

Bridgeway to Success™

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**OPPOSITES CAN
THRIVE AS
PARTNERS IF...**

Mr. Thunder and Mr. Administrator

Can very different leaders be very effective partners? Consider Honda. Founder Soichiro Honda was a mechanic and engineer who was fascinated with engines, design and technology. He was a tireless worker and an intense perfectionist. He was deeply caring of his people but also prone to emotional outbursts. He was called *Kaminari-san* – “Mr. Thunder” – for his temper when others failed to meet his standards of perfection.

Takeo Fujisawa was a skilled administrator with expertise in marketing and finance. He was the calm to Honda’s storm. He brought the business savvy to Honda’s technology genius. Together, in just over 10 years, they built the largest motorcycle company in the world. (You may also be aware they later expanded into the automobile business, but that’s another story.)

So how did these two leaders, so different in style and background, work so effectively together?

1. **Self-Awareness.** Each had great confidence in his abilities yet was fully aware of his limitations.
2. **Respect & Trust.** Both Honda and Fujisawa had tremendous respect for and trust in each other’s capabilities.
3. **Common Vision.** Despite their differences they shared a common vision: to build a thriving company committed to innovation.

To partner effectively you don’t need to have similar styles or backgrounds. But you do need to be self-aware, respect and trust the greatness of others, and be deeply committed to a common purpose. Just like Mr. Thunder and Mr. Administrator.

Michael Canic