Relationships				
		10% Owner	Officer	Other			
HELDMAN PAUL W 1014 VINE STREET CINCINNATI, OH 45202	Â	Â	Senior Vice President	Â			
Signatures							
/s/ Paul W. 02 Heldman	/21/2006						
<u>**</u> Signature of	Date						

# **Explanation of Responses:**

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) The total amount of securities directly owned by the reporting person includes shares in the Company's employee benefit plans which are deemed to be 'tax-conditioned plans' pursuant to Rule 16b-3, to the extent disclosed on reports received from plan trustees.
- These options were granted under an option plan of The Kroger Co. and vest in equal annual installments in whole share amounts over a(2) three-year period, at the rate of one-third per year commencing one year after the date of grant, with the remainder vesting three years from the date of grant.
- (3) These options were granted under an option plan of The Kroger Co. and vest in equal annual installments in whole amounts over a five-year period, at the rate of 20% per year commencing one year from the date of grant.

(4) These options will vest during the first four years from the date of the grant only if the Company's stock price has achieved a 63% appreciation from the option price. Thereafter, the options vest only if the Company's stock price has achieved a minimum of 13% appreciation per annum from the date of grant or 200% appreciation, whichever is less. The options vest nine years and six months after grant, if not sooner vested.

(5) These options will vest during the first four years from the date of the grant only if the Company's stock price has achieved a 75% appreciation from the option price. Thereafter, the options vest only if the Company's stock price has achieved a minimum 15% appreciation per annum from the date of grant or 252% appreciation, whichever is less. The options vest nine years and six months after grant, if not sooner vested.

(6) These options will vest during the first four years from the date of the grant only if the Company's stock price has achieved an 81% appreciation from the option price. Thereafter, the options vest only if the Company's stock price has achieved a minimum 16% appreciation per annum from the date of grant or 280% appreciation, whichever is less. The options vest nine years and six months after grant, if not sooner vested.

These options will vest during the first four years from the date of the grant only if the Company's stock price has achieved a 78%
 (7) appreciation from the option price. Thereafter, the options vest only if the Company's stock price has achieved a minimum 15%

(7) appreciation from the option price. Therearter, the options vest only if the company's stock price has achieved a minimum 15% appreciation per annum from the date of grant or 208% appreciation, whichever is less. The options vest nine years and six months after grant, if not sooner vested.

(8)

These options will vest during the first four years from the date of the grant only if the Company's stock price has achieved a 55% appreciation from the option price. Thereafter, the options vest only if the Company's stock price has achieved a minimum 13% appreciation per annum from the date of grant or 185% appreciation, whichever is less. The options vest nine years and six months after grant, if not sooner vested.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.