KROGER CO Form 4 July 16, 2013

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB 3235-0287 Number:

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

obligations Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section may continue. 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 See Instruction

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * Sharp Erin S | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol KROGER CO [KR] | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer | | | |
|--|---------|----------|---|--|--|--|--|
| (Last) | (First) | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction | (Check all applicable) | | | |
| 1014 VINE STREET | | | (Month/Day/Year) 07/12/2013 | Director 10% Owner _X_ Officer (give title Other (specify below) Group Vice President | | | |
| (Street) | | | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Che Applicable Line) _X_Form filed by One Reporting Person | | | |
| CINCINNATI, OH 45202 | | | | Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | |

| (City) | (State) | (Zip) Tabl | e I - Non-I | Derivative | Secur | rities Acq | uired, Disposed of | f, or Beneficiall | y Owned |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1.Title of | 2. Transaction Date | | 3. | 4. Securi | | | 5. Amount of | 6. | 7. Nature of |
| Security | (Month/Day/Year) | Execution Date, if | | on(A) or D | | ` ′ | Securities | Ownership | Indirect |
| (Instr. 3) | | any | Code | (Instr. 3, | 4 and | 5) | Beneficially | Form: Direct | Beneficial |
| | | (Month/Day/Year) | (Instr. 8) | | | | Owned | (D) or | Ownership |
| | | | | | | | Following | Indirect (I) | (Instr. 4) |
| | | | | | () | | Reported | (Instr. 4) | |
| | | | | | (A) | | Transaction(s) | | |
| | | | Code V | Amount | or (D) | Price | (Instr. 3 and 4) | | |
| Common Stock | 07/12/2013 | | F | 179 (1) | D | \$ 37.63 | 12,073.0864 | D | |
| Common Stock | 07/15/2013 | | A | 8,938 (2) | A | \$ 0 | 21,011.0864 (3) | 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)

| 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. Transactic Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of orDerivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 7. Title and Amour Underlying Securit (Instr. 3 and 4) | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--------------------|--|---------------------------|
| | | | | Code V | and 5) (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amo or Num of Sh |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option | \$ 37.76 | 07/15/2013 | | A | 20,500 | <u>(4)</u> | 07/15/2023 | Common Stock | 20,5 |

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Sharp Erin S 1014 VINE STREET

1014 VINE STREET Group Vice President CINCINNATI, OH 45202

Signatures

/s/ Erin S. Sharp, by Bruce M. Gack, Attorney-in-Fact 07/16/2013

**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 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) 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.
- (4) 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.

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