KROGER CO Form 4 March 20, 2013

## FORM 4

#### **OMB APPROVAL**

### UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB 3235-0287 Number:

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

January 31, Expires: 2005 Estimated average

0.5

Form 5 obligations

**SECURITIES** Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,

burden hours per response...

may continue. See Instruction

Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section

30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * HJELM CHRISTOPHER T			2. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer			
			KROGER CO [KR]	(Check all applicable)			
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction				
THE KROGER CO., 1014 VINE STREET		014 VINE	(Month/Day/Year) 03/14/2013	Director 10% Owner _X Officer (give title Other (specif below) below) Senior Vice President			
	(Street)		4. If Amendment, Date Original	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check			
CINCINNAT	ГІ, ОН 452	02	Filed(Month/Day/Year)	Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person			

(City)	(State) (	Table Table	e I - Non-D	erivative Securities Ac	quired, Disposed	of, or Beneficial	ly Owned
1.Title of Security	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Transactio	4. Securities Acquired on(A) or Disposed of	5. Amount of Securities	6. Ownership Form: Direct	7. Nature of Indirect
(Instr. 3)		any (Month/Day/Year)	Code (Instr. 8)	(D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	Beneficially Owned	(D) or Indirect (I)	Beneficial Ownership
			Code V	(A) or Amount (D) Price	Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	(Instr. 4)	(Instr. 4)
Common Stock	03/14/2013		A	1,238 A \$ 0	108,059	D	
Common Stock	03/14/2013		F	415 (1) D \$ 31.5	107,644	D	

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

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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

1. Title of Derivative	2. Conversion	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if	4. Transacti	5. orNumber	6. Date Exerc Expiration D		7. Title Amount		8. Price of Derivative	9. Nu Deriv
Security (Instr. 3)	or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	or Exercise Price of Derivative	any Co	Code (Instr. 8)	of Derivative	of (Month/Day/Year) Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3,		Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	ying ies	Security (Instr. 5)	Secur Bene Owne Follo Repo Trans (Instr
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title N	Amount or Number of Shares		

## **Reporting Owners**

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

HJELM CHRISTOPHER T THE KROGER CO. 1014 VINE STREET CINCINNATI, OH 45202

Senior Vice President

## **Signatures**

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

03/20/2013

\*\*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 share award.

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.

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