

Gawlick Ranier  
 Form 3  
 February 23, 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	
Gawlick Ranier		(Month/Day/Year)	Proto Labs Inc [PRLB]	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	02/23/2012	
5540 PIONEER CREEK DRIVE		4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer		5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)
(Street)		(Check all applicable)		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
MAPLE PLAIN, MN 55359		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)	
				<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	0	D	

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly. SEC 1473 (7-02)

**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 control number.**

**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	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of	

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				Shares		(I) (Instr. 5)	
Stock Option (right to buy)	⌘ (1)	04/28/2019	Common Stock	35,000	\$ 5.56	D	⌘

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Gawlick Ranier 5540 PIONEER CREEK DRIVE MAPLE PLAIN, MN 55359	⌘ X	⌘	⌘	⌘

## Signatures

/s/ Catherine M. Verschelden, Attorney-in-Fact for Rainer Gawlick 02/23/2012

⌘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) The option vests as to 20% of the shares in five annual installments beginning on April 28, 2010.

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.