

KROGER CO
Form 4
December 28, 2009

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 *
SCHLOTMAN J MICHAEL

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
KROGER CO [KR]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
12/23/2009

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

1014 VINE STREET

Senior Vice President

(Street)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
____ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

CINCINNATI, OH 45202

(City) (State) (Zip)

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	(A) or (D)	Price
Common Stock	12/23/2009		M		10,000	A	\$ 16.5938
Common Stock	12/23/2009		S		4,706	D	\$ 20.774
Common Stock	12/23/2009		S		5,194	D	\$ 20.78
Common Stock	12/23/2009		S		100	D	\$ 20.79
					100,917.599		(1)

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 Performance Stock Option	\$ 16.5938	12/23/2009		M	10,000	<u>(2)</u> 02/11/2010	Common Stock	10,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
SCHLOTMAN J MICHAEL 1014 VINE STREET CINCINNATI, OH 45202			Senior Vice President	

Signatures

/s/ J. Michael Schlotman, by Bruce M. Gack, Attorney-in-Fact 12/28/2009

__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) The total amount of securities directly owned by the reporting person 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 will vest during the first four years from the date of the grant only if the Company's stock price has achieved an 81% appreciation from the option price. Thereafter, the options vest only if the Company's stock price has achieved a minimum 16% appreciation per annum from the date of grant or 280% appreciation, whichever is less. The options vest nine years and six months after grant, if not sooner vested.

Remarks:

The reporting person no longer has a reportable beneficial interest in 2,805 shares of Company common stock owned by his son.

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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.