

Harris Taylor C.
Form 3
October 17, 2012

FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 * | | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol | |
| Â Harris Taylor C. | | (Month/Day/Year) | THORATEC CORP [THOR] | |
| (Last) | (First) | (Middle) | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) |
| 6035 STONERIDGE DRIVE | | | (Check all applicable) | |
| (Street) | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other (give title below) (specify below) VP, Chief Financial Officer | |
| PLEASANTON,Â CAÂ 94588 | | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) | |
| (City) | (State) | (Zip) | <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 Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4) | 3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Common Stock | 18,990 ⁽¹⁾ | D | Â |

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| | Date Exercisable | Title | Amount or Number of | | |

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| | | | | Shares | | (I) (Instr. 5) | |
|--|------------|------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------|-------------------|---|
| Non-Qualified Stock Options (right to buy) | 03/15/2011 | 03/15/2020 | Common Stock | 10,000 ⁽²⁾ | \$ 33.16 | D | Â |
| Non-Qualified Stock Options (right to buy) | 03/01/2012 | 03/01/2021 | Common Stock | 5,775 ⁽³⁾ | \$ 27.3 | D | Â |
| Non-Qualified Stock Options (right to buy) | 03/09/2013 | 03/09/2022 | Common Stock | 6,447 ⁽⁴⁾ | \$ 33.99 | D | Â |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Harris Taylor C. 6035 STONERIDGE DRIVE PLEASANTON, CA 94588 | Â | Â | Â VP, Chief Financial Officer | Â |

Signatures

/s/Taylor C. Harris 10/17/2012

**Signature of
Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(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) Includes 15,229 unvested Restricted Stock Units. The restricted stock units vest in four equal annual installments commencing one year after the grant date.
- (2) Represents 5,000 exercisable Non-Qualified Stock Options and 5,000 Non-Qualified Stock Options scheduled to vest as follows: 2,500 shares on 03/15/2013 and 2,500 shares on 03/15/2014
- (3) Represents 1,444 exercisable Non-Qualified Stock Options and 4,331 Non-Qualified Stock Options scheduled to vest as follows: 1,444 shares on 03/01/2013, 1,444 shares on 03/01/2014 and 1,443 shares on 03/01/2015
- (4) Represents 6,447 Non-Qualified Stock Options scheduled to vest as follows: 1,612 shares on 03/09/2013, 1,612 shares on 03/09/2014, 1,612 shares on 03/09/2015 and 1,611 shares on 03/09/2016

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.