

KROGER CO  
Form 4  
December 07, 2012

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
HJELM CHRISTOPHER T

(Last) (First) (Middle)

THE KROGER CO., 1014 VINE STREET

(Street)

CINCINNATI, OH 45202

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
KROGER CO [KR]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
12/06/2012

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
Senior Vice President

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
\_\_\_\_ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**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) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |                                                    | Code                           | V                                                                 | Amount or Price                                                                               |                                                          |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 12/06/2012                           |                                                    | A                              |                                                                   | 5,000<br>(1)                                                                                  | A                                                        | \$ 0 101,821 D                    |
| Common Stock                    | 12/06/2012                           |                                                    | M                              |                                                                   | 94,000                                                                                        | A                                                        | \$ 20.16 195,821 D                |
| Common Stock                    | 12/06/2012                           |                                                    | M                              |                                                                   | 5,000                                                                                         | A                                                        | \$ 19.94 200,821 D                |
| Common Stock                    | 12/06/2012                           |                                                    | D                              |                                                                   | 94,000                                                                                        | D                                                        | \$ 27.007 106,821 D<br>(2)        |

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

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(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) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Amount or Number of Shares |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Non-Qualified Stock Option                 | \$ 20.16                                               | 12/06/2012                           |                                                    | M                              | 94,000                                                                                  | (3) 09/02/2015                                           | Common Stock                                                | 94,000                        |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option                 | \$ 19.94                                               | 12/06/2012                           |                                                    | M                              | 5,000                                                                                   | (3) 05/04/2016                                           | Common Stock                                                | 5,000                         |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                                    | Relationships |           |                       |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|
|                                                                                   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer               | Other |
| HJELM CHRISTOPHER T<br>THE KROGER CO.<br>1014 VINE STREET<br>CINCINNATI, OH 45202 |               |           | Senior Vice President |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Christopher T. Hjelm, by Bruce M. Gack,  
Attorney-in-Fact

12/07/2012

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person

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) Restricted stock awarded pursuant to a long-term incentive plan of The Kroger Co. The restrictions on these shares lapse in equal annual installments in whole amounts over a three-year period, at the rate of 33% per year commencing one year from the date of the award.

The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$26.98 to \$27.02, inclusive. The reporting person undertakes to provide to The Kroger Co., any security holder of The Kroger Co., or the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price within the range set forth above.

(3)

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These options were granted under a long-term incentive 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 the grant.

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