

HJELM CHRISTOPHER T

Form 4

July 17, 2017

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB
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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
HJELM CHRISTOPHER T

(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)

07/13/2017

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) below)

Executive 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 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)
Common Stock	07/13/2017		A	(A) or (D) Amount 48,430 (1)	\$ 0	271,697	D
Common Stock	07/13/2017		F	(2) 2,756	\$ 22.92	268,941	D
Common Stock	07/14/2017		F	(2) 6,559	\$ 23.01	262,382	D

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

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information contained in this form are not
required to respond unless the form
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SEC 1474
(9-02)

number.

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 Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4)
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable Expiration Date Date	Title Amount Number Shares
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 22.92	07/13/2017		A	165,698	<u>(3)</u> 07/13/2027	Common Stock 16

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
	Director 10% Owner Officer Other
HJELM CHRISTOPHER T THE KROGER CO. 1014 VINE STREET CINCINNATI, OH 45202	Executive Vice President

Signatures

/s/ Christopher T. Hjelm, by Stacey M. Heiser,
Attorney-in-Fact 07/17/2017

__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 in whole amounts over a five-year period, at the rate of 20% per year commencing one year from the date of the award.
- (2) Payment of tax liability associated with restricted stock.
- (3) These options were granted under a long-term incentive plan of The Kroger Co. and vest in equal annual installments 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.

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