

The invention of the car has changed the world. The man credited with inventing the car was the German innovator Karl Benz. In 1885 Karl Benz invented the world's first practical motorcar, the Benz Patent Motorwagen. Benz showed many traits that led him to success, these being: Patience, Perseverance, Passion, Teamwork, and Ingenuity.

The invention of the car would not have been possible without patience. Originally, the "horseless carriage"¹ as Benz called it was only something that he had envisioned during his time at university in 1864². Benz did not invent the car in a lightbulb moment, Benz needed to be patient for he did not always have time or financial support to pursue his idea of the "horseless carriage". He had various jobs before opening his own motor factory, where he worked hard to invent a reliable two-stroke engine. In 1879 he received a patent for his invention³. Soon after he patented the: speed regulation, ignition, carburetor, clutch, gear shift, and the water radiator. In 1883 Benz founded Benz & Cie, his own company that produced industrial machines. Benz's successful business allowed him to concentrate on his old dream of a "horseless carriage". In 1885 what Benz had envisioned 21 years before had become reality, and he finally successfully built the first self driven vehicle. In 1886 he patented it as "automobile fueled by gas"⁴ which was officially called Benz Patent Motorwagen. The car was certainly not an instant invention.

Benz had to face challenges in life, however, he did not give up when facing them. Benz grew up in a household that was near poverty. His mother strove to give him a good education. Benz worked very hard and persevered at school. Later, Benz was even accepted into a scientific school at the age of 9, and graduated from a technical university at 19⁵. Secondly, in 1882 Benz worked for Mannheim Gasmotoren Fabrik (Mannheim Gas motor factory). While working there Benz was reduced to a modest position and his ideas were not considered important. Inventing the car itself was a challenge.

The invention of the car would have been impossible without Benz's passionate vision, as he was always committed to his dream of a horseless carriage. He worked on this idea whenever he could. After he had enough money, he put his mind to inventing the motorcar.

Teamwork was one of the most important qualities throughout the invention of the car. Karl Benz often worked together with his wife to develop and improve some of his inventions. For example Benz's wife Bertha would give him advice what needed to be improved (although Bertha also invented the brake pad), and Benz would take note of her advice. After Benz patented the car, he worked with Emile Roger in France to sell his line of cars.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karl_Benz

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karl_Benz

³ <https://www.daimler.com/company/tradition/company-history/1885-1886.html>

⁴ <https://www.daimler.com/company/tradition/company-history/1885-1886.html>

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karl_Benz

Inventing something that is original is not an easy task. Some inventors have been credited with an invention that many before him/her have also partially invented. Benz was not one of these people. Since the first car that Karl Benz built generated its own power, Karl Benz was considered its inventor and had it patented. Benz took inspiration off bicycles, and his famous idea of the “horseless carriage”, meaning that his invention was ingenuitive and not simply an improvement of someone else's invention.

Benz’s invention has had an immense impact on the world. It has enabled much easier transport methods for people around the world. Previously long distances have become comparatively short thanks to the invention of the car. Although not always positive, cars have changed the world.

Passion, Perseverance, Patience, Teamwork, and Ingenuity are the traits that led Karl Benz to success. Benz developed these qualities from an early age. Inventing the world’s first self powered car was not an easy task, which could not have been done without good qualities.

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