

KROGER CO  
Form 3  
September 18, 2015

**FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0104  
Expires: January 31, 2015  
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

**INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 * |         | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol                                |  |
| Â Madlinger Sukanya R                     |         | (Month/Day/Year)                     | KROGER CO [KR]   |  |
| (Last)                                    | (First) | (Middle)                             | 09/17/2015   |  |
| C/O THE KROGER CO.,Â 1014 VINE STREET     |         |                                      | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer                           | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)                   |
| (Street)                                  |         |                                      | (Check all applicable)   |  |
| CINCINNATI,Â OHÂ 45202                    |         |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner       | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)             |
| (City)                                    | (State) | (Zip)                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person |
|   |         |                                      | (give title below) (specify below)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person  |
|   |         |                                      | Senior Vice President  |  |

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4) | 3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Common Stock                    | 53,450  | D  | Â   |
| Common Stock                    | 5,482.0051 <sup>(1)</sup>                             | I  | by Spouse   |

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

**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.**

**Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 4. Conversion or Exercise Price of | 5. Ownership Form of Derivative | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
|--|--|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|

Edgar Filing: KROGER CO - Form 3

|                            | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title        | Amount or Number of Shares | Derivative Security | Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) |           |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---|-----------|
| Non-Qualified Stock Option | Â (2)            | 06/23/2021      | Common Stock | 4,200                      | \$ 12.37            | D   | Â         |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option | Â (2)            | 07/12/2022      | Common Stock | 12,600                     | \$ 10.98            | D   | Â         |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option | Â (2)            | 07/15/2023      | Common Stock | 33,600                     | \$ 18.88            | D   | Â         |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option | Â (2)            | 07/15/2024      | Common Stock | 30,000                     | \$ 24.665           | D   | Â         |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option | Â (2)            | 07/15/2025      | Common Stock | 20,993                     | \$ 38.33            | D   | Â         |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option | Â (3)            | 07/15/2023      | Common Stock | 500                        | \$ 18.88            | I   | by Spouse |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option | Â (3)            | 07/15/2024      | Common Stock | 868                        | \$ 24.665           | I   | by Spouse |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |                         |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                 | Other |
| Madlinger Sukanya R<br>C/O THE KROGER CO.<br>1014 VINE STREET<br>CINCINNATI, OH 45202 | Â             | Â         | Â Senior Vice President | Â     |

## Signatures

/s/ Sukanya R. Madlinger, by Stacey M. Heiser, Attorney-in-Fact 09/18/2015

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(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) The reporting person's spouse is a former employee of The Kroger Co. 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.
  - (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.
  - (3) These options were granted under an option plan of The Kroger Co. and vest in equal annual installments in whole share amounts over a three-year period, at the rate of one-third per year commencing one year after the date of grant, with the remainder vesting three years from the date of grant.

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

## Edgar Filing: KROGER CO - Form 3

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.