

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

SCHEDULE 13G

UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
AMENDMENT FILING

BECTON DICKINSON AND COMPANY

(NAME OF ISSUER)

COMMON

(TITLE CLASS OF SECURITIES)

075887109

(CUSIP NUMBER)

12/31/98

(DATE OF EVENT WHICH REQUIRES FILING OF THIS STATEMENT)

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX TO DESIGNATE THE RULE PURSUANT TO WHICH THIS SCHEDULE IS FILED:

(X) RULE 13D-1(B)

() RULE 13D-1(C)

() RULE 13D-1(D)

*THE REMAINDER OF THIS COVER PAGE SHALL BE FILLED OUT FOR A REPORTING PERSON'S INITIAL FILING ON THIS FORM WITH RESPECT TO THE SUBJECT CLASS OF SECURITIES, AND FOR ANY SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENT CONTAINING INFORMATION WHICH WOULD ALTER THE DISCLOSURES PROVIDED IN A PRIOR COVER PAGE.

THE INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REMAINDER OF THIS COVER PAGE SHALL NOT BE DEEMED TO BE "FILED" FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECTION 18 OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 ("ACT") OR OTHERWISE SUBJECT TO THE LIABILITIES OF THAT SECTION OF THE ACT BUT SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ALL OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE ACT (HOWEVER, SEE THE NOTES).

CUSIP NO. 075887109 13G PAGE 2 OF 5 PAGES

1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSON
S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF PERSON
STATE STREET BANK AND TRUST COMPANY, ACTING IN VARIOUS FIDUCIARY CAPACITIES. 04-1867445
2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP.*

NOT APPLICABLE A ___
 B ___
3. SEC USE ONLY
4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
5. SOLE VOTING POWER
3,813,717 SHARES
6. SHARED VOTING POWER
7,174,995 SHARES (INCLUDES 824,412 ESOP PFD SHS
CONVERTED INTO COMMON RATIO OF 1 PFD = 1 COMMON
7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
4,314,415 SHARES
8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER
11,410,022 SHARES (INCLUDES 824,412 ESOP PFD SHS
CONVERTED INTO COMMON RATIO OF 1 PFD = 6.4 COMMON

9. AGGREGATED AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON
15,724,437 SHARES (INCLUDES 824,412 ESOP PFD SHS
CONVERTED INTO COMMON RATIO OF 1 PFD = 6.4 COMMON

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN
SHARES*
NOT APPLICABLE

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9
6.3%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON*
BK

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ITEM 1.

- (A) NAME OF ISSUER
BECTON DICKINSON AND COMPANY
- (B) ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES
ONE BECTON DRIVE
FRANKLIN LAKES, NJ 07417-1880

ITEM 2.

- (A) NAME OF PERSON FILING
STATE STREET BANK AND TRUST COMPANY, TRUSTEE
- (B) ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE,
RESIDENCE
225 FRANKLIN STREET, BOSTON, MA 02110
- (C) CITIZENSHIP
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
- (D) TITLE CLASS OF SECURITIES
COMMON
- (E) CUSIP NUMBER
075887109

ITEM 3. IF THIS STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO RULE 13D-1(B), OR
13D-2(B), CHECK WHETHER THE PERSON FILING IS A:

- (B) BANK AS DEFINED IN SECTION 3(A)(6) OF THE ACT

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ITEM 4. OWNERSHIP

- (A) AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED
15,724,437
- (B) PERCENT OF CLASS
6.3%
- (C) NUMBER OF SHARES AS TO WHICH SUCH PERSON HAS:
- (I) SOLE POWER TO VOTE OR TO DIRECT THE VOTE
3,813,717 SHARES
- (II) SHARED POWER TO VOTE OR TO DIRECT THE VOTE
7,174,995
- (III) SOLE POWER TO DISPOSE OR TO DIRECT THE DISPOSITION OF
4,314,415 SHARES
- (IV) SHARED POWER TO DISPOSE OR TO DIRECT THE DISPOSITION OF
11,410,022

ITEM 5. OWNERSHIP OF FIVE PERCENT OR LESS OF A CLASS
NOT APPLICABLE

ITEM 6. OWNERSHIP OF MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER
PERSON.
NOT APPLICABLE

ITEM 7. IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF THE SUBSIDIARY WHICH
ACQUIRED THE SECURITY BEING REPORTED ON BY THE PARENT
HOLDING COMPANY

NOT APPLICABLE

ITEM 8. IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

NOT APPLICABLE

ITEM 9. NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF GROUP

NOT APPLICABLE

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ITEM 10. CERTIFICATION

THE FOLLOWING CERTIFICATION SHALL BE INCLUDED IF THE STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO RULE 13D-1(B):

BY SIGNING BELOW I CERTIFY THAT, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, THE SECURITIES REFERRED TO ABOVE WERE ACQUIRED IN THE ORDINARY COURSE OF BUSINESS AND WERE NOT ACQUIRED FOR THE PURPOSE OF AND DO NOT HAVE THE EFFECT OF CHANGING OR INFLUENCING THE CONTROL OF THE ISSUER OF SUCH SECURITIES AND WERE NOT ACQUIRED IN CONNECTION WITH OR AS A PARTICIPANT IN ANY TRANSACTION HAVING SUCH PURPOSES OR EFFECT.

THIS REPORT IS NOT AN ADMISSION THAT STATE STREET BANK AND TRUST COMPANY IS THE BENEFICIAL OWNER OF ANY SECURITIES COVERED BY THIS REPORT, AND STATE STREET BANK AND TRUST COMPANY EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF ALL SHARES REPORTED HEREIN PURSUANT TO RULE 13D-4.

SIGNATURE

AFTER REASONABLE INQUIRY AND TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION SET FORTH IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE, COMPLETE AND CORRECT.

19 JULY 1999

STATE STREET BOSTON CORPORATION
STATE STREET BANK AND TRUST COMPANY,
TRUSTEE

/s/ Mary Sue Spain
Assistant Vice President