

Aitken Stuart  
Form 4  
March 18, 2019

**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 \*  
Aitken Stuart

(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. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
03/14/2019

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 or Price		
Common Stock	03/14/2019		A		27,556 <sup>(1)</sup> A \$ 0	D	
Common Stock	03/14/2019		A		9,091 <sup>(2)</sup> A \$ 0	D	
Common Stock	03/15/2019		A		2,214 A \$ 0	D	
Common Stock	03/15/2019		F		988 <sup>(3)</sup> D \$ 24.75	D	
Common Stock						I	by Spouse

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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 Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Amount or Number of Shares
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 24.75	03/14/2019		A	75,291	(4) 03/14/2029	Common Stock	75,291
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 24.75	03/14/2019		A	16,584	(5) 03/14/2029	Common Stock	16,584

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Aitken Stuart THE KROGER CO. 1014 VINE STREET CINCINNATI, OH 45202			Senior Vice President	

## Signatures

/s/ Stuart Aitken, by Stacey M. Heiser,  
Attorney-in-Fact

03/18/2019

\_\_\_\_\_  
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) Restricted stock awarded pursuant to a long-term incentive plan of The Kroger Co. The restrictions on these shares lapse in equal annual installments over a four-year period, at the rate of 25% per year commencing one year from the date of the award.
  - (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 over a three-year period, at the rate of 33% per year commencing one year from the date of the award.
  - (3) Payment of tax liability associated with share award.

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- (4) These options were granted under a long-term incentive plan of The Kroger Co. and vest in equal annual installments over a four-year period, at the rate of 25% per year commencing one year from the date of the grant.
- (5) These options were granted under a long-term incentive plan of The Kroger Co. and vest in equal annual installments over a three-year period, at the rate of 33% per year commencing one year after 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.

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