

STAGE STORES INC
Form 4
December 02, 2004

FORM 4

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

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

OMB APPROVAL

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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
CRUSE ERNEST

(Last) (First) (Middle)

10201 S. MAIN STREET

(Street)

HOUSTON, TX 77025

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading
Symbol
STAGE STORES INC [STGS]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
11/30/2004

4. If Amendment, Date Original
Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

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

EVP, Store Operations

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check
Applicable Line)
____X____ Form filed by One Reporting Person
____ 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)
			Code	V	Amount (A) or (D)	Price	
Common Stock	11/30/2004		M		10,000	A \$ 16.25	10,000 D
Common Stock	11/30/2004		S		10,000 (1)	D \$ 41.01	0 D

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

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information contained in this form are not
required to respond unless the form
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(9-02)

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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 Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)			
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 16.25	11/30/2004		M		10,000		08/24/2004	08/24/2011	Common Stock	10,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
CRUSE ERNEST 10201 S. MAIN STREET HOUSTON, TX 77025	Director 10% Owner Officer Other EVP, Store Operations

Signatures

/s/ Ernest Cruse 12/02/2004
 **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) This sale was made pursuant to a pre-established, written plan for trading securities pursuant to Rule 10b5-1 adopted by the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
- On August 24, 2001, the reporting person was granted stock options for 150,000 shares in three groupings with per share exercise prices of \$13.75, \$15.00, and \$16.25, respectively. The right to exercise these options vests over four years from August 24, 2001, with 25% of each grouping vesting at the end of each of the first four years following the date of grant, and will expire on the earlier of (i) sixty days after the termination of the Officer's employment with the Company, or (ii) ten years from the date of grant. The stock options exercised and reported on this Form 4 are a portion of that grant.

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.