

THORATEC CORP
Form 4
May 24, 2005

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
NELSON JEFFREY

(Last) (First) (Middle)
6035 STONERIDGE DRIVE
(Street)

PLEASANTON, CA 94588

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
THORATEC CORP [THOR]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
05/20/2005

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)
Division 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 or Price		
Common Stock	05/20/2005		M		43,818 A \$ 5.79	43,818	D
Common Stock	05/20/2005		S		43,818 D \$ 15.12	0	D
Common Stock	05/23/2005		M		15,371 A \$ 5.79	15,371	D
Common Stock	05/23/2005		M		13,911 A \$ 5.79	29,282	D
Common Stock	05/23/2005		S		29,282 D \$ 14.93	0	D

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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 Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 5.79	05/20/2005		M	43,818	08/19/2003 ⁽¹⁾ 08/19/2012	Common Stock	43,818
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 5.79	05/23/2005		M	13,911	08/19/2003 ⁽¹⁾ 08/19/2012	Common Stock	13,911
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 5.79	05/23/2005		M	15,371	03/19/2003 08/19/2012	Common Stock	15,371

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
NELSON JEFFREY 6035 STONERIDGE DRIVE PLEASANTON, CA 94588			Division President	

Signatures

/s/D. Keith Grossman,
Attorney-In-Fact

05/23/2005

__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) Shares vest in four equal installments over four years commencing one year after the grant date.
- (2) This option was granted pursuant to the Company's equity incentive plans with no payment received for the option.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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