MAT, MP or MPD? Some random thoughts







BrightScreen MAT

BrightScreen MP

BrightScreen MPD

Where does BrightScreen MP work best?

• Waist Level Finders in general:

 You never have to tilt the camera to line up the focus aid on your subject (tilting an eye level camera is no big deal, but it's a pain with a waist level finder)

Portraits & Still Lifes:

 The microprism doesn't need a straight line in the subject to focus on - in fact, it doesn't need a line at all. It can show focus on a small detail (like an eye) or a softly graded transition (like a shadow on a face)

Where does BrightScreen MPD work best?

• Eye Level Viewfinders:

- Rotating the camera to line up the split is not an inconvenience with an eye level finder.
- (I've made the split diagonal to minimize the amount of tilting required, whether with an eye level or a waist level finder)

Architecture & Geometric Subjects:

 Where you do have clear, crisp lines in the subject for a target, the split image is very quick and precise to use.

• General Photography:

 If you shoot a broad variety of subjects, the MPD screen includes a microprism collar around the central split that can be used wherever it works better than the split image.

How about BrightScreen MAT?

- BrightScreen MAT gives the cleanest, least cluttered view of all.
 There is still a 13mm circle in the center, but the focusing surface is the same smooth, matte field both inside and outside of the center circle.
 - The entire field, both in the center and in the outer field, shows the image just as it will appear on film (assuming you're shooting at the same wide-open aperture that you're viewing). This can be best when you're trying to critically evaluate the final appearance of your image, as opposed to just nailing the focus.
 - If you're replacing a plain groundglass screen, this gives the closest match to the appearance and performance of your original screen - but with the extra brightness that the BrightScreen provides.
 - O HOWEVER, PLEASE NOTE: In cameras that require you to adjust the screen for focus, such as the Rolleiflex Automat and the Yashica Mat, the central focus aid on the screen makes this adjustment process much easier for you to perform. Without the focus aid on the screen, you will have to take extra care and inspect the screen very closely when adjusting to make sure you have it positioned correctly for accurate focus.