RUNDE JAMES A Form 4 July 16, 2012

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

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Check this box

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 may continue. 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 See Instruction

(Print or Type Responses)

1(b).

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * **RUNDE JAMES A**

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Issuer

(Middle)

KROGER CO [KR]

(Check all applicable)

C/O THE KROGER CO... 1014

(Street)

(First)

VINE STREET

(Last)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Month/Day/Year) 07/12/2012

X_ Director 10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify below)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

CINCINNATI, OH 45202

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)

Common

Stock

2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

(Month/Day/Year)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 8) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Beneficial Indirect (I) Ownership (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4)

Reported Transaction(s)

(A) or (Instr. 3 and 4)

\$0

Code V Amount (D)

Price 5,500

D

07/12/2012 28,750 (1)

Α

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. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number on f 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 Securitie (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Non-Qualified Stock Option	\$ 21.96	07/12/2012		A	6,500	(2)	07/12/2022	Common Stock	6,50

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
Transfer de la companya de la compan	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
RUNDE JAMES A C/O THE KROGER CO., 1014 VINE STREET CINCINNATI, OH 45202	X						

Signatures

/s/ James A. Runde, by Bruce M. Gack, Attorney-in-Fact 07/16/2012

**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).
- (1) Restricted stock awarded pursuant to a long-term incentive plan of The Kroger Co. The restrictions on these shares lapse one year from the date of the award.
- (2) 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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