

KROGER CO

Form 4

December 18, 2002

SEC Form 4

FORM 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).	UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP 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 <hr style="border: 1px solid black;"/> OMB Number: 3235-0287 Expires: January 31, 2005 Estimated average burden hours per response: 0.5	
1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* Van Ofen, Mary Elizabeth <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> (Last) (First) </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center;"> (Middle) </div> 1014 Vine Street <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center;"> (Street) </div> Cincinnati, OH 45202 <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> (City) (State) </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center;"> (Zip) </div>	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol The Kroger Co. KR 3. I.R.S. Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (voluntary)	4. Statement for Month/Day/Year 12/17/2002 5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)	6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) Description <u>Vice President, Corporate Financial Services and Controller</u> 7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> 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 (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)
Common Stock	12/17/2002		G	V	100	D	\$	13,534.237	D	

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)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Securities:	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)

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			Day/ Year)			or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)						Transaction(s) (Instr.4)	Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr.4)
				Code	V	A	D	DE	ED	Title	Amount or Number of Shares		

Explanation of Responses:

- The total amount of securities directly owned by the reporting person includes shares in the Company's employee benefit plans which are deemed to be "tax-conditioned plans" pursuant to Rule 16b-3, to the extent disclosed on reports received from plan trustees.

By:

/s/ Mary Elizabeth Van Ofen, by Bruce M. Gack,
Attorney-in-Fact

12/18/2002

** Signature of Reporting Person
Date

SEC 1474 (9-02)

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

* 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).

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.