

KROGER CO  
Form 4  
July 14, 2016

**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 \*  
Madlinger Sukanya R

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
C/O 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)  
07/12/2016

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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V Amount (D) Price  |   |  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 07/12/2016                           |  | F                              | 1,109<br>(1) D \$ 37.39   | 64,164  | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 07/13/2016                           |  | A                              | 12,519<br>(2) A \$ 0  | 76,683  | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 5,522.0292<br>(3) (4)   | I  | by Spouse   |

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

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number.

**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) | Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|
| Non-Qualified Stock Option                 | \$ 37.48   | 07/13/2016                           |  | A                              | 43,767  | (5) 07/13/2026   | Common Stock  | 43,767                     |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |                       |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer               | Other |
| Madlinger Sukanya R<br>C/O THE KROGER CO.<br>1014 VINE STREET<br>CINCINNATI, OH 45202 |               |           | Senior Vice President |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Sukanya R. Madlinger, by Stacey M. Heiser, Attorney-in-Fact 07/14/2016

\*\*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) Payment of tax liability associated with restricted stock.
- (2) 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 five-year period, at the rate of 20% per year commencing one year from the date of the award.
- (3) Between March 31, 2016 and June 30, 2016, the reporting person's spouse acquired 14.0991 shares of Kroger common stock in the Company's employee benefit plans, based on information from plan trustees.  
The reporting person's spouse is a former employee of The Kroger Co. The total amount of securities directly owned by the reporting person's spouse includes shares in the Company's employee benefit plans that are deemed to be 'tax-conditioned plans' pursuant to Rule 16b-3, to the extent disclosed on reports received from plan trustees.
- (5) 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.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space 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.