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| KROGER CO | О | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Form 4 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| December 12 | 2, 2016 | | | | | | | | | | |
| FORM 4 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANCE COMMISSION | | | | | | | | OMB AF | OMB APPROVAL | | |
| | UNITEL | UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549 | | | | | | | | 3235-0287 | |
| Check thi if no long subject to Section 10 Form 4 or | er STATE | DOX | | | | | | | | | |
| Form 5 obligatior may conti <i>See</i> Instru 1(b). | ^{1s} Section 17 | 20(h) of the Investment (Commenty A of (1040) | | | | | | | | | |
| (Print or Type R | Responses) | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person <u>*</u> Madlinger Sukanya R | | | 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) | | | |
| C/O THE KROGER CO., 1014 VINE STREET | | | (Month/Day/Year) 12/09/2016 | | | | | Director 10% Owner XOfficer (give title Other (specify below) below) Senior Vice President | | | |
| | | | | Amendment, Date Original d(Month/Day/Year) | | | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(CheckApplicable Line)_X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person | | | |
| CINCINNA | TI, OH 45202 | | | | | | | Form filed by M Person | Iore than One Re | porting | |
| (City) | (State) | (Zip) | Table | e I - Non-D | erivative | Secur | ities Acq | uired, Disposed of | , or Beneficial | ly Owned | |
| 1.Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Da (Month/Day/Year | Executio any | ned n Date, if Day/Year) | 3. Transactio Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securi n(A) or Di (Instr. 3, | ispose | d of (D) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | | |
| Common | | | | Code V | | (D) | Price \$ | (Instr. 3 and 4) | | | |
| Stock | 12/09/2016 | | | F | 514 <u>(1)</u> | D | ф 34.78 | 72,942 | D | | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | | 5,382.3248 (2) | I | by Spouse | |

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

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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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. Transacti Code (Instr. 8) | 5. orNumber of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | | Date | Amou Unde Secur | le and unt of rlying tities . 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Nu Deriv Secu Bene Own Follo Repo Trans (Instr |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | Code V | (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|--|--|--|--|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other | | | | |
| Madlinger Sukanya R C/O THE KROGER CO. 1014 VINE STREET CINCINNATI, OH 45202 | | | Senior Vice President | | | | | |
| Signatures | | | | | | | | |
| /s/ Sukanya Madlinger, by Stac Attorney-in-Fact | ey M. He | iser, | 12/12/20 | 16 | | | | |

**Signature of Reporting Person

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.

The reporting person's spouse is a former employee of The Kroger Co. Between June 30, 2016 and September 30, 2016, the reporting person's spouse acquired 18.2956 shares of Kroger common stock in the Company's employee benefit plans, based on information from

Date

(2) plan trustees. The total amount of securities directly owned by the reporting person's spouse 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.

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.