

KROGER CO  
Form 5  
February 17, 2012

**FORM 5**

**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).  
Form 3 Holdings Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported

**ANNUAL 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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
VAN OFLEN MARY ELIZABETH

(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. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)  
01/28/2012

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)  
Vice President & Controller

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting

(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 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	01/18/2012	^	G	142 D \$ 0	25,266.0179 (1) (2)	D	^

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

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

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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 Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 17.31	Â	Â	Â	Â (A) Â (D) Â (3)	05/06/2014	Common Stock 8,000
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 16.385	Â	Â	Â	Â (A) Â (D) Â (3)	05/05/2015	Common Stock 12,000
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 19.94	Â	Â	Â	Â (A) Â (D) Â (3)	05/04/2016	Common Stock 6,000
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 28.27	Â	Â	Â	Â (A) Â (D) Â (3)	06/28/2017	Common Stock 6,000
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 28.61	Â	Â	Â	Â (A) Â (D) Â (3)	06/26/2018	Common Stock 8,000
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 22.34	Â	Â	Â	Â (A) Â (D) Â (3)	06/25/2019	Common Stock 8,000
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 20.16	Â	Â	Â	Â (A) Â (D) Â (3)	06/24/2020	Common Stock 8,000
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 24.74	Â	Â	Â	Â (A) Â (D) Â (3)	06/23/2021	Common Stock 8,000

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
VAN OFLEN MARY ELIZABETH THE KROGER CO. 1014 VINE STREET CINCINNATI, OH 45202	Â	Â	Â Vice President & Controller	Â

## Signatures

/s/ Mary Elizabeth Van Oflen 02/17/2012

\*\*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).
- Between January 29, 2011 and January 28, 2012, the reporting person acquired 186.0894 shares of Kroger common stock in the
- (1) 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 by plan trustees.
  - (2) The total amount of securities directly owned by the reporting person 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.
  - (3) 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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