

## INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL

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Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>HOLCOM KAREN J</u>  (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>1170 PEACHTREE STREET, NE</u> <u>SUITE 2400</u>  (Street) <u>ATLANTA GA 30309</u>  (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) <u>09/01/2004</u>	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>ACUITY BRANDS INC [ AYI ]</u>	
		4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director _____ 10% Owner _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below) _____ <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Interim CFO</u></p>	5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)  6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person  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)
<u>Common Stock<sup>(1)</sup></u>	<u>5,748</u>	<u>D</u>	
<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>467</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>by 401(k)</u>

## 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: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			
<u>Employee Stock Option</u>	<u>(2)</u>	<u>12/02/2011</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>13,070</u>	<u>13.8</u>	<u>D</u>	
<u>Employee Stock Option</u>	<u>(3)</u>	<u>10/23/2010</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>3,862</u>	<u>16.5</u>	<u>D</u>	
<u>Employee Stock Option</u>	<u>(3)</u>	<u>01/04/2010</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>2,341</u>	<u>23.65</u>	<u>D</u>	
<u>Employee Stock Option</u>	<u>(3)</u>	<u>09/23/2008</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>877</u>	<u>30.65</u>	<u>D</u>	
<u>Stock Units</u>	<u>(4)</u>	<u>(4)</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>1,178</u>	<u>(5)</u>	<u>D</u>	

## Explanation of Responses:

- The total direct shares owned includes 3,944 time-vesting restricted shares and 1,233 shares held in a Section 423 stock purchase plan.
- This option vests in equal annual installments over a three year period.
- This option vests in equal annual installments over a four-year period.
- Stock Units are held in the Acuity Brands, Inc. Supplemental Deferred Savings Plan and will be paid in cash according to the plan's provisions.
- 1-for-1

Karen J. Holcom09/09/2004

\*\* 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 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).

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.