

# Forward Wing Sweep Reduces Plane's Speed

By **DON BEDWELL**  
Herald Aviation Writer

One airport hanger-on took a skeptical look at the Hansa Jet's forward-swept wings and scratched his head.

"It looks," he said, "like it's going 600 miles an hour backward."

A companion ventured his own explanation of the unique design, which flies in the face of engineering logic that all jet aircraft wings should sweep to the rear.

"I'll bet the Germans simply put the wings on wrong and were too stubborn to admit it."

The Hansa, a \$1.2 million beauty, was parked beside Modern Air Transport's Miami International Airport hangar during a local visit for crew training.

Modern Air, a Miami-based supplemental airline, normally utilizes the 12-passenger commuter jet throughout Europe in both scheduled and charter operations.

The Hansa, first jet air-

craft built by German industry since World War II, is the smallest plane in Modern Air's fleet at Tegel Airport, West Berlin. The company carried 200,000 passengers in its European operations last year.

Modern Air officials are proud of their sleek bird, despite the novel wings which admittedly reduce maximum speed to around 500 miles an hour.

"We understand that the Germans favored this design to gain improved low-speed handling while operating into small airports," said Gerald McNulty, a Modern Air executive.

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