#### FORM 4

### UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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3235-0287 OMB Number: Estimated average burden hours per response: 0.5

# Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

# Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person\* KADANT INC [ KAI ] PAINTER JONATHAN W Director 10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify below) below) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) (Last) (First) (Middle) EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT 10/27/2003 ONE ACTON PLACE **SUITE 202** 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable (Street) Form filed by One Reporting Person **ACTON** 01720 MA Form filed by More than One Reporting (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	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership		
			Code	v	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price	Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)		(Instr. 4)		
Common Stock	10/27/2003		M		1,472	A	\$13.2	7,736	D			
Common Stock	10/27/2003		S		1,433	D	\$17.9073	6,303	D			
Common Stock	10/27/2003		M		1,542	A	\$13.05	7,845	D			
Common Stock	10/27/2003		S		1,542	D	\$17.9073	6,303	D			
Common Stock	10/27/2003		M		2,053	A	\$13.05	8,356	D			
Common Stock	10/27/2003		S		2,025	D	\$17.9303	6,331	D			
Common Stock	10/28/2003		M		5,669	A	\$13.05	12,000	D			
Common Stock	10/28/2003		S		5,000	D	\$17.7571	7,000	D			
Common Stock								3	I	By Son		

### 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. Transa Code ( 8)		of Deri Sec Acq (A) ( Disp of (I	osed 0) tr. 3, 4	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	v	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares				
Employee Stock Option (Right To Buy)	\$13.2	10/27/2003		М			1,472	11/01/1994	11/01/2004	Common Stock	1,472	\$0.00	368	D	
Employee Stock Option (Right To Buy)	\$13.05	10/27/2003		М			1,542	12/10/2001	12/10/2008	Common Stock	1,542	\$0.00	73,458	D	
Employee Stock Option (Right To Buy)	\$13.05	10/27/2003		М			2,053	12/10/2001	12/10/2008	Common Stock	2,053	\$0.00	71,405	D	
Employee Stock Option (Right To Buy)	\$13.05	10/28/2003		М			5,669	12/10/2001	12/10/2008	Common Stock	5,669	\$0.00	65,736	D	

**Explanation of Responses:** 

## Remarks:

by Sandra L. Lambert for Jonathan W. Painter

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

Date

10/29/2003

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

- $^{\star}$  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.

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 Number.