



2022 NATIONAL INVENTORS
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Born: Nov. 25, 1844

Died: April 4, 1929

Primary Connections:

- Daimler-Benz AG: Board Member, 1926-29
- Carl Benz & Sons: Co-founder, est. 1906
- Benz & Co. Rhine Gas Engine Factory Mannheim: Co-founder, est. 1883

Education:

- Polytechnic University of Karlsruhe (now the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology): Mechanical Engineering Degree, 1864

Key memberships/awards:

- UNESCO Memory of the World Register: 2011
- European Automotive Hall of Fame: Inductee, 2001
- Automotive Hall of Fame: Inductee, 1984

10 Things You Need to Know About

Carl Benz

Inventor of the Modern Automobile

U.S. PATENT NO. 385,087

1. Benz was born in 1844 in Muhlburg, Germany (now Karlsruhe, Germany).
2. In 1883, Benz partnered with co-investors to establish Benz & Cie. Rheinische Gasmotorenfabrik Mannheim (Benz & Co. Rhine Gas Engine Factory Mannheim) to market a two-stroke engine he developed.
3. In January 1886, Benz filed for a German patent for a gasoline-powered three-wheeled vehicle, the first to combine an internal combustion engine with an integrated chassis.
4. In August 1888, Benz's wife Bertha, without her husband's knowledge, made a 100-mile roundtrip drive from Mannheim to Pforzheim with their two teenage sons. By the time they returned, the trip stirred publicity nationwide and proved the Benz automobile was suitable for long-distance travel.
5. By 1900, Benz & Cie. was the world's leading automobile manufacturer.
6. The Mercedes-Benz brand and Daimler trace their lineage back to Carl Benz's pioneering work.
7. Bertha Benz was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame in 2016.
8. Benz received an honorary degree from Karlsruhe Technical University in 1914.
9. In 2007, the Mechanical Engineering College of Karlsruhe Institute of Technology was named the Carl Benz School of Engineering.
10. Benz was awarded the Baden State Medal in 1928.