FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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| OMB API     | PROVAL           |
|-------------|------------------|
| OMB Number: | 3235-0287        |
|             | . In consider on |

| 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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

| OMB APPROVAL          |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number:           | 3235-0287 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Estimated average bur | den       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| hours per response:   | 0.5       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

| Name and Address of Reporting Person*     Colwell Michael C.   | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  KADANT INC [ KAI ] |  |   |      |  |        | Check   | all applic<br>Directo   | or 10% O  |   | 10% Ov   | /ner  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|---|------|--|--------|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|--|--|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) KADANT INC.  | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 03/10/2020     |  |   |      |  |        | X Officer (give title Other (specify below)  Vice President |   |   |   |          |   |   |  |  |
| ONE TECHNOLOGY PARK DRIVE  |   | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) |   |      |  |        |   | 6   | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable                             |   |          |   |   |  |  |
| (Street) WESTFORD MA 01886   |   |  |   |      |  |        |   | L   | X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |   |          |   |   | - 1  |  |
| (City) (State) (Zip)   |   |  |   |      |  |        |   |   |   |   |          |   |   |  |  |
| Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned   |   |  |   |      |  |        |   |   |   |   |          |   |   |  |  |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Tran Date (Month   |   |  | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) |      | Code (Instr. 5)  |        |   |   |   | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported |          | Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) |   | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>Instr. 4) |  |
|  |   |  |   | Code | v  | Amount | (A) or<br>(D)   | Price   | Tropos  |   | ction(s) |   |   |  |  |
| Common Stock 03/10   |   |  | 2020  |      | М  |        | 378 A   |   | (1  | 1)  | 1,080    |   |   | D  |  |
| Common Stock 03/10/2   |   |  | 2020  |      | F  |        | 93 D \$   |   | \$80  | ).37  | 7 987    |   |   | D  |  |
| Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) |   |  |   |      |  |        |   |   |   |   |          |   |   |  |  |
| Derivative   Conversion   Date   Execution   Security   or Exercise   (Month/Day/Year)   if any  |   |  | ransaction of Code (Instr. Derivative                       |      | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) |        |   | 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative Secur<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) |   | 8. Price<br>Derivat<br>Securit<br>(Instr. 5                   |          | derivative<br>Securities                          | Ownersh<br>Form:<br>y Direct (D<br>or Indire<br>(I) (Instr. | Ownership  | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|  | С   | ode V  | ' (A)   | (D)  | Date<br>Exercisab  |        | xpiration<br>ate  | Title   | Amour<br>or<br>Numbe<br>of<br>Shares  | er  |          |   |   |  |  |
| Restricted Stock Unit \$0.0 03/10/2020   |   | M  |   | 378  | (1)  | 0      | 4/30/2022   | Common<br>Stock   | 378   |   | \$0      | 756   |   | D  |  |

1. The shares represent the partial settlement under a time-based RSU award granted March 4, 2019. One-third of the RSU vested and became distributable on March 10, 2020 and was converted to common stock on a one-for-one basis on the vesting date.

## Remarks:

/s/ Stacy D. Krause, by power of attorney

03/12/2020

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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.

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.