

HILL J DONALD
Form 4
February 24, 2006

FORM 4 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
Expires: January 31, 2005
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).

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 *
HILL J DONALD

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
THORATEC CORP [THOR]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
6035 STONERIDGE DRIVE
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
02/22/2006

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

PLEASANTON, CA 94588

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

(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 Ownership (Instr. 4) | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|---------|---|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 02/22/2006 | | M | | 1,875 | A | \$ 9.375 | 1,875 | D | |
| Common Stock | 02/22/2006 | | G | | 1,875 | D | \$ 0 | 0 | D | |
| Common Stock | 02/22/2006 | | G | | 1,875 | A | \$ 0 | 906,170 | I | By Separate Property Trust ⁽¹⁾ |
| Common Stock | 02/22/2006 | | S | | 1,875 | D | \$ 20.35 | 904,295 | I | By Separate Property Trust ⁽¹⁾ |

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

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SEC 1474
(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) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Non-qualified stock option (right-to-buy) | \$ 9.375 | 02/22/2006 | | M | 1,875 | 02/23/2001 ⁽²⁾ 02/23/2006 | Common Stock |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| HILL J DONALD 6035 STONERIDGE DRIVE PLEASANTON, CA 94588 | | X | | |

Signatures

/s/David Lehman,
Attorney-In-Fact

02/22/2006

__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) J. Donald Hill as Trustee of the J. Donald Hill Separate Property Living Trust U/A/D 7/23/04.

(2) This option is 100% vested on the grant date.

(3) This option was granted pursuant to the Company's equity incentive plans as a non-qualified option with no payment received for the option.

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

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